

Smart Journal Selection: Tips and Tools

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Agenda

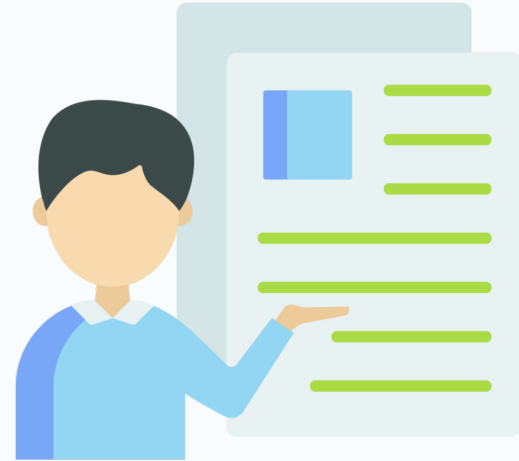
- General considerations when selecting journals to publish
- Available tools and metrics for journal evaluation
- Potential predatory journals

Before we start – Quick Poll

- Have you published your research findings as journal articles before?

Publishing research findings in a peer-reviewed journal

- An important way of disseminating a complete set of research results
- Getting credit for the discovery
- Vetting the results (e.g., through peer review) to enhance the reliability of scientific information
- Promoting re-use of knowledge by other researchers to advance science (later researchers are obliged to recognize the discoverer by citation)



Desk rejection

- Manuscript turned down by a journal before peer review
- Comments from editors:
 - It is unclear how this paper **contributes** to the prior literature.
 - The desk-rejection decision is solely based on the **suitability to the journal's readership**.
 - Even if we wanted to put the article in the reviewing process, we **could not easily find competent reviewers** in the *European Accounting Review* / accounting community.
 - 'Duplicate publication' or 'self-plagiarism' (many similarities with articles authored by one or more authors and published in other journals) severely **violate of publication ethics**.
 - Reviewers often complain that the paper which they have to evaluate is extremely **difficult to read**.

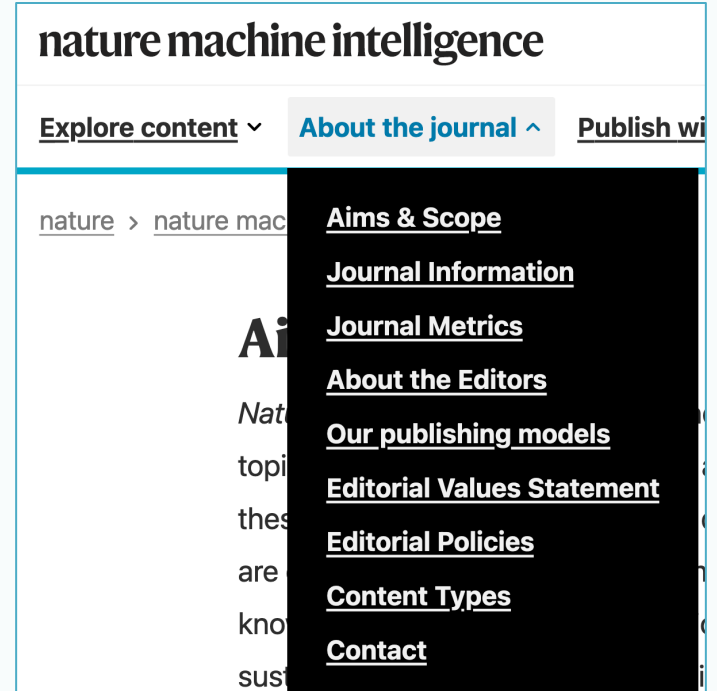
Desk rejection – Common reasons

- Mismatch with journal aims and scope
- Insufficient research contribution; Lack of research rigour
- Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism
- Poor quality of writing; Lack of adherence to journal/author guidelines

Selecting a journal to publish in – Criteria to Consider

- Aims & Scope
- Editorial policy (e.g., Peer review policy)
- Abstracting and indexing
- Journal metrics
- Open access policy

For most journals, you can find the related information at the journal homepage.



The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Nature Machine Intelligence journal website. The page title is "nature machine intelligence". Below the title, there are three main navigation options: "Explore content" with a downward arrow, "About the journal" with an upward arrow (which is highlighted), and "Publish with us". A dropdown menu is open under "About the journal", listing several links: "Aims & Scope", "Journal Information", "Journal Metrics", "About the Editors", "Our publishing models", "Editorial Values Statement", "Editorial Policies", "Content Types", and "Contact". The background of the dropdown menu is black with white text.

Aims & Scope

The easiest and quickest way to get your manuscript instantly rejected is to write about something that the journal does not publish.

You can:

- Read carefully the aims and scope of the target journal
- Skim through the recent papers
- Check your reference list to get an idea which journals are more relevant to your manuscript
- Consider which journals to target when you develop your research ideas and start drafting your manuscript

Aims & Scope – Examples

ScienceRobotics Current Issue Archive About Submit manuscript

Scope

Science Robotics publishes original, peer-reviewed, science- or engineering-based research articles that advance the field of robotics. The journal also features editor-commissioned Reviews. An international team of academic editors holds *Science Robotics* articles to the same high-quality standard that is the hallmark of the *Science* family of journals.

Sub-topics include: actuators, advanced materials, artificial Intelligence, autonomous vehicles, bio-inspired design, exoskeletons, fabrication, field robotics, human-robot interaction, humanoids, industrial robotics, kinematics, machine learning, material science, medical technology, motion planning and control, micro- and nano-robotics, multi-robot control, sensors, service robotics, social and ethical issues, soft robotics, and space, planetary and undersea exploration.

These brief commentaries provide additional information about the mission and scope of the journal:

- Bioinspired Robots: Examples and the State of the Art—[Matt Travers and Howie Choset](#)
- Nanorobotics—[Peer Fischer](#)
- Robotics and Medicine—[Bradley Nelson](#)
- Building Molecular Machines—[Joseph Wang](#)
- Science for Robotics and Robotics for Science—[Paolo Dario](#)
- Robotics for Human Augmentation—[Hugh Herr](#)
- Robotics Takes Off—[Guang-Zhong Yang and Marcia McNutt](#)

Science Robotics, a journal with more specific areas of interest

Science Current Issue First release papers Archive About Submit manuscript

Mission and scope

Science is a leading outlet for scientific news, commentary, and cutting-edge research. Through its print and online incarnations, *Science* reaches an estimated worldwide readership of more than one million. *Science's* authorship is global too, and its articles consistently rank among the world's most cited research.

Science serves as a forum for discussion of important issues related to the advancement of science by publishing material on which a consensus has been reached as well as including the presentation of minority or conflicting points of view. Accordingly, all articles published in *Science*—including editorials, news and comment, and book reviews—are signed and reflect the individual views of the authors and not official points of view adopted by AAAS or the institutions with which the authors are affiliated.

