Identifying Journals: Where to Publish Your Research

Liz Walkley Hall
Open Scholarship
and Data Management Librarian
Today’s session

• Considerations in selecting where to publish
• Identifying journals
• Measuring journal quality
• Predatory publishing
Why publish?

• Because early publication (before conferral of PhD) is the strongest correlate of long-term publication success

“We assert that the best way to promote the long-term success of one's graduate students is to assist them in publishing early … Additional goals, such as publishing in high-impact journals (Symonds 2004) and collaborating frequently (Lee and Bozeman 2005), can also enhance one's long-term scientific impact.”

Identifying journals: considerations

- Likelihood of acceptance
- Publisher /Journal reputation
- Publisher /Journal visibility and potential impact
- Likelihood of timely publication
- Philosophical and ethical issues

Likelihood of acceptance

• Is your article a good ‘fit’?
  – Methodology consistent with research bias
  – Disciplinary focus, style, and length requirements
  – International/national focus

• What is the journal’s acceptance rate?
  – If low, consider special theme issues
  – Who else publishes in the journal; from which part of the world
Publisher / Journal reputation

You want your work to appear in the best outlet that will accept it.


Factors influencing reputation:
- Age of publication
- Wide readership
- Low acceptance rate
- Affiliation with prestigious organisation
- Well known editors
- High Impact Factor

Knight, L. and Steinbach, T. 2008, p65
Publisher /Journal visibility and potential impact

• How will potential readers find your article?
  – For the Journal
    • language and distribution
    • Indexing and abstracting
  – For your article
    • Discoverability – search engine optimisation
    • Accessibility – is it openly accessible (without passwords or paywalls) or can a version be made openly accessible
Likelihood of timely publication

Philosophical and ethical issues

• What is the business model of the publisher
  – University press, not-for-profit, for profit
• Who holds copyright of the published article
  – Author, publisher, both
• Are there any article processing charges
  – Per article, per page, for images
• How is the journal published
  – Online, print, both
Identifying journals: a model

Figure 3: Model Part I, Example showing four possible journals

Knight and Steinbach, (2008) p76
Identifying journals and journal quality: tools to help
Measures of journal quality

• Impact factor (IF)
• Eigenfactor score
• CiteScore
• SCImago journal rank (SJR)
• Source normalized impact per paper (SNIP)
• Google Scholar Metrics
Identifying journals: tools to help

• **Web of Science** (Thomson Reuters)
  – includes Journal Citation Reports for **Impact Factor** and **Eigenfactor** score

• **Scopus** (Elsevier)
  – includes **CiteScore**, **SCImago** journal rank and **SNIP**

• **ERA** (Excellence for Research in Australia) journal lists

• **Ulrichs** Serials Directory,
• **Google Scholar** Metrics,
• **MLA** directory of periodicals
Web of Science

- Thomson Reuters
- >13,000 journals
- 1990 – present (Science)
- 1975 – present (Social Sciences, Arts & Humanities)
- Includes Journal Citation Reports
- Metrics include Impact Factor and Eigenfactor
Impact Factor (IF)

Measures the influence a journal has in its field

- Measures how often scholars and researchers have cited articles in a particular journal in the most recent two years.
- **The higher the number, the better the journal's impact factor.**
- The better the journal's impact factor, the more influence it is supposed to have in its field.
- Journals need to be selected for coverage in either the Science Citation Index or the Social Sciences Citation Index before they will be listed in the Journal Citation Reports and given an impact factor. **Therefore, not all journals automatically have an IF.**
Eigenfactor score

Measures prestige

“A single citation from an influential journal holds more value than many citations from a peripheral journal”

• Calculated on 5 years of publication
• Journal self-citations removed
• Scores are scaled so that the sum of all journal scores is 100
Accessing WOS / JCR


-- Databases A-Z
  -- Web of Science

[subscription database; login required when off campus]
Basic Search

Example: oil spill* mediterranean

Topic

Search

Welcome to the new Web of Science! View a brief tutorial.

Click here for tips to improve your search.

