

# openaccessstalk

## **Publishing Open Access: How to evaluate a journal's quality**

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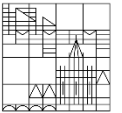
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 [www.open-access.network](http://www.open-access.network)

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# Agenda

- Open Access journals
- What is quality
- Quality criteria
- Quality assessment
- Predatory publishing
- Finding trustworthy Open Access journals

# Open Access journals



- no difference to traditional journals apart from access model
- quality assurance (Peer review)
- availability and reputation vary greatly depending on subject
- Open Access journals often relatively new, less established
- existence of „predatory journals“ with no or inadequate peer review

➡ doubts about quality

# What is quality?

- fulfillment of requirements
    - technical standards (e.g. assignment of DOIs, digital preservation...)
    - organizational framework
    - adherence to scientific standards (e.g. correct citations, no plagiarism...)
  - subjective assessment
    - transparency and trustworthiness of the publication venue are relevant!
- ➔ The importance of specific requirements and procedures can vary greatly depending on the subject

# Quality criteria of OA journals



- publisher is member of relevant associations
  - Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA)
  - Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) (also for non-OA journals)
- listed in quality-checked databases & directories
  - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
  - interdisciplinary, e.g. [Web of Science](#), [Scopus](#)
  - for specific fields, e.g. [Pubmed/MEDLINE](#)
- new journals are often not yet listed in databases, not yet members of organisations
- further criteria have to be included

# Quality criteria of OA journals



- journal is clear about its scope
- journal is recognised by the community
- editors are experts in their field
- journal is edited by a known publisher, a scholarly association or a known research institution
- transparent information on services and costs
  - details on quality assurance process (e.g. peer review)
  - use of persistent identifiers (e.g. DOI) and digital preservation
  - information on licencing (e.g. CC BY)

# Quality assurance procedures



- OA journals use different procedures for quality assurance of articles, according to the practise in the discipline
  - **Peer review**: review by colleagues from the field
  - **Editorial review**: review by editorial board
  - **Open peer review**: publishing of a preliminary version or preprint, review open to everyone from the community



# Predatory Publishing



- predatory journals publish scholarly articles for a fee
    - without quality control (peer review)
    - without adhering to standards of good editorial and scientific practise
    - without guarantee of long-term availability
    - with the sole purpose of making money
- ➔ doesn't necessarily say anything about the quality of the articles

# Characteristics of predatory journals



- unsolicited, often aggressive calls for papers
- very short times between submission and acceptance
- unclear about costs
- unclear about peer review process
- accept anything, including nonsense papers
- titles sometimes very similar to established journals
- fake information on editorial board members, impact factors
- website directed to authors, not readers

# Caveats

- no sharp boundaries between „good“ and „bad“ journals, large grey area
- mediocre quality  $\neq$  fraudulent intent
- predatory publishing  $\neq$  „fake science“
- peer review is important, but not a 100% guarantee for quality
- publication and meeting cultures vary greatly between disciplines

# **Tools and services to help you find trustworthy open access journals**

a small selection

# Checking trustworthiness and reliability



## How to check?

- whitelists provide good orientation
- we do not recommend blacklists
- go through checklist of [Think. Check. Submit.](#)

## Keep in mind!

- ensure that your selected journal is compliant with institutional requirements or funder policies
- [Journal Checker Tool](#) for Plan S compliance check

# The Directory of Open Access Journals



- browse the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ) for an open access journal
- you can refine your search for no-APC-journals and journals with the [DOAJ Seal](#), as well as filter by subject and other criteria
- provides data for several tools and services

A screenshot of the DOAJ website search results page. The page shows a search bar with the text "Journals" and a search button. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Without article processing charges (APCs)" and "With a DOAJ Seal". The search results are sorted by "Added to DOAJ (newest first)" and show 347 indexed journals. The first result is the "Journal of Applied Computer Science and Technology" (JACOST), published by the Indonesian Society of Applied Science (ISAS) in Indonesia. The journal accepts manuscripts in Indonesian and has no charges. The page also includes a "SHARE OR EMBED" button and a "SEE JOURNALS..." section with checkboxes for "With a DOAJ Seal" and "Without article processing charges (APCs)".

# Infos for different subjects at open-access.net



- provides [subject-specific information](#) on the topic of Open Access
- lists selected publication platforms and journals

A screenshot of the open-access.net website page for Information Science. The page has a light grey background with a faint globe pattern. At the top left is the "open access" logo. The main heading is "Der freie Zugang zu wissenschaftlicher Information" followed by "Information Science". Below this is a breadcrumb trail: "> IPOA en > Open Access in individual disciplines > Information Science". The page is divided into three sections: "Open Access in information science", "Open Access journals", and "Disciplinary repositories", each with a corresponding paragraph of text.