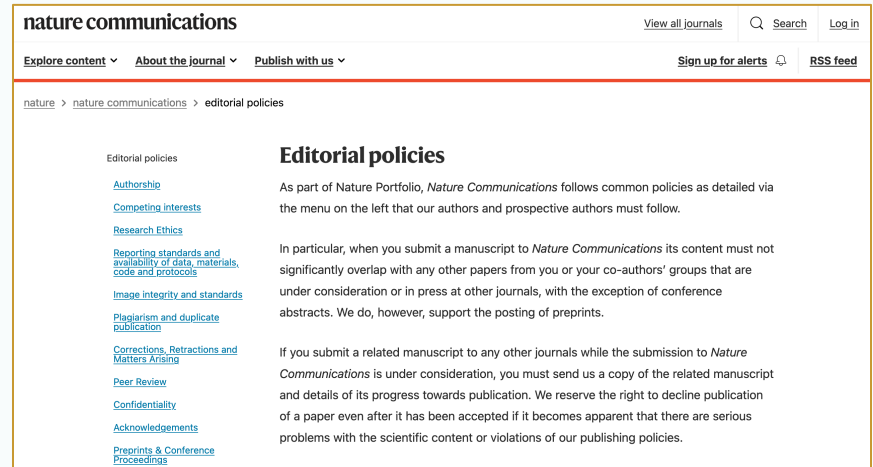
Science seeks to publish those papers that are most influential in their fields or across fields and that will significantly advance scientific understanding. Selected papers should present novel and broadly important data, syntheses, or concepts. They should merit recognition by the wider scientific community and general public provided by publication in *Science*, beyond that provided by specialty journals.

Science welcomes submissions from all fields of science and from any source. The editors are committed to the prompt evaluation and publication of submitted papers while upholding high standards that support reproducibility of published research. *Science* is published weekly; selected papers are published online ahead of print.

Science, a journal with more general areas of interest

Editorial policy

- Make sure the journal has clear editorial policies to enhance the reliability of scientific information, which is closely linked to the trust by readers to the journal articles
- E.g., research ethics, peer review, open data/code, reproducibility
- Check the journals' homepage for editorial policies / author guidelines

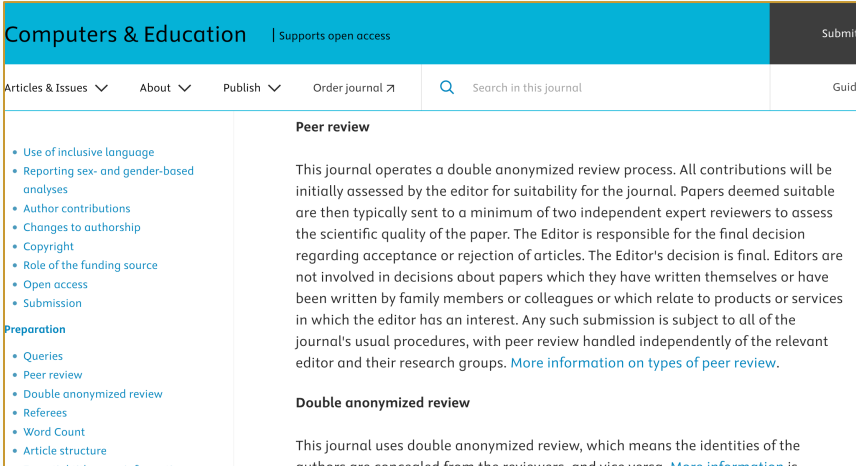


The screenshot shows the 'nature communications' website. At the top, there are navigation links for 'View all journals', 'Search', and 'Log in'. Below that are 'Explore content', 'About the journal', and 'Publish with us' menus. A 'Sign up for alerts' button and an 'RSS feed' link are also visible. The main content area is titled 'Editorial policies' and includes a list of links: 'Authorship', 'Competing interests', 'Research Ethics', 'Reporting standards and availability of data, materials, code and protocols', 'Image integrity and standards', 'Plagiarism and duplicate publication', 'Corrections, Retractions and Matters Arising', 'Peer Review', 'Confidentiality', 'Acknowledgements', and 'Preprints & Conference Proceedings'. The 'Editorial policies' section text states: 'As part of Nature Portfolio, Nature Communications follows common policies as detailed via the menu on the left that our authors and prospective authors must follow. In particular, when you submit a manuscript to Nature Communications its content must not significantly overlap with any other papers from you or your co-authors' groups that are under consideration or in press at other journals, with the exception of conference abstracts. We do, however, support the posting of preprints. If you submit a related manuscript to any other journals while the submission to Nature Communications is under consideration, you must send us a copy of the related manuscript and details of its progress towards publication. We reserve the right to decline publication of a paper even after it has been accepted if it becomes apparent that there are serious problems with the scientific content or violations of our publishing policies.'

Nature Communications, Editorial policies

Peer review policy

- Make sure the journal provides peer review to the articles
- Peer review is a procedure where scholarly work is evaluated by experts of the same discipline to ensure that it meets the standards necessary for publication
- A widely accepted method for research validation and ensuring quality publications



The screenshot shows the 'Computers & Education' journal website. The header includes the journal title, 'Supports open access', and a 'Submit' button. Below the header is a navigation bar with 'Articles & Issues', 'About', 'Publish', 'Order journal', and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Peer review' and contains the following text: 'This journal operates a double anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review.](#)' Below this is a section titled 'Double anonymized review' with the text: 'This journal uses double anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. [More information is](#)'.

Computers & Education, Guide for authors

Tool – Ulrich's Periodicals Directory

- Platform: *Ulrichsweb*
- <http://find.lib.hku.hk/record=alma991020010889703414>
- Enter a Title, ISSN, or search term to find journals
- Check whether the journal is **Refereed** (Peer-reviewed)

The screenshot shows the Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory interface. At the top, the logo 'ULRICHSWEB™ GLOBAL SERIALS DIRECTORY' is visible, along with the text 'Ulrich's Serials Analysis System' and 'University of Hong Kong'. A search bar contains the query '*asian education*'. Below the search bar, there are navigation links for 'Search', 'Workspace', 'Ulrich's Update', and 'Admin', and a 'Log in to My Ulrich's' link. The search results are displayed in a table with columns for Title, Publisher, ISSN, Country, and Status. The results show 10 items, with the first few being 'AETA Journal (Online)', 'Pacific-Asian Education (Online)', 'Asian Education and Development Studies', 'Asian Education Studies', and 'Routledge Critical Studies in Asian Education'. A 'Limit Your Results' sidebar on the left offers various filters, including 'Available Online (5)', 'Website URL (5)', 'Abstracted or Indexed (4)', 'Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) (2)', 'Electronic-only (2)', and 'Refereed / Peer-reviewed (2)'. The page also includes a pagination control showing 'Page 1 of 1' and a 'Showing results 1 - 10 of 10' indicator.

