

## Chapter Five

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### Selecting of Journal for Publication





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### Abstract

Selecting a journal for publication of one's article can be tiresome and difficult as one need to verify the source of the journal, prove its authenticity and also the scope of the journal among other things. Writers come across so many journals part faced with the challenge of pinpointing the appropriate journal for their written article. This paper examines the methods and criteria that must be used to select an appropriate journal for article publication.

### Keywords

Submission, Publications, Scope, Articles, Impart Factor

## **5.1 Introduction**

Prior to the publication of an article, a researcher needs to select an appropriate journal to submit his/ her article for publication. The author would have to surf the net in order to select among the many journals that are available that matches with the article to be published. It should be noted that not all the journals are of standard. Some are scammers and predators who act on the innocence of authors. They accept papers with the view of reviewing articles submitted to them for publication but never do it. Some of these types of journal give quick notice to authors on the acceptance of their manuscripts. This topic of selecting journals for publication outlines and expatiates various things a would-be author should consider when he / she wants to select a journal for an article publication.

The following are the vital point one needs to consider in selecting a journal for publication.

## **5.2 Scope of a Journal**

It refers to the subject area on which journal focuses on or covers. Authors are thus expected to tailor their articles so that it neatly fits into their subject matter under focus. Each and every journal has its scope and all authors who want their articles to be published in any journal should do the due diligence in knowing its scope before structuring their respective articles to be submitted for publication. The scope of a journal could be the subject matter of general science or particular topics in science. For example, a journal on renewable energy generation and storage. In this regard, the focus is not on energy but rather renewable energy generation and storage.

## 5.3 Standard of a Journal

Numerous authors are concerned with the journals in which they should publish their articles with regards to standards. There are many journals such that would be authors become sharply divided on how to select a standard journal. Some journals called predatory journals have also flooded the web charging huge amounts for publication without doing reviewing of papers submitted to them. Realizing that people really need their papers for promotion, they try as much as possible to exploit them allowing paper to be accepted within sometime 2 -3 days. Some of such journals are likely not to do quality jobs or in better words, the review of such journal, might not be thorough. Authors are to consider the following in trying to judge the quality or standard of a journal.

### 5.3.1 Impact Factor

The impact factor is a conventional method used in ranking a journal to be of high quality or not. The higher the impact factor of a journal, the higher its ranking as such the quality of papers published in them. The impact factor looks at the ratio of the number of articles a journal has published within a stipulated period to the ratio of the number of citations made from the articles published. Pundits are however of the view that, the fact that an article is published in a high impact factor does not mean that the article is necessarily of high quality, because an article can be published in a high impact factor journal without being cited.

However, for now it remains one of the methods used in ranking journals. Some journal deliberately put high impact factors on their journals in order to get authors to publish with them.

### **5.3.2 Journal Published by Reputable Institutions**

Some journals are published by reputable and well-known institutions such as tertiary institutions universities, polytechnics, research institutions and foundations, etc. This institutions because they have worked hard to build the reputation, they would always want to maintain or improve upon the quality or standards they are associated with, hence would go all the length to make sure articles published in their journals are of the standards they require. A would be author can therefore trust such journals and publish their articles with them.

For instance, if Accra Polytechnic comes out with a journal in order not to dent the reputation of the institution, a rigorous quality assurance operations would be established, hence papers to be published in such a journal would have to be standardized. However, would be authors should be made aware that there are plenty scammers around who could set up websites using name of reputable institutions to run journal for their mischief. Would-be authors are highly entreated to check for the official websites of these institutions for their journals available if they wish to publish their articles.

### **5.3.3 Length of Review Process**

Though this might not be a very good measure or strategy to adopt in deciphering the quality or standard of a journal, it should however be note that, a considerable time is needed for reviewers to assess manuscripts for editors. If authors should send their work to editors and within 1 - 3 days receive letters of acceptance, one should be suspicious of the review process and their journal quality. This is because 1-3 days is relatively a short time for an article to be sent to editors, reviewed and notice of acceptance given to authors. It does automatically mean the journal might not be of standard but only raise doubts as to whether due diligence is done.

### 5.3.4 Journals Included in Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ)

There is a directory called (DOAJ), consisting of compiled journals that allow people to access their articles freely online. These groups of journals are scrutinized before added to the directory; hence one can be assured that they are not predatory.

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