How to choose journals for submitting your paper “Criteria and Tips”

by

Professor Aboul Ella Hassanien

Taking into account many of the criteria and tips that we found to be the most important in selecting a peer-reviewed journal to submit the paper.
Agenda

✓ Big image
✓ Criteria (1): Journal's aim and scope
✓ Criteria (2): Similar published articles
✓ Criteria (3): Journal’s restrictions
✓ Criteria (4): Impact Factor
✓ Criteria (5): Turnaround time or response time
✓ Criteria (6): The readership and target audience
✓ Criteria (7): Journal visibility
✓ CV value of publication
✓ What's the best journal for my paper?
✓ New tool can help
✓ Checklist for journal selection
✓ Conclusion

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High-impact work can be rejected when the search topic does not match the scope of the journal, and making that mistake wastes time, money, and motivation.

Submitting a manuscript to an inappropriate journal is one of the most common mistakes committed by authors, and both novices and professionals are capable of making this mistake.

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Many researchers make the mistake of submitting to a journal that is not suitable for their research. If you will invest some consideration at the start to make sure that your research is aligned with the right journal, you can more likely to avoid being rejected.

Choosing the right journal for your manuscript can be quite stressful. After all, submitting to an appropriate journal will increase your chances of publication.

But there are so many things to consider!

- Should you only look at a journal's impact factor?
- Should you focus on a journal with a short turnaround time?
- What about the journal processes?
- Wouldn't it be great to have a quick guide to refer to when short listing a journal?

This seminar discusses some of the most common aspects to consider during journal selection.
Criteria (1): Match between the subject of your article and the journal's aim and scope

- The most common yet avoidable reason for journal rejection is mismatch between the manuscript and the journal aims and scope.

- This information is usually readily available on the journal’s homepage. Look for a section titled “About the Journal,” “Full Aims and Scope,” or something similar. Browsing through this page will provide you with key information about whether your research might be a good match for the journal.

  - For example, Food Research International does not publish optimization studies aiming to increase the yield of a production process.
Criteria (2): Journal published articles that are similar to yours

- Once you have identified a few journals that might be likely to publish your manuscript based on their broad aims and scope, consider performing a search with the keywords (or title) of your manuscript to determine whether the journal has published work that is similar to yours.

- Consider performing a search with the keywords (or title) of your manuscript to determine whether the journal has published work that is similar to yours. Aim to identify 3-5 papers published within the last 5 years and try to determine whether these papers are similar to yours in quality and scope.

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Criteria (3): Journal’s restrictions

• **Article Type**
  – Submission to a journal that does not accept the type of article you’ve written is a surefire way to be rejected immediately.
  – *For example, some journals, such as the British Journal of Surgery, do not publish case reports. Thus, it is essential to check the “Information for Authors” section of your target journal to determine the journal’s restrictions.*

• **Word Count**
  – It is also important to note restrictions related to word count.
  – *For example, if your manuscript is 7,000 words and the journal accepts papers no longer than 4000 words, a substantial revision will obviously be required.*

• **Publication Cost**
  – The cost of publication can also be viewed as a restriction, as some journals charge very high article processing fees. Fees can also be charged for open access, additional pages beyond a certain limit, or color figures.
Criteria (4): Impact Factor

• The validity of the Journal Impact Factor as a metric for journal quality is controversial due to the many factors that can influence the rating achieved and the fact that not all of these factors are directly related to the quality of the publications within the journal.

• Nevertheless, the Impact Factor remains the default method for determining the quality and reputation of a journal.

• Although it is tempting to submit a manuscript to the journal with the highest impact factor, it is important to objectively evaluate your research and determine whether it is truly suitable for a top-tier journal.

• Otherwise, you will risk valuable time and effort resubmitting (and reformatting) your manuscript multiple times for multiple journals.
Criteria (5): Turnaround time for articles submitted to the journal

• **Definition** - Turnaround time (TAT) or Response time (RT) is the time interval from the time of submission of a process to the time of the completion of the process.

• **Response time is an important component of the submission process, especially for authors. Authors prefer to make a quicker decision to respond, as this results in faster performance and faster decision-making.**

• Regardless of how it is calculated, reducing the turnaround time is obviously in the interest of authors and editors, especially if it can occur without reduction in the quality of the review process.

• However, the time to obtain external reviews is not the only thing that authors are interested in; some want to know how long it takes to submit to acceptance (or rejection), which is quite different because it may involve several revisions, in which the manuscript is in the hands of the author.