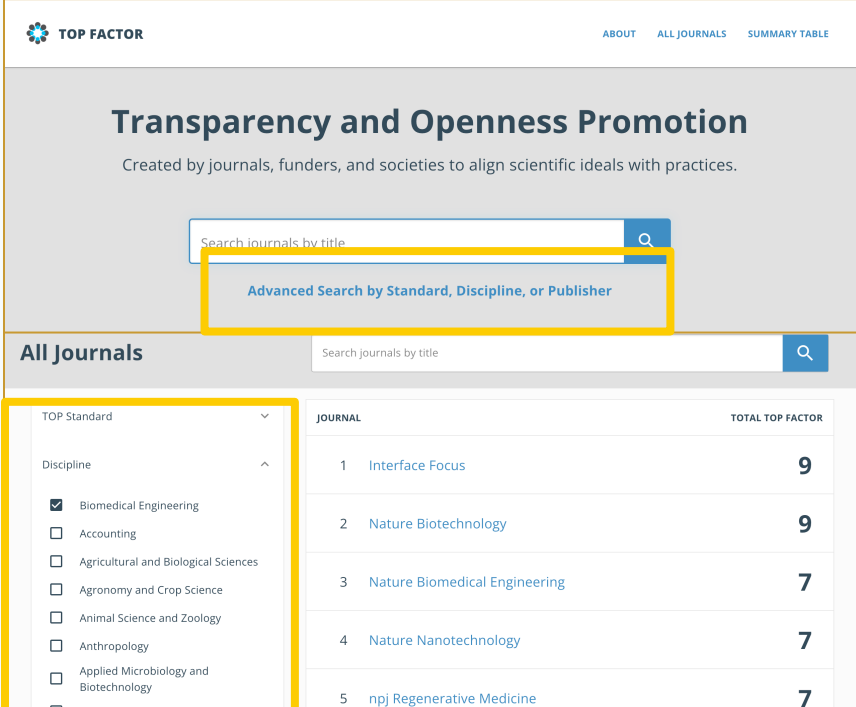
Title	Publisher	ISSN	Country	Status
AETA Journal (Online)	Asian Education Teachers Association		Australia	Active
Pacific-Asian Education (Online)	Pacific Circle Consortium		United States	Active
Asian Education and Development Studies	Emerald Publishing Limited	2046-3170	United Kingdom	Active
Asian Education Studies	July Press Pte. Ltd.	2424-9033	Singapore	Active
Routledge Critical Studies in Asian Education	Routledge	2692-482X	United Kingdom	Active
Journal of Southeast Asian Education	Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization	1513-4601	Thailand	Active
Asian Education and Development Studies	Emerald Publishing Limited	2046-3162	United Kingdom	Active
Asian Education Studies	July Press Pte. Ltd.	2424-8487	Singapore	Active

Tool – TOP Factor

- <https://topfactor.org/>
- Rates journals' editorial policies on transparency, reproducibility and openness, which are important to build trust in empirical science
- Based on the Transparency and Openness Promotion Guidelines, criteria including Data, Code & Materials transparency, Study & Analysis plan preregistration and Replication
- Awards journals zero to three points for each measure. E.g., Data Transparency,
 - A journal that requires authors to disclose whether or not their data are available will score just one point for data transparency.
 - A score of two means that data are generally available with some exceptions.
 - A score of three means that the journal independently checks the data to make sure it corresponds with the reported results.

Find journals by TOP Factor

- Click “Advanced Search by Standard, Discipline, or Publisher”
- Filter by Discipline to see a list of journals in a research field by Total TOP Factor
- Filter by TOP standard, if preferred, for journals’ score on a certain editorial policy (e.g., data transparency, replication, etc.)

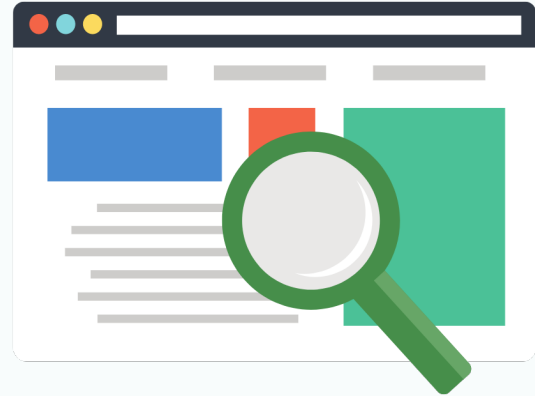


The screenshot shows the TOP FACTOR website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo and links for "ABOUT", "ALL JOURNALS", and "SUMMARY TABLE". The main heading is "Transparency and Openness Promotion", with a sub-heading "Created by journals, funders, and societies to align scientific ideals with practices." Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search journals by title" and a magnifying glass icon. A yellow box highlights a button labeled "Advanced Search by Standard, Discipline, or Publisher". Below the search bar, there is a section titled "All Journals" with another search bar. A yellow box highlights a dropdown menu for "TOP Standard" and a "Discipline" filter. The "Discipline" filter is expanded, showing a list of disciplines with checkboxes. "Biomedical Engineering" is checked. To the right of the filter is a table of journals with columns for "JOURNAL" and "TOTAL TOP FACTOR".

JOURNAL	TOTAL TOP FACTOR
1 Interface Focus	9
2 Nature Biotechnology	9
3 Nature Biomedical Engineering	7
4 Nature Nanotechnology	7
5 npj Regenerative Medicine	7

Abstracting and indexing

- Authors want their research to be discoverable and read by others.
- Indexing by major bibliographic and citation databases in the field can increase the chance of discovery by target readers.



Abstracting and indexing – Examples

Multidisciplinary

- [Academic Search \(Complete\)](#)
- [Scopus](#)

Arts

- [Web of Science – Arts & Humanities Citation Index \(AHCI\)](#)

Business

- [ABI/Inform global](#)
- [EconLit](#)

Education

- [ERIC \(Educational Resource Information Center\)](#)

Law

- [LexisNexis](#)
- [WestLaw](#)

Medicine

- [EMBASE](#)
- [MEDLINE](#)

Science & Engineering

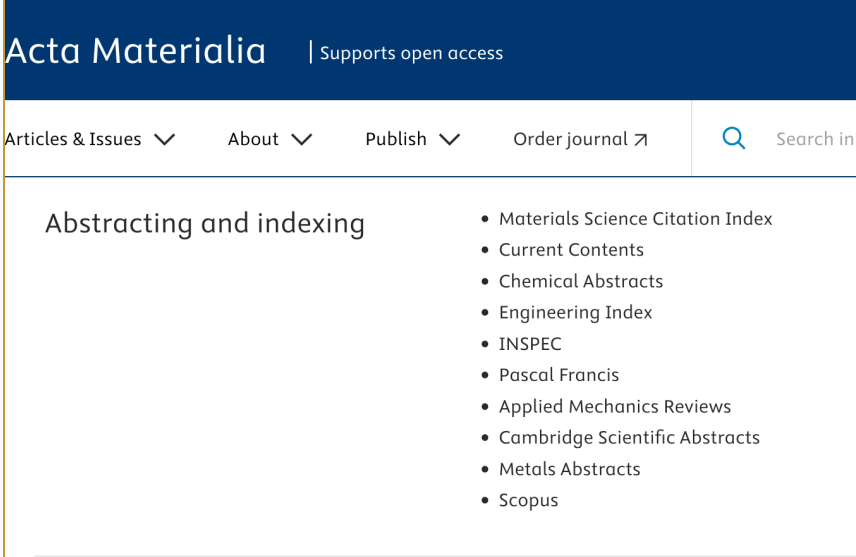
- [Web of science – Science Citation Index Expanded \(SCIE\)](#)
- [SciFinder](#) (CAS, Chemical Abstracts Service)
- [Compendex](#) (Ei, Engineering Index)
- [Inspec](#)
- [MathSciNet](#)

Social sciences

- [Web of science – Social Sciences Citation Index \(SSCI\)](#)
- [APA PsycInfo](#)

Abstracting and indexing – Check journal homepage

- Some journals state the details at their homepage (e.g., under Abstracting and indexing).
- For others, (or if you have doubt,) directly check the abstracting and indexing databases.



The screenshot shows the Acta Materialia journal homepage. The header is dark blue with the journal name and the text 'Supports open access'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for 'Articles & Issues', 'About', 'Publish', and 'Order journal', along with a search bar. The main content area is white and features a section titled 'Abstracting and indexing' with a list of databases.

