Evaluating Journals
A Guide to Decide Which Journals to Seek Out for Publication

Ways to Identify Potential Journals for Publication

- Use "Web of Science: EndNote Manuscript Matches" to find journals that publish similar topics related to what you are hoping to publish.
- Analyze your references to see where they published.
- Visit a journal's website and explore their content. Journals can be chosen based on topic (see box to the right).

Key Questions to Ask Prior to Choosing a Journal

- Index and abstract services
- Peer review policy
- Publication fee/schedule
- Article acceptance rate
- Do you recognize people in the field who have published here before?
- Are your colleagues familiar with the journal?

Characteristics of Predatory Publishers

- Invitation to join editorial board
- Subject area does not match yours
- Promise of rapid review
- Over-emphasize attributes of scholarly journals (i.e. false claims of indexing, "Published in USA")
- Check impact factor on Journal Citation Reports

Types of Journals

- Scholarly journals
- Trade journals
- Magazines

Identify Potential Journals Based on Topic

- Field-specific journals
  - i.e. biology, chemistry
- Discipline-specific journals
  - i.e. marine biology
- Taxonomy-specific journals
  - i.e. ichthyology
- Sub-discipline-specific journals
  - i.e. marine pollution, marine toxicology
- Geographic-focus journals
  - i.e. North America, Atlantic
USEFUL RESOURCES

General Advice

- Think-Check-Submit – https://thinkchecksubmit.org/

Find a Journal Using Your Title & Abstract

- Manuscript Matcher – Web of Science (CofC people use http://libguides.library.cofc.edu/go.php?c=9030497)
- Elsevier Journal Finder – https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/

Journal Metrics

- Impact Factor – Journal Citation Reports (CofC people use http://libguides.library.cofc.edu/go.php?c=9030590)
- Eigenfactor – http://www.eigenfactor.org/

Journals/Publishers Exhibiting Predatory Behavior

- Bealls List – https://beallslist.net/
- Stop Predatory Journals – https://predatoryjournals.com

Lists of Vetted Journals


THINK! CHECK! SUBMIT!

Information taken from Geoff Timms (Marine Resources Library) webinar "Evaluating Journals"