LRC Guide to Open Access (OA) Publishing

A guide developed by the USUHS LRC for faculty, students and staff

There are several factors to consider when deciding to publish your manuscript(s) in an open access publication or resource.

- **Indexed in a Major Database**
  This is an important factor when considering to publish open access or not. Journals that are indexed in databases such as MEDLINE (PubMed) have gone through a rigorous acceptance process. In addition, your research has greater exposure which means it is more likely to be cited.

- **Is the Journal Reputable?**
  There is considerable concern about the quality of research, peer-review standards, and other questionable business practices with some open access journals. To avoid these pitfalls, consider the following criteria:
  - The journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) (https://doaj.org/). Journals indexed after March 2014 show a green check mark which indicates they passed a more stringent acceptance process than journals listed prior to that date.
  - The publisher is a member of Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (http://oaspa.org/membership/members/) or the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (http://publicationethics.org/members/publishers).
  - Review the journal’s website to determine if the journal is affiliated with a university or professional organization, about the editorial board’s credentials, or acceptance rates.

- **Creative Commons - Understanding Copyright Licenses**
  Authors publishing their work as Open Access have (in non-predatory OA journals) control over how their work may be used. To learn more your rights as author, check out the Creative Commons’ webpage: https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/.

- **Fees**
  Publishing fees are the responsibility of the author(s). This is an important factor to consider when applying for a grant. Funds may be available via the award. As you consider a journal publishing fees and copyright policies should be clearly indicated.

- **Know the difference between Green and Gold**
  In Open Access publishing, there are two approaches (or strategies) for how the content is provided:
  - **Green Open Access** indicates that the author(s) provide open access to the article via an OA repository, such as PubMed Central or an institutional repository.
  - With **Gold Open Access**, journals provide Open Access to the article, either because the entire journal is Open Access or because the journal provides an Open Access option for authors (fees involved). Gold OA journals conduct peer review.

- **Compliance**
  If your research was funded by NIH, you will need to comply with the NIH Public Access Policy; details available at https://publicaccess.nih.gov/policy.htm. Authors must retain the right to submit a final manuscript to PubMed Central. For information about getting papers into PMC, go to: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/about/submission-methods/
Where to Publish?

- **CiteScore** ([https://journalmetrics.scopus.com/](https://journalmetrics.scopus.com/))
  CiteScore, developed by Scopus, measures the citation impact of serial titles such as journals. CiteScore calculates the average number of citations received in a calendar year by all items published in that journal in the preceding three years. The calendar year to which a serial title's issues are assigned is determined by their cover dates, and not the dates that the serial issues were made available online.

- **Eigenfactor** ([http://www.eigenfactor.org/](http://www.eigenfactor.org/))
  Eigenfactor uses metrics that take into account the number of times, in the past 5 years, that articles from a journal have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR). The Eigenfactor score considers which journals have contributed these citations and removes journal self-citations.

- **Journal/Author Name Estimator (JANE)** ([http://jane.biosemantics.org/](http://jane.biosemantics.org/))
  JANE first searches for the 50 articles that are most similar to your input. For each of these articles, a similarity score between that article and your input is calculated. The similarity scores of all the articles belonging to a certain journal or author are summed to calculate the confidence score for that journal or author. The results are ranked by confidence score.

- **PubMed PubReMiner** ([http://hgserver2.amc.nl/cgi-bin/miner/miner2.cgi](http://hgserver2.amc.nl/cgi-bin/miner/miner2.cgi))
  Use this resource to locate journals indexed in PubMed that have published the most in your area of interest.

Additional Reading

  This website was developed to provide authors with evaluation criteria for Open Access journals.

- **Be inFORMEd** ([http://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/beinformed](http://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/beinformed))
  This checklist was created by the Duke University Medical Library and Archives to help authors assess the quality of a journal or publisher.

  Suber’s book provides a good overview and background on the open access movement.

LRC Services and Resources

- **Research Guides**
  The LRC has developed over 30 research guides to provide assistance on a variety of topics (e.g., EndNote, EBM, Systematic Reviews, etc.) to assist our patrons with their research and other scholarly activities. Below are other related guides:
  - USUHS (LRC’s) Faculty Publications Database: [http://usuhs.libguides.com/FacultyPublications](http://usuhs.libguides.com/FacultyPublications)

- **Services**
  The LRC Reference Staff is available to assist you with any questions you may have regarding Open Access or for any of your information needs. Please contact us at: lrc.ref@usuhs.edu.