Acta Materialia | Supports open access

Articles & Issues ▾ About ▾ Publish ▾ Order journal ↗ 🔍 Search in

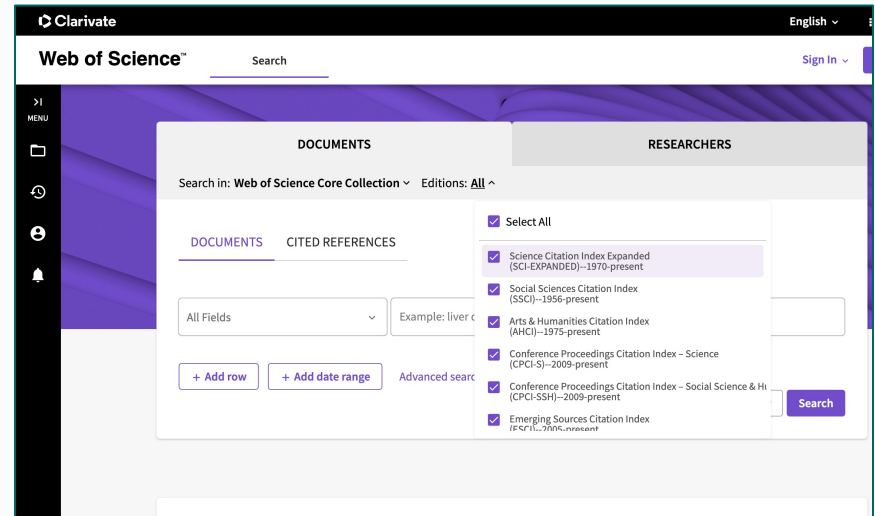
Abstracting and indexing

- Materials Science Citation Index
- Current Contents
- Chemical Abstracts
- Engineering Index
- INSPEC
- Pascal Francis
- Applied Mechanics Reviews
- Cambridge Scientific Abstracts
- Metals Abstracts
- Scopus

Acta Materialia, Abstracting and indexing

Web of Science Core Collection

- Curated by an expert team of in-house editors
- Includes only journals demonstrating high levels of editorial rigor and best practice, e.g., peer review and with ethics statements
- Includes:
 - Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
 - Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
 - Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)
 - Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)



Tool – Master Journal List

- <https://mjl.clarivate.com/home> (Free, personal account required to see the profiles)
- Search journals indexed in the Web of Science by title or ISSN

The screenshot displays the Master Journal List website interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Master Journal List', 'Search Journals' (highlighted with a yellow box), 'Match Manuscript', 'Downloads', and 'Help Center'. On the right, there are 'Login' and 'Create Free Account' buttons. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Left Sidebar:** Contains a 'Find a Match' button and a 'Filters' section with a 'Clear All' button. The filters include 'Web of Science Coverage', 'Open Access', 'Category', and 'Country / Region'.
- Search Section:** Features a search input field containing 'science robotics' (highlighted with a yellow box), a 'Search' button, and a 'Sort By: Relevancy' dropdown menu.
- Search Results:** Displays 'Found 20,638 results (Page 1)' and a 'Share These Results' link.
- Exact Match Found:** Shows the search results for 'SCIENCE ROBOTICS', including the publisher 'AMER ASSOC ADVANCEMENT SCIENCE', the ISSN/eISSN '2470-9476', and the 'Web of Science Core Collection' 'Science Citation Index Expanded' (highlighted with a yellow box). It also lists 'Additional Web of Science indexes: Current Contents Engineering, Computing & Technology | Essential Science Indicators'.

Hands-on – Web of Science Core Collection


Is the journal indexed by the Web of Science Core Collection (AHCI, ESCI, SCIE & SSCI)?

- *Africana Linguistica* (ISSN: 2034-8436)
- *International Journal of Scientific and Engineering Research* (ISSN: 2229-5518)
- *Japanese Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* (ISSN: 1342-6133)
- *American Business Law Journal* (ISSN: 1744-1714)

Scopus

- Reviewed and selected by an independent Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB), an international group of researchers with journal editor experience
- Meets [selection criteria](#), such as peer-review and publication ethics and publication malpractice statement
- Covers more journals in humanities and social sciences (vs. coverage of Web of Science focuses on sciences, medicine, and engineering)

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 Scopus [Search](#) [Lists](#) [Sources](#) [SciVal](#)

The language has been switched to English

Start exploring

Discover the most reliable, relevant, up-to-date research. All in one place.

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Search within: Article title, Abstract, Keywords Search documents *

[+ Add search field](#) [Add date range](#) [Advanced document search >](#)

[Search History](#) [Saved Searches](#)

Tool – Scopus

- <http://find.lib.hku.hk/record=alma991012748039703414>
- Click “Source” at the top to search with Title or ISSN

Scopus

Search List Sources SciVal

Create account Sign in

Sources

Title Enter title Find sources

Title: Science Robotics x

Filter refine list

Apply Clear filters

Display options

Display only Open Access journals

Counts for 4-year timeframe

No minimum selected

1 result

Download Scopus Source List Learn more about Scopus Source List

All Export to Excel Save to source list

View metrics for year: 2022

	Source title ↓	CiteScore ↓	Highest percentile ↓	Citations 2019-22 ↓	Documents 2019-22 ↓	% Cited ↓
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Science Robotics FIND@HKLUL	33.5	99% 8/830 General Medicine	10,287	307	87

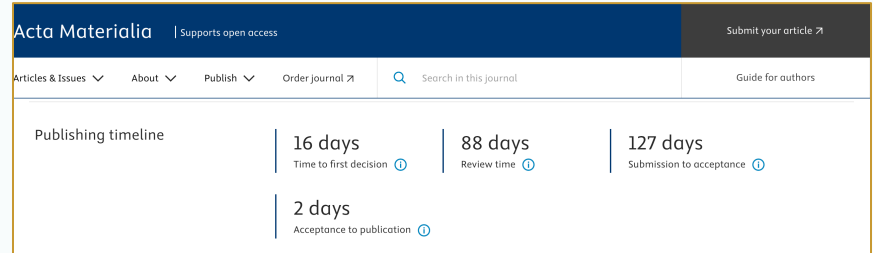
Tool – Compendex & Inspec

- Compendex titles are reviewed according to [a combination of quantitative and qualitative selection criteria](#).
- Inspec, created by The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET), indexes journals which [meet selection criteria and be evaluated by Inspec subject experts](#).
- At HKU, the indexes are available via Engineering Village:
<http://find.lib.hku.hk/record=alma991018032249703414>
- Browse indexes → Source title
- Key-in journal title to search / Browse by title (e.g., *Nature Machine Intelligence*)

The screenshot displays the Engineering Village search interface. At the top, the 'Engineering Village' logo is visible alongside navigation links for 'Search', 'Search history', 'Alerts', 'Selected records', and 'More'. A search bar contains the query 'e.g. (artificial intelligence OR intelligent computing) AND {so'. Below the search bar, a navigation menu includes 'Databases', 'Date', 'Language', 'Document type', 'Sort by', 'Browse indexes', 'Autostemming', and 'Discipline'. The 'Browse indexes' menu is highlighted with a yellow box, and a sub-menu is open showing 'Author', 'Author affiliation', 'Controlled term', and 'Publisher'. The 'Source title' option is also highlighted with a yellow box. Below the navigation menu, the search results section shows 'Search for: Nature mach' and a 'Search index' button. A list of letters for browsing is provided, followed by a list of search terms including 'NATURE MACHINE INTELLIGENCE (Compendex, Inspec)', which is highlighted with a yellow box. The interface also includes a 'Connect terms with:' section with radio buttons for 'AND' and 'OR', and a 'Back to Top' link at the bottom.

