Publishing Your Research

Outline

• Why publish?
• How do you find the best or most suitable journal?
• Use Library databases to find journals for publishing your research
• Consider Open Access publications
• Be cautious – watch out for predatory journals
• Publishing agreements

Introduction

This workshop is designed to provide a guide to assist you in publishing your research. We will look at the tools available to assess and select publications. We will examine metrics for key journals in your field and suggest strategies to achieve publication and citations.

Why publish?

Publishing your research improves your chances of:

• Gaining recognition for your academic contribution and achievements
• Reaching a wider audience
• Having a social or economic impact
• Attracting funding
• Finding other researchers to collaborate with

Types of publication available for your research

Which type of publication is suitable for your article?

• Academic journal
• Professional magazine
• Publication of an organisation in your field
• International or local publications

Other aspects to consider:

• There are benefits for choosing Open Access publishing:
  o Fewer access barriers so more exposure and citations
  o Reach a more diverse audience, especially less advantaged communities
  o Ensures publicly funded research is accessible by the general public
• If your work focuses on specific issues, you may find publications specifically for this area
• Your choice will depend on the audience you wish to reach. You may want to engage with the academic community and improve your research impact or reach a professional group
Seek advice from colleagues, supervisors and research communities
The most effective way to find suitable publications is to consult with colleagues or supervisors. They may suggest suitable journals, ones where they have published, and can share their experience. Your wider research community may also have helpful suggestions. Try ResearchGate or other academic social media.

Using databases to select the best journals for your research
This section explores methods for selecting and evaluating journals:

- Find the most popular journals for a research topic using library databases
- Find journal rankings in your field and compare journals in Scopus, Journal Citation Reports
- Find journal rankings from Scimago

Scopus
Coverage: Across all research fields, e.g. science, mathematics, engineering, technology, health and medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities.

What journals have published articles that shared the same research interest of yours?
Search example: allergy AND child* AND food (in All fields)

➢ On the result list, check Source Title in the filters to find journals with the highest number of articles matching your research topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source title</th>
<th>Cited by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Of Allergy And Clinical Immunology</td>
<td>(2,323)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allergy European Journal Of Allergy And Clinical Immunology</td>
<td>(1,279)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical And Experimental Allergy</td>
<td>(1,159)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric Allergy And Immunology</td>
<td>(1,114)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annals Of Allergy Asthma And Immunology</td>
<td>(1,017)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

➢ What journals the highest cited articles have published with:
  • Sort on select Cited by (highest) to find highest cited articles
  • Look at the journals in the Source column
➢ Where the top authors have published in?
  • The Author Name section shows highest number of articles published by an author

  - Click the number of publications by a top author, e.g. (243)
  - On next screen, click Analyze search results to find the journals this author published in

➢ Where do New Zealand authors publish?
  Select Country/territory > View all and select New Zealand. Have a look at Source title:
Finding highly ranked journals

➢ Find journal ranking within a subject
  • Decide which level of journals you would like to publish with
  • Click Sources from the tool bar → Browse sources → select a subject

The results are listed according to the CiteScore ranking. Click other headings to sort by their rankings.

- Click a title from the list to find more details about this title

Under CiteScore rank & trend – look at the CiteScore trend of a journal to see its recent development. You may select a journal with better performance in recent years for publishing.
**Exercise**

Find the highest-ranking journals in your subject area

**Compare journals**

Another method to help your decide which is the best journal for your research.

Click *Compare Sources* from the tool bar at the top of the page. You can compare up to 10 journals.

For example, compare some journals specialised on organisational behaviour:

- Type *organizational behavior* in the search box
- Select some journals from the list for comparison
Journal Citation Reports (JCR)

- Journals in JCR are from the database Web of Science (WoS)
- Web of Science focuses on science, health sciences and social sciences with limited coverage on other subject areas, such as arts and design, business, New Zealand and Asia Pacific studies

Access JCR from the Library database. You may first browse categories in JCR.