TIMESPAN

- All years

- From 1900 to 2016

MORE SETTINGS
Journal Citation Reports

- Compiled annually
- Provides bibliometric analysis of 5,900+ journals in the areas of science and technology, and of 1,700 journals in the social sciences
- Based on citations from the Science Citation Index Expanded and the Social Science Citation Index
- Coverage is international and includes journals published by over 3,300 publishers in 60 countries.
Finding the IF / Eigenfactor score

- Use Journal Citation Reports (JCR)
- Select Edition (SCIE or SSCI)
- Search by category
- Limitations
  - Some subject areas are poorly covered or not at all
  - Limited number of journals
  - Weak to no coverage for some disciplines (eg humanities)
Scopus

- Elsevier
- >20,000 journals
- 1996 - present, some back to 1823
- Includes CiteScore, SCImago journal rankings (SJR) and SNIP (Source Normalized Impact per Paper)
CiteScore

Measures the citation impact of journals in their field

• calculates the average number of citations received in a calendar year by all items published in that journal in the preceding three years

• All types of documents (research articles, review articles, conference proceedings, editorials errata, letters, notes, and short surveys) are included in the CiteScore calculation
SCImago journal rank (SJR)

Measures prestige

• Based on the premise that 'all citations are NOT created equal'

• The subject field, quality and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation

• SJR is a measure of scientific influence of scholarly journals that accounts for both the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals where such citations come from.
Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

Measures contextual citation impact

• Defined as the ratio of a journal's citation count per paper and the citation potential in its subject field
• Aims to allow direct comparison of sources in different subject fields
• The impact of a single citation is given higher value in subject areas where citations are less likely, and vice versa.
Accessing Scopus


-- Databases A-Z
    -- Scopus

[subscription database; login required when off campus]
Compare sources in Scopus
Finding the CiteScore / SJR / SNIP

- Select **Compare sources**
- Search by journal title, ISSN or publisher
- Use * to truncate eg econ*
- Compare up to 10 journals at a time

- Limitations
  - Cannot search by category
Other tools..

• Freely available:
  – SCImago Journal Rank
  – Google Scholar metrics
  – ERA Journal list/s

• Subscription based:
  – Ulrichs serials directory
  – MLA directory of periodicals
SCImago Journal Ranking

http://www.scimagojr.com/index.php

- Ranked list of journals by subject area (based on Scopus data).
- List view by Quartile.
ERA journal lists

• Produced to support each round of ERA (2010, 2012, 2015)
• Defines journals that are scholarly, peer reviewed and publish original research and were active during each reference period (2003 – 2008, 2005-2010, 2008-2013)

• ERA 2015 journal list (official)
• ERA 2015/ 2012 / 2010 journal lists (unofficial)
  http://lamp.infosys.deakin.edu.au/era
Ulrichs serials directory

• A database of more than 300,000 serials of ALL types (not just scholarly journals)
• Identifies frequency of publication, indexing sources, etc
• Available from the library website (subscription)
Using Ulrichs

• Go to Ulrichsweb via the Library website www.flinders.edu.au/library/
• Search a journal by title, part of title
  – Identify its publication frequency
  – Identify its indexing sources
Determining legitimate publishers
Indicators of legitimate publishers

• Membership to Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).
• Entry in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
• Publisher is a member of Open Access Scholarly Publisher Association (OASPA).
• Publisher is a member of the International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM).
• Visibility of costs associated with publishing.
‘Predatory’ publishers

• How to determine legitimate publishers and journals
  – Look at the editorial and submission policies of the Journal.
  – Check the quality and scholarly content of the Journal.
  – Use third party sources to verify publisher claims on where a Journal is indexed.
  – Verify editorial board by confirmation on editors’ professional research profiles.
  – Use Think. Check. Submit. to determine a Journal's credentials.
Recap

• Considerations in selecting where to publish
  – Likelihood, timely, reputation, ethical issues

• Tools and metrics to help
  – Web of Science (JCR) for IF and Eigenfactor
  – Scopus for CiteScore, SJR and SNIP
  – Google Scholar metrics for broad categories
  – MLA for acceptance rates
  – ERA / Ulrichs for lists

Verify your publishing outlet before submitting
Questions?
Please get in touch

Liz.walkleyhall@flinders.edu.au