Journal Metrics – Turnaround time and Acceptance rate

- Some journals are very transparent and share the numbers on the homepage, e.g.,
 - Time to acceptance/publication
 - Acceptance/rejection rates
 - Downloads
 - Journal impact factor



Acta Materialia, Journal Insights (Publishing timeline)

NEWS CAREERS COMMENTARY JOURNALS

Science

PUBLICATION	Submissions	Review Rate	Accept Rate
Science	10,444	16.7%	6.1%
Science Advances	20,945	19.9%	10.0%
Science Immunology	1,509	15.0%	7.4%
Science Robotics	651	20.1%	8.3%
Science Signaling	842	22.4%	11.4%
Science Translational Medicine	4,588	12.9%	5.4%

Science family journals, Journal profiles (Accept Rate)

Journal Metrics – Acceptance rate

- Check the journal homepage
- May consider directly asking the journal

Who decides which papers to publish?

Nature's aim is to publish the best research across a wide range of scientific fields, which means it has to be highly selective. As a result, only about 8% of submitted manuscripts will be accepted for publication. Most submissions are declined without being sent out for peer review.

Nature, for authors, editorial criteria and processes (Who decides which papers to publish?)

Speed

2022 Acceptance rate:	51%
2022 Submission to first decision:	59 Days
2022 Submission to acceptance:	139 Days

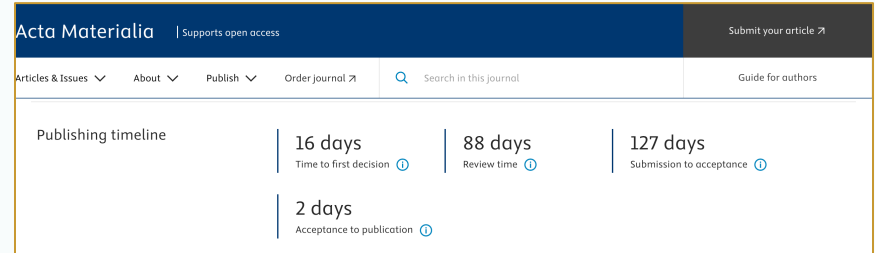
IET Renewable Power Generation, Journal Metrics (2022 Acceptance rate)

Science			
NEWS CAREERS COMMENTARY JOURNALS ▾			
PUBLICATION	Submissions	Review Rate	Accept Rate
<i>Science</i>	10,444	16.7%	6.1%
<i>Science Advances</i>	20,945	19.9%	10.0%
<i>Science Immunology</i>	1,509	15.0%	7.4%
<i>Science Robotics</i>	651	20.1%	8.3%
<i>Science Signaling</i>	842	22.4%	11.4%
<i>Science Translational Medicine</i>	4,588	12.9%	5.4%

Science family journals, Journal profiles (Accept Rate)

Journal Metrics – Turnaround time

- Some journals calculate and show the time to acceptance/publication.
- Some journals display the articles' received and published dates. Check the recent articles to get an idea.
- For others, you may hope to ask your supervisor or colleagues for their experience.



Acta Materialia, Journal Insights (Publishing timeline)

Home ▶ All Journals ▶ Current Medical Research and Opinion ▶ List of Issues ▶ Volume 33 ▶ Factors impacting time to acceptance...

446 Views

19 CrossRef citations to date

11 Altmetric

Professional

Factors impacting time to acceptance and publication for peer-reviewed publications

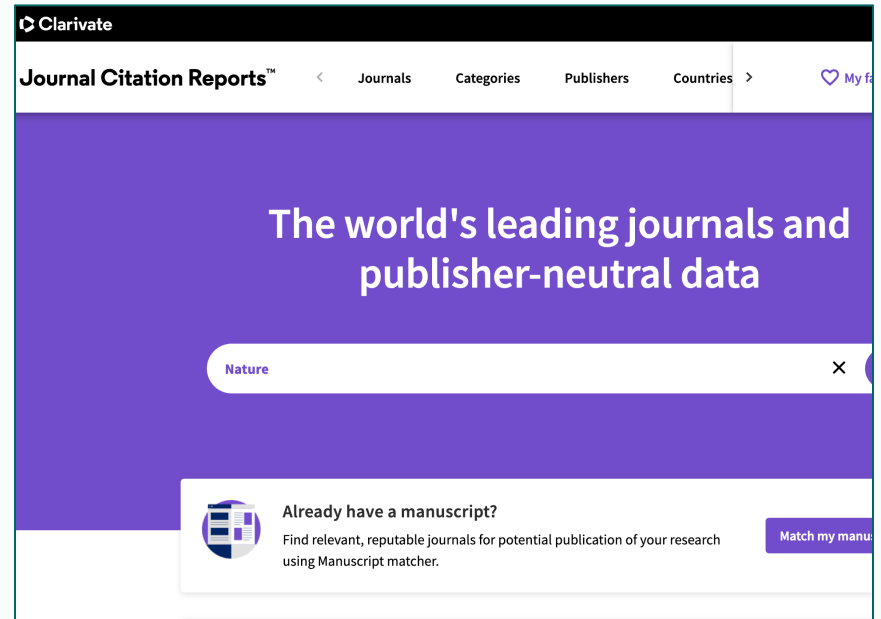
Dikran Toroser ✉, Janice Carlson, Micah Robinson, Julie Gegner, Victoria Girard, Lori Smette... show all

Pages 1183-1189 | Received 01 Sep 2016, Accepted 09 Dec 2016, Published online: 31 Dec 2016

<https://doi.org/10.1080/03007995.2016.1271778>

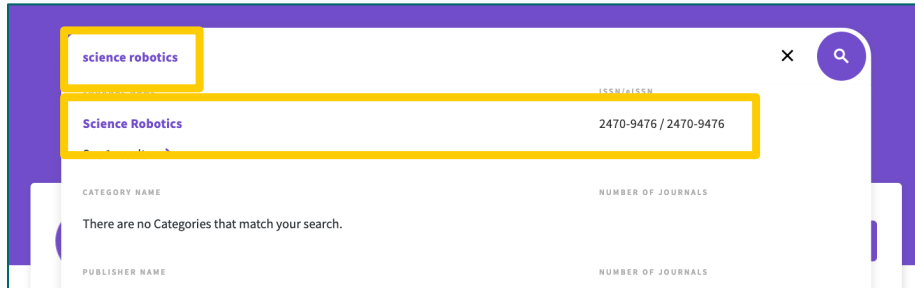
Journal Metrics – Journal impact factor

- A well-known quantitative tool for evaluating journals
- Measures citations received in the current year divided by articles published in the previous two years
- Popular but much debated - Citations are not synonymous with quality & not useful to compare across subject fields
- Updated annually
- Only available to journals indexed in Web of Science Core Collection



Tool – Journal citation reports

- <http://find.lib.hku.hk/record=alma991019172539703414>
- Enter journal title or ISSN to search for journal profile, which displays the Journal Impact Factor



A screenshot of the Journal Citation Reports website. The page title is "Journal Citation Reports™". The main heading is "Science Robotics". The ISSN is "2470-9476". The category is "ROBOTICS - SCIE". The publication frequency is "12 issues/year". The 2022 Journal Impact Factor is "25.0". A "View calculation" link is visible. The page also shows "Journal information" including "Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)" and "ROBOTICS - SCIE".

