HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL FOR YOUR MANUSCRIPT

Find the right home for your research — maximize impact, reach the right audience.

Your research matters. Publish it where it counts.

From research to real-world impact

1 DEFINE YOUR RESEARCH



- Research area and topic
- Study type (e.g., clinical, basic, translational)
- Target audience
- What makes your work unique?



Understand your scientific message.

2 IDENTIFY CANDIDATE JOURNALS



- Search for similar papers
- Review