Der freie Zugang zu wissenschaftlicher Information  
Information Science

> IPOA en > Open Access in individual disciplines > Information Science

**Open Access in information science**  
Information science is not a widely studied subject in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. The German Academic Association for Information Sciences (Hochschulverband Informationswissenschaft) lists only 21 universities in the said countries at which this subject is taught. Most of these institutions are universities of applied sciences. The German-language publication landscape in information science is therefore of modest dimensions. Moreover, it cannot be described as having an affinity with open access (OA). Hence, neither the German Academic Association for Information Sciences nor the German Society of Information Science and Information Practice (DGI) has signed the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities.

**Open Access journals**  
Genuinely OA journals in information science are almost impossible to find in the German-speaking area. Relevant journals such as the DGI's *Information - Wissenschaft & Praxis* are closed access. Internationally, the same goes for the *Proceedings der Association for Information Management (ASLIB)*, for all publications of the *American Society for Information Science and Technology (asis&t)*, and for the *Journal of Information Science*. Other very important journals in this field, such as *Information Processing & Management*, the *Journal of Documentation* and *Scientometrics* are also closed access.  
Important OA journals in information science are *Information Research* and *First Monday*, and in Germany LIBREAS. However, LIBREAS has a stronger library-science focus than the two other journals mentioned.  
Unfortunately, information science cannot be browsed in the *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)*. Therefore, readers and authors who wish to familiarise themselves with OA journals in information science must find such journals via a keyword search for "information science".

**Disciplinary repositories**  
The server *INFODATA-eDepot* operated by the Informationszentrum für Informationswissenschaft und -praxis Potsdam can be regarded as a German-language disciplinary repository in information science. Internationally, the *eprints in library & information sciences (e-Lis)* repository is worthy of mention. It was established by members of the library- and information science community and is supported by institutions such as the Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA), the University of London Computing Center (ULCC), the International Centre for Research in Information Strategy and Development (CIEPI) and the Agriculture Information Management Standards (AIMS) portal of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Although the disciplinary repository *Digital Library of Information Science and Technology (DLIST)* is still in existence, its holdings are hardly growing at all.

**Source:** <https://open-access.net/en/open-access-in-individual-disciplines/information-science>

# European Reference Index for the SSH



The image shows a screenshot of the ERIH PLUS website. The top navigation bar includes the NSD logo and the ERIH PLUS title. A left sidebar contains navigation links such as "About", "Criteria for inclusion", and "Registered user". The main content area is divided into several sections: a news article about the ESF memorandum, a search interface with a "Search" button, "Criteria for inclusion of new journals" with a list of six requirements, "Latest news" with two articles, and "Open Access as an academic publishing requirement". On the right, an "Advanced search" form is visible with dropdown menus for "Country of publication" and "Open Access", and a "Search hits" section displaying a list of journal entries with their respective ISSN, country, language, and disciplines.

Source: <https://dbh.nsd.uib.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/>



# QUEST Open Access Journal Positive List



**BIH QUEST**  
Transforming Biomedical Research

## Open Access Journal Positive List

Contains biomedical open access journals that are listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Pubmed Central.

Please note that this Open Access Journal Positive List is only a first information source for finding a suitable open access journal and is by no means an exhaustive list of all valid open access journals. For a more complete list please consider the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#). We do not check the quality of the listed journals ourselves, but incorporate journals listed in the DOAJ, which undertakes a quality assessment of the journals.

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Authors: Bernard, René (Concept); Liebenau, Lisa (Concept); Riedel, Nico (Concept, Technical implementation)

Copy Download Show 20 entries Search:

Journal title	SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)	SJR Subject Category Quartile	Journal article processing charges (APCs)	Currency	APC in EUR (incl. 19% taxes)	APC below 2000 EUR	Average time to publication (weeks)	Subject category	Journal license	Publisher
1 PAIN Reports	1.132	Q1	2500	USD	2545	no	8	Anesthesiology	CC BY-NC-ND	Wolters Kluwer
2 BMC Anesthesiology	0.71	Q2	1370	GBP	1772	yes, also under DEAL	24	Anesthesiology	CC BY	BMC
3 Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery	0.65	Q2	1390	GBP	1797	yes, also under DEAL	15	Anesthesiology	CC BY	BMC
4 Journal of Anaesthesiology Clinical Pharmacology	0.482	Q2	No	-	0	yes	50	Anesthesiology	CC BY-NC-SA	Wolters Kluwer Medknow Publications
5 Local and Regional Anesthesia	0.477	Q2	1958	USD	1993	yes	16	Anesthesiology	CC BY-NC	Dove Medical Press
6 Annals of Cardiac Anaesthesia	0.403	Q2	No	-	0	yes	26	Anesthesiology	CC BY-NC-SA	Wolters Kluwer Medknow Publications
7 Anesthesiology Research and Practice	0.33	Q3	1025	USD	1043	yes	18	Anesthesiology	CC BY	Hindawi Limited
8 JA Clinical Reports	0.165	Q3	980	GBP	1267	yes, also under DEAL	9	Anesthesiology	CC BY	SpringerOpen
9 Pain and Therapy	0.108	Q4	2500	GBP	3233	no, but DEAL special terms	6	Anesthesiology	CC BY-NC	Adis, Springer Healthcare
10 Case Reports in Anesthesiology	-	-	575	USD	585	yes	12	Anesthesiology	CC BY	Hindawi Limited
11 BMC Biochemistry	0.502	Q3	1370	GBP	1772	yes, also under DEAL	18	Animal biochemistry	CC BY	BMC
12 Biomedical Optics Express	1.591	Q1	2130	USD	2168	no	10	Applied optics, Photonics	Publisher's own license	Optical Society of America (OSA)
13 Neurophotonics	1.262	Q1	1675	USD	1705	yes	21	Applied optics, Photonics	CC BY	SPE