2022 JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

25.0

[View calculation](#)

Journal citation reports – Find journals in a category

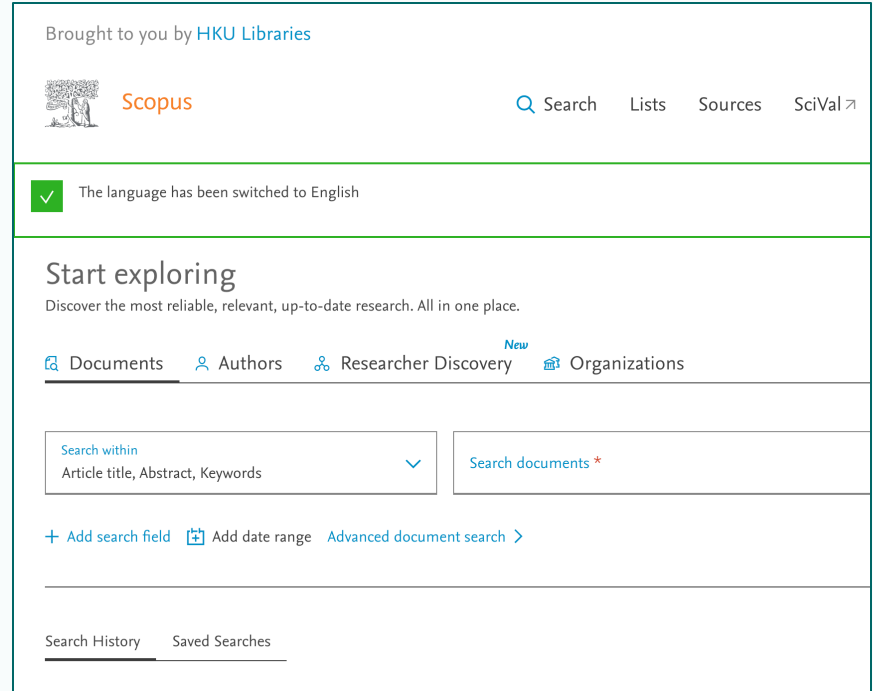
- Filter journals by category
- Sort by JIF / %Gold OA / etc.

The screenshot shows the Journal Citation Reports interface. At the top, the navigation bar includes 'Journal Citation Reports™', 'Journals', 'Categories', 'Publishers', 'Countries', 'My favorites', 'Sign In', and 'Register'. Below the navigation bar, the main content area displays '21,762 journals' and a search bar. A filter menu is open on the left, with 'Categories (254)' highlighted in a yellow box. The 'Search categories (Web of Science)' panel is also open, showing a list of categories with checkboxes. The 'Oncology' category is checked and highlighted in a yellow box. The 'Apply' button at the bottom of the filter menu is also highlighted in a yellow box.


Category	JCI	% of OA Gold
Computer Science, Interdisciplinary Applications	54	92.31 %
Computer Science, Software Engineering	68	26.22 %
Computer Science, Theory & Methods	51	2.33 %
Construction & Building Technology	17	2.13 %
Criminology & Penology	45	6.03 %
Critical Care Medicine	82	2.08 %
Crystallography	87	82.16 %
Cultural Studies	11	1.65 %
Dance	76	4.17 %
Demography	89	1.80 %
Dentistry, Oral Surgery & Medicine	06	28.10 %
Dermatology	54	7.69 %
Development Studies		
Developmental Biology		
Ecolgy		
Economics		
Education & Educational Research		
Education, Scientific Disciplines		
Education, Special		
Engineering		
Health Services Research & Management Science		
Life Sciences Research & Management Science		
Mathematics		
Nursing		
Nutrition & Dietetics		
Obstetrics & Gynecology		
Oceanography		
Oncology		
Ophthalmology		
Optics		
Ornithology		
Orthopedics		
Otorhinolaryngology		
Paleontology		
Parasitology		
Pathology		
Pediatrics		
Peripheral Vascular Disease		
Pharmacology & Pharmacy		
Philosophy		
Physics, Applied		
Physics, Atomic, Molecular &		

CiteScore

- Simple way of measuring the citation impact of journals
- Again, based on citations
- Number of citations to documents by a journal over four years, divided by the number of document published in the same four years
- Updated annually
- Only available to journals indexed in Scopus



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✓ The language has been switched to English

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Search within
Article title, Abstract, Keywords ▼ Search documents *

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Tool – Scopus

- <http://find.lib.hku.hk/record=alma991012748039703414>
- Check CiteScore in Scopus
- Click “Source” at the top to search with Title or ISSN

The screenshot shows the Scopus Sources search interface. The 'Sources' tab is highlighted in yellow. The search input field is also highlighted in yellow, containing the text 'Title' and 'Enter title'. Below the search field, the search results for 'Science Robotics' are displayed, with the 'CiteScore' value of 33.5 highlighted in yellow.

Scopus

Search Sources SciVal

Create account Sign in

Sources

Title Find sources

Title: Science Robotics x

Filter refine list

Apply Clear filters

Display options

Display only Open Access journals

Counts for 4-year timeframe

No minimum selected

1 result

Download Scopus Source List Learn more about Scopus Source List

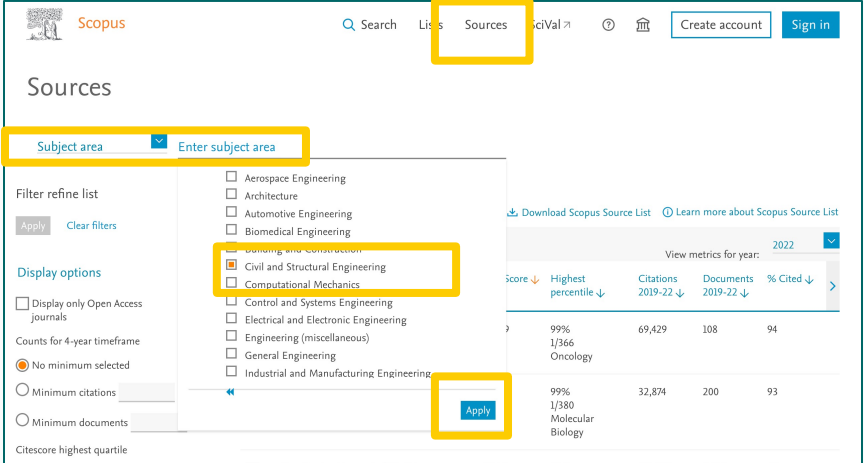
All Export to Excel Save to source list

View metrics for year: 2022

Source title ↓	CiteScore ↓	Highest percentile ↓	Citations 2019-22 ↓	Documents 2019-22 ↓	% Cited ↓
1 Science Robotics <small>FIND@HKLUL</small>	33.5	99% 8/830 General Medicine	10,287	307	87

Scopus – Find journals in a subject

- Sources
- Select “Subject area”
- In the drop-down menu, check the desired area(s), and “apply”
- Sort by CiteScore / Citations / Documents etc.