- Select a category: Allergy
- Select a JRC year, the latest year is 2018
- Click Submit
• On the next page, click the number 27 under the heading #Journals to find the ranking of journals in this category

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journals By Rank</th>
<th>Categories By Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Journal Categories ranked by Number of Journals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customize Indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Edition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ALLERGY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Select a journal, e.g. *Journal of allergy and clinical immunology*
• Scroll down and select *Rank* and find the details. This journal is included in two categories

![JCR Impact Factor](image)

Quartile scores are often used for journal rankings.
Q1 = the top 25% of the Impact Factor distribution (Good)
Q2 = mid-high position (top 50% to top 25%)
Q3 = mid-low position (top 75% to top 50%)
Q4 = the bottom 25% of the Impact Factor distribution (lower impact within these 27 journals)

**Exercise**

1. Find the highest-ranking journals in your subject area
2. Use a journal you know, find its ranking in JCR
**Scimago journal & country rank**: [https://www.scimagojr.com/](https://www.scimagojr.com/)

Scimago provides journal rankings by the metric SJR using the database Scopus’ citation data:

![Scimago Journal Rankings](https://www.scimagojr.com)

**Finding relevant journals based on your abstract**

Some publishers and websites provide a tool to match your abstract to relevant journals on their website.

Remember: A publisher may only publish in a limited number of subject areas!

Try:

- Go to the Get Published guide → Publishing in Journals → Step 1, no 3 Matching your abstract to a journal → [Springer Journal Suggestor](https://link.springer.com/u/journal-suggestor)
- Paste in an abstract or keywords into the box called **Enter your abstract or article description**
- See which journals are relevant to your topic

**NOTE**: not all subject areas are covered in Springer Journal Suggestor.

**Journal publishing information**

Journal websites are another important source of information for evaluating journal quality. Look for:

- Guides for authors including submission requirements, any contract information, copyright transfer agreements, etc
- An archiving policy that allows you to archive your article in a research repository, such as AUT’s Tuwhera, and reuse your data in future publications or teaching
- A peer review process
- Information of a specific research focus
- Details of who is on the editorial board
- Number of articles per issue
- Signs of misleading information (poor-quality journals may provide false indexing and metrics details)
- Ulrichsweb database can be used to search for indexing and peer review information
**Tip**: Check if articles from a journal are discoverable by searching for them in Google Scholar. The more discoverable, the more citations!

Search example: *Pacific Journalism Review*

- Google Scholar – use **advanced search** to search for this journal title
- Ulrichsweb database – which database this journal has been indexed, peer-review, etc.

## Publish with Open Access journals

### Benefits of Open Access

- Easier to come across > more exposure and citations
- Reaches a more diverse audience
- Reaches disadvantaged communities
- Considerations of publicly funded research being available to the public

### Types of open access publishing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Green publishing</th>
<th>Research papers deposited in a digital archive/repository:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Institutional repositories provided by a research institution, e.g. AUT’s Tuwhera open repository</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Discipline-specific repository such as, arXiv and PubMed Central</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free publishing</td>
<td>Some organisations, e.g. universities, publish OA journals without charging APC fees.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pay for publishing</td>
<td>Peer reviewed articles published in ‘free to the public’ open access journals. The author or institution are usually required to pay an article processing charge (APC).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Selecting Open Access journals

- Use the same steps mentioned above to evaluate journals
- Publish with well-known publishers
- Select journals listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ): [https://doaj.org/](https://doaj.org/)

DOAJ is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals. DOAJ is independent and all services are free of charge.

**Example of a journal page in DOAJ:**
• Check the SHERPA ROMEO website http://sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
  Find information on journal policies, such as copyrights, archiving policies, APC fees, etc.

**Predatory journals** - these journals usually have common issues: fake impact factor; ‘hijacked’ version of other well published journals; fake editorial boards; some articles are copies of articles published in academic journals; authors are asked to pay high APC fees.

Check journals website carefully and spot any trace of unethical practice showed above.

### **Exercise**

1. Find a journal of interest from DOAJ, or use ‘Immunity and Ageing’
2. Use Journal Citation Reports (JCR) to find its ranking
3. Check if this journal is searchable in Scopus
4. Check the journal’s policy on SHERPA ROMEO

### **Copyright and licensing**

• Remember to check copyright and licensing policies before submitting your article to a journal
• When your article is accepted by a journal, make sure you read the *copyright transfer agreement* carefully before you sign the contract
• Negotiate with the publisher to retain your author’s right when it is needed

### **Further Help**

For further help, contact your **Liaison Librarian:**
https://library.aut.ac.nz/for-lecturers/liaison-librarian-services

For information on how journal metrics are calculated go to:
http://aut.ac.nz.libguides.com/impact/Journal_Metrics

Get Published guide: https://library.aut.ac.nz/for-researchers/get-published

Think, Check, Submit checklist: http://thinkchecksubmit.org/