This 'Open Access Journal Positive List' comprises international biomedical open access journals that obey certain quality standards. All journals are listed by the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and Pubmed Central (PMC). DOAJ ensures high quality standards for journals; individual journals have to apply at DOAJ and are checked against a list of quality criteria. PMC stores the full-text version of open access articles and increases the visibility of research in that way. Only journals that are assigned to the DOAJ subject categories 'Medicine' or 'Biology' and that have English or German as full-text language are included.

The freely available SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) measures the journal impact, similar to the Journal Impact Factor. The SJR quartiles indicate how the SJR of a journal compares to other journals for the same subject category. Journals in the first quartile (Q1) are among those with the highest SJR in their respective subject category. The Quartiles are given with respect to the corresponding Scopus subject categories, while the subject categories used for this table are taken from DOAJ.

The 2000€ APC threshold is a relevant threshold for some funders (e.g. the DFG), as they do not fund articles above this sum. Due to either outdated APC information, variations in the currency exchange rates or due to differences in taxing for journals from different countries the information if an APC lies below 2000 EUR might be inaccurate. Before deciding on a journal, please check the journal costs yourself.

Source: <http://s-quest.bihealth.org:3838/OAWhitelist/>

# Quality Open Access Market - QOAM



Home About Journals My QOAM QOAMcorners Profiles Contact Log in Register

### Score Card

Scores

4,8

Score for this journal:

4,8

By Uli Sauerland

### Glossa

ISSN: 2397-1835  
 Publisher: Ubiquity Press  
 Language: English  
 Disciplines: linguistics, language, language faculty

**Scores**

I am an editor of this journal (If 'Yes', please tick the box)

The editor of the journal is responsive.  
 1: Absolutely not 2: Poor 3: Neutral 4: Good 5: Excellent

The peer review of the journal has added value.  
 1: Absolutely not 2: Poor 3: Neutral 4: Good 5: Excellent

I would recommend scholars to submit their work to this journal.  
 1: Absolutely not 2: Poor 3: Neutral 4: Good 5: Excellent

I would deem this journal good value for money  
 1: Absolutely not 2: Poor 3: Neutral 4: Good 5: Excellent  
 Publication of my article in this journal did cost: € 300,00 per article

Additional comments

The journal should work on better integration of LaTeX in the publication process

### Filter

Search by journal title

Search by ISSN

Search by publisher

Search by discipline

Search

10773 journals; fully OA; no-fee; inst. deal;

Title	Publisher	QoS indicator	Submit
International Journal of Serious Games	Serious Games Society	9,3	Submit
Journal of Statistical Software	foundation for open access statistics	9,3	Submit
Acta Agriculturae Slovenica	university of ljubljana, biotechnical faculty	8,9	Submit
Revista de Artes Marciales Asiáticas	Universidad de León	8,6	
Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry	Beilstein-Institut	8,5	Submit
Journal of Social and Political Psychology	PsychOpen	8,4	
Construction Economics and Building	UTS ePRESS	8,4	
Advances in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	VSB-Technical University of Ostrava	8,2	
Semantics and Pragmatics	Linguistic Society of America	8,1	
Mediterranean Marine Science	hellenic centre for marine research	8,1	
iForest - Biogeosciences and Forestry	Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF)	8,1	
Global Social Work	Universidad de Granada	8,0	
Australasian Journal of Information Systems	australasian association for information systems	8,0	
Foro de Educación	FahrenHouse	7,9	
Beilstein Journal of Nanotechnology	Beilstein-Institut	7,9	Submit

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ... » »»

Source: <https://www.qoam.eu/journals>

# Megajournals as alternative



- Open Access journals with broad disciplinary scope for original research → larger multidisciplinary audience
- fast publication process with peer review
- articles are not rejected for lack of novelty and significance
- examples:
  - [PLOS ONE](#) → natural sciences, medical research, engineering, as well as the related social sciences and humanities
  - [Scientific Reports](#) → natural sciences, medicine and engineering
  - [IEEE Access](#) → all IEEE's fields of interest
  - [Open Library of Humanities](#) → humanities
  - [Sage Open](#) → social and behavioral sciences, as well as humanities

# What if questions arise?



- If you are not sure:
  - discuss with colleagues
  - ask a librarian → you might find further information on your library's website
- Share your experiences!
  - discuss your publication experience with peers and your local open access experts
  - you may start an internal knowledge base at your institute

# openaccesstalk

**Thank you for your attention!**

More information

<https://open-access.net/startseite>

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# Contact



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Do you have individual questions about Open Access?  
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