The screenshot shows the Scopus Sources page. The 'Sources' tab is selected. A yellow box highlights the 'Subject area' dropdown menu, which is open to show a list of subject areas. 'Civil and Structural Engineering' is selected and highlighted with a yellow box. Other subject areas include Aerospace Engineering, Architecture, Automotive Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Building and Construction, Computational Mechanics, Control and Systems Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Engineering (miscellaneous), General Engineering, and Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering. A yellow box also highlights the 'Apply' button at the bottom of the filter list. To the right, a table displays metrics for the year 2022. The table has columns for Score, Citations 2019-22, Documents 2019-22, and % Cited. The first row shows a score of 99% (1/366) for Oncology with 69,429 citations and 108 documents. The second row shows a score of 99% (1/380) for Molecular Biology with 32,874 citations and 200 documents.

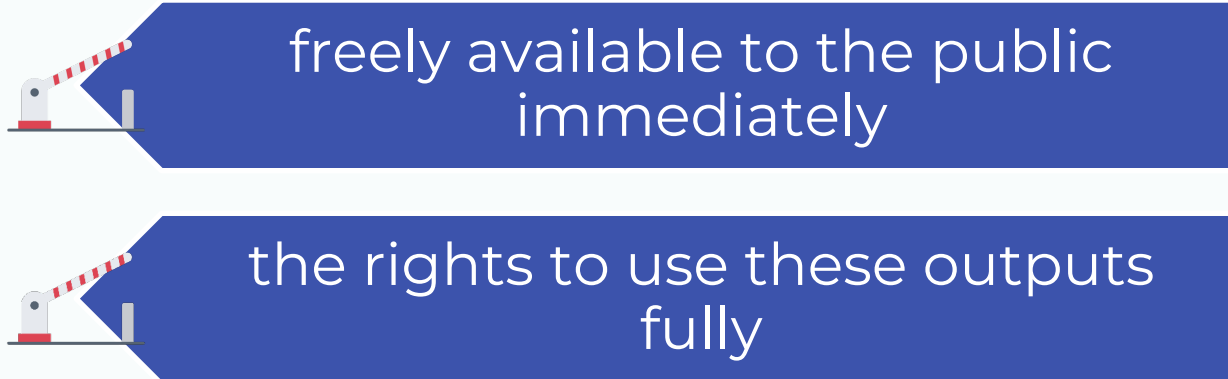
Score	Citations 2019-22	Documents 2019-22	% Cited
99% 1/366 Oncology	69,429	108	94
99% 1/380 Molecular Biology	32,874	200	93

Open access policy

- Check the open access policy from the journal's homepage, e.g., open access charges, copyright/creative commons licenses, self-archiving policy
- Especially important when there are requirements on making research outputs open at your home institution or by your funders

Open access to publications

Publish the research outputs to break the barriers of cost and usage, to benefit scientists and society as a whole and help solving complex social, environmental, and economic challenges



HKU OA Mandate

- HKU is a signatory to the *Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities* since 2009
- recognizes that information should be made widely and readily available to society
- requires researchers to deposit a copy of articles in an open access repository
- encourages and advocates open access publication, including original scientific research results, raw data and metadata, and more

OA Benefits



Speed

- Review and publication times tend to be shorter for open access journals.



Citation counts

- Open access articles may receive 18% more citations than average.



Diversity

- Open access associates with increased diversity of citations by institutions, countries, and research fields.

- Björk, B.-C., & Solomon, D. (2013). The publishing delay in scholarly peer-reviewed journals. *Journal of Informetrics*, 7(4), 914-923. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2013.09.001>
- Huang, C.-K., Neylon, C., Montgomery, L., Hosking, R., Diprose, J. P., Handcock, R. N., & Wilson, K. (2024). Open access research outputs receive more diverse citations. *Scientometrics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-023-04894-0>
- Piwowar, H., Priem, J., Larivière, V., Alperin, J. P., Matthias, L., Norlander, B., Farley, A., West, J., & Haustein, S. (2018). The state of OA: a large-scale analysis of the prevalence and impact of Open Access articles. *PeerJ*, 6, e4375.

Types of open access publications



Green OA

- Deposit a version of the article to personal web page, or a repository



Gold OA

- Pay a cost (Article processing charges, APC) to make the published version immediately freely accessible



Diamond OA

- Make the published immediately freely accessible without paying a charge

Gold OA

- OA publishing
- The article (Version of Record) is open access in the journal
- Free to read immediately
- Authors keep the copyright (not transferred to the publisher) and publish the articles under a license with few or no restrictions on reuse, most likely “Creative Commons” license



Article Processing Charges

- Paid to publishers to make an article freely accessible by the public immediately upon publication
- Moving the cost of publication from the reader (via subscriptions) to the author (via APC)
- Under Transformative agreements, HKU researchers publishing in open access for free in the partner journals
- <https://libguides.lib.hku.hk/openaccess/ta>

The University of Hong Kong Libraries

**Publish open access
for free
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publishers!**

*The Company of
Biologists*

SPRINGER NATURE
Springer hybrid journals

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS | CSH Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory | IOPscience | MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY | Karger | PORTLAND PRESS | WILEY

Gold OA Hands-on

- How much APC (Standard APC, no discount) would an author pay for publishing an article in gold open access in *Science Advances* (ISSN: 2375-2548)?
- Try to check!
- <https://www.science.org/journal/sciadv>

Green OA

- **Green OA** or Self-archiving is posting a version (mostly preprint / accepted manuscript, sometimes Version of Record) for public access for free.
- Different publishers may have different self-archiving / preprint policies. (Check Author Services page for details.)



Green OA example – Nature Portfolio journals

Preprint

- encourage posting of preprints on preprint servers, authors' or institutional websites

Accepted manuscript

- permit self-archive the accepted manuscript on author's personal website and/or in funder or institutional repositories, for public release six months after publication
- cannot be released under a Creative Commons license

Green OA – Hands-on

Can an author of an article in *Science Robotics* (2470-9476) self-archive the accepted manuscript in the institutional repository?

Try to check!

<https://www.science.org/journal/scirobotics>

Predatory journals – What

- Predatory journals, fraudulent, deceptive, or pseudo-journals
- Journals with deceptive and dishonest practices
- Falsely claim to be offering peer review
- Publish all articles, regardless of research rigor, in exchange for a fee
- Of questionable and downright low quality



Predatory journals – How

- Exploit the open-access model in which the authors pay
- Aim to dupe researchers, especially those inexperienced in scholarly communication
- Sometimes, set up websites that closely resemble those of legitimate online publishers (hijacked journals)



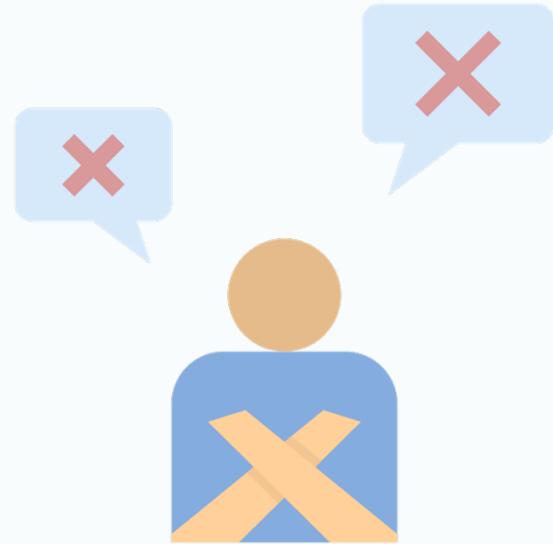
Why researchers avoid predatory journals

Fake peer review **undermines scientific conversation**

- misinformation enter the research community and slow or divert effort away from more legitimate lines of investigation

Publishing in a low-quality journal can make research **harder to find readers or be cited**

- researchers are less likely to read untrustworthy journals
- many popular citation databases exclude low-quality journals, so others cannot find your works with the databases



Predatory journals common characteristics

- Have very broad and vague journal scope
- Mimic name or website of other well-known, legitimate journals
- Publish articles with many grammar mistakes (little or no copyediting)
- Advertise very fast times from submission to publication
- Hide information on charges
- No editorial board is listed, or the editorial board comprises dead or retired scholars or scholars who are not specialised in the topic
- Lacks information on the policies of the journal, such as peer review, licensing and copyright
- Advertise a fake Journal Impact Factor or other citation metric on the website

Checklist for identifying predatory journals – Think. Check. Submit

A checklist to help you discover what you need to know when assessing whether a publisher is suitable for your research

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>

Journals

The checklist is a tool that will help you discover what you need to know when assessing whether or not a publisher is suitable for your research.