• Others want to know how long it takes for an officially accepted manuscript to appear printed and electronically.
Criteria (6): The readership and target audience

- **Multidisciplinary journal**
  - If, for example, your paper could have a bearing on public policy or could change the way nurses handle patient care, then choose a broad-based journal that reaches a wide and non-technical audience.

- **Specialty journal**
  - If your paper is highly specialized or technical, you’ll do better to publish in a journal with a small but very specific target audience. Reaching the right readership can sometimes be more important than reaching a wide readership.

- How popular is the journal among your peers? Talking to established colleagues will help you assess whether the journal is widely read among your peers.
Criteria (7): Journal visibility

- Once your paper is published, it should be easy to find by other researchers.
- Journal visibility plays an important role in this regard.
  - Is the journal included in electronic databases?
  - Is the journal indexed in ISI’s Web of Science?
  - Is it indexed in the popular subject-specific databases in your field?
- This improves the visibility of your research in your chosen field of research and may also increase the number of times your article is cited.
- Is the journal available online? Publishing in journals that are only circulated in print can seriously limit the number of people coming across or reading your work.
What is the “CV value of publication”?

Some authors put a premium on journal prestige. Here are some factors to consider.

1. **Editorial board members.** Prestigious journals usually have eminent researchers as members of their Editorial Board. Visit the journal website to check the names on the Editorial Board. Are the Board members well-known in your field of study?

2. **Journal sponsorship.** Is the journal owned or sponsored by a prestigious society in your field?

3. **What is the journal’s impact factor?** Don’t just look at the actual impact factor, since impact factor values vary by field. Consider the impact factor relative to those of similar journals within your field.

4. **Guidance from colleagues.** Which journals do they regularly read? Which journals do they feel have a high standard of articles?

5. **Journal prestigious.** Is the journal regarded as a prestigious one in its field by colleagues and peers?

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What is the “CV value of publication”? 

TIP

As a rule of thumb, prestigious journals have a rejection rate of around 90%, while the average journal rejection rate is around 50%. But rejection rates can be misleading. For example, many authors submit to lower-tiered journals thinking that they’ll have a better chance of publication. But with the increased number of submissions, these journals end up rejecting more papers, increasing their rejection rate.

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What's the best journal for my paper? New tool can help

Springer Journal Suggester
https://journalsuggester.springer.com/

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Elsevier Journal Finder
https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/
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Edanz Journal Selector

https://www.edanzediting.com/journal-selector

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Impact factors and reputation

Impact factors measure how often on average articles in a particular title are cited.

This is a useful proxy for a journal's standing and reputation and can be helpful when deciding from your shortlist.

The authoritative source for current impact factors in the sciences and social sciences is Thomson Reuter's Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

https://jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com

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Checklist for journal selection

- Does the subject of your article match the journal’s subject focus?
- Does the journal accept the article type you intend to submit?
- Is the journal read by your target audience? Is the journal included in bibliographic and subject-specific databases?
- Does the journal have an online edition? Is the journal’s impact factor in line with your requirements?
- Is the journal regarded as a prestigious one in its field by colleagues and peers?
- What is the turnaround time for articles submitted to the journal?
- How many times a year is the journal published?
- What are the publication charges?
- Is the length and structure of your manuscript acceptable to the journal?

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Choosing the journal to which your manuscript is sent carefully reduces the chances of your work being rejected. Once you have made an initial decision in the journal, read the authors' instructions to discover journal entries in the form of article layout, word count, citation styles, photo specifications, publishing costs, etc. This will help you make a final decision.

**The topics the journal publishes.** If your research is applied, target a journal that publishes applied science; if it is clinical, target a clinical journal; if it is basic research, target a journal that publishes basic research. You may find it easier to browse a list of journals by subject area.

**The journal's audience.** Will researchers in related fields be interested in your study? If so, a journal that covers a broad range of topics may be best. If only researchers in your field are likely to want to read your study, then a field-specific journal would be best.

**The types of articles the journal publishes.** If you are looking to publish a review, case study or a theorem, ensure that your target journal accepts theses type of manuscripts.

The reputation of the journal.

**A journal's Impact Factor** is one measure of its reputation, but not always the most important. You should consider the **prestige of the authors** that publish in the journal and whether your research is of a similar level.

What are **your personal requirements**: Does the journal usually publish articles quickly; is the "time to publication" important for you?

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Conclusions and Final Tips

https://www.editage.com/insights/how-to-choose-journals-for-submitting-your-paper?loginform=loggedin-Facebook
Finally...

• Be a good academic citizen
• Know what you’re doing
• Keep track of what you’ve done
• Back everything up
• Don’t Lie (fabrications)
• Don’t Cheat (falsifications)
• Don’t Steal (plagiarism)
• Publish your discoveries

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