How can you be sure the journal you are considering is the right journal for your research?



Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?

Is it the right journal for your work?

- More research is being published worldwide.
- New publishers are launched each week.
- Many researchers have concerns about **predatory publishing**.
- It can be challenging to find up-to-date guidance when choosing where to publish.



Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.

Do you or your colleagues know the journal?

- Have you read any articles in the journal before?
- Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- Name of the journal: the name is unique; it is not the same or easily confused with another journal.

Tool – DOAJ

- DOAJ, Directory of Open Access Journals
- <https://doaj.org/>
- Unique and extensive index of diverse open access journals from around the world
- Verify that entries on the list comply with reasonable standards regarding [transparency & best practice](https://doaj.org/about/)



The screenshot shows the DOAJ website homepage. At the top, there is a dark header with the DOAJ logo (three orange curved shapes) and the text "DOAJ OPEN GLOBAL TRUSTED" and "SUP" in the top right corner. Below the header, there are navigation links: "SEARCH", "DOCUMENTATION", and "ABOUT". The main content area features the text "DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS" and "Find open access journals & articles." Below this, there are radio buttons for "Journals" (selected) and "Articles". A search bar is present with a dropdown menu set to "In all fields" and a yellow "SEARCH" button. At the bottom, there are four statistics: "80 LANGUAGES", "136 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED", "13,529 JOURNALS WITHOUT FEES", and "20,103 JOURNALS".

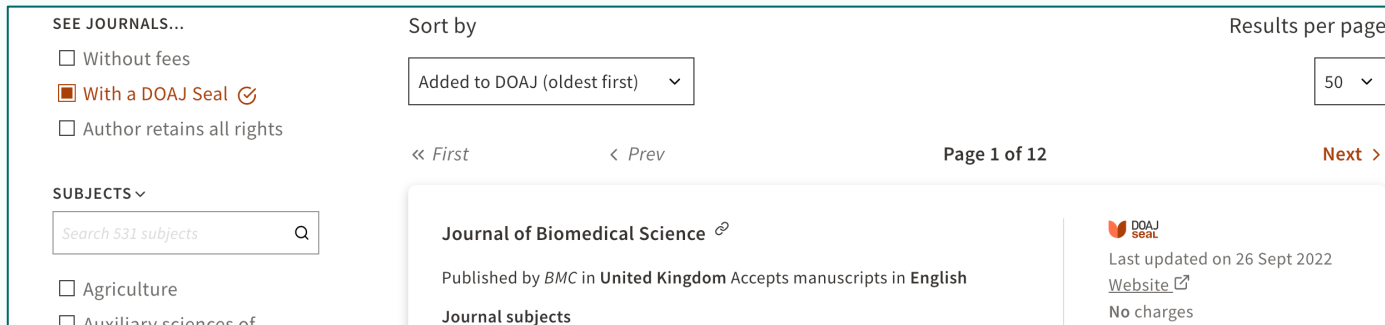
Statistic	Value
LANGUAGES	80
COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	136
JOURNALS WITHOUT FEES	13,529
JOURNALS	20,103

Being indexed in DOAJ

- A trusted open access journal
- Passed up to 4 stages of independent and objective, manual review by the Editorial team who have researched whether the journal does what they claim to do on the journal website and in the application
- Adheres to high levels of quality of its publishing services and services to authors and users, including:
 - peer review
 - licensing terms
 - a strong open access statement
 - a fully functional editorial board

The DOAJ Seal

- Awarded to journals that demonstrate best practice in open access publishing
- Passed seven extra criteria about best practices in long-term preservation, use of persistent identifiers, discoverability, reuse policies and authors' rights
- 10% of journals indexed in DOAJ awarded the Seal



The screenshot shows the DOAJ search interface. On the left, under 'SEE JOURNALS...', there are three filter options: 'Without fees' (unchecked), 'With a DOAJ Seal' (checked), and 'Author retains all rights' (unchecked). Below this is a 'SUBJECTS' section with a search box containing 'Search 531 subjects' and a magnifying glass icon. Underneath are two unchecked checkboxes: 'Agriculture' and 'Auxiliary sciences of'. In the center, the 'Sort by' dropdown is set to 'Added to DOAJ (oldest first)'. Below the dropdown are navigation links: '<< First', '< Prev', 'Page 1 of 12', 'Next >', and '>>'. On the right, 'Results per page' is set to '50'. The main content area displays a journal entry for 'Journal of Biomedical Science' with a link icon. Below the title, it states 'Published by BMC in United Kingdom Accepts manuscripts in English' and 'Journal subjects'. To the right of the journal title is the DOAJ Seal logo, the text 'Last updated on 26 Sept 2022', a 'Website' link with an external icon, and 'No charges'.

Hands-on – DOAJ

Which of the following journals is indexed by DOAJ and with a DOAJ seal?

- *IEEE Access* (ISSN: 2169-3536)
- *Nature Communications* (ISSN: 2041-1723)
- *PLoS ONE* (ISSN: 1932-6203)
- *Science Advances* (ISSN: 2375-2548)

Journal recommenders provided by various publishers

Publisher	URL	Function	Information
IEEE	https://publication-recommender.ieee.org/home	Match manuscript abstract; Search by keywords	Publication turnaround times, Open access option, Impact Factor
Elsevier	https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/	Match manuscript abstract; Search by keywords	Subject area, Acceptance rate, Publication turnaround times, Open access option & fees, CiteScore, Impact Factor
Sage	https://journal-recommender.sagepub.com/	Match manuscript title; Search by keywords	Subject area, Abstracting & Indexing, Open access option
Taylor & Francis	https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/choosing-a-journal/journal-suggester/	Match manuscript abstract	Acceptance rate, Publication turnaround times, Open access option, CiteScore, Impact Factor
Wiley	https://journalfinder.wiley.com/search	Match manuscript title & abstract	Open access option, Impact Factor

Key Takeaways

- Consider Aims & Scope to see whether your article fits the journal.
- Check editorial policies and consider whether the journals are trustable.
- Publishing in journals indexed by major abstracting and indexing services enables your research findings to reach your target audience (e.g., Web of Science & Scopus)
- Journal Impact Factor and CiteScore are two popular (and disputed) metrics to measure “impact” of a journal.
- Check whether the journal offers an open access option or allows self-archiving, especially when you need to meet requirement of your institution/funder.
- Predatory journals falsely claim to be offering peer review but publish everything for a fee. Use the *Think, Check, Submit* checklist to help you avoid potential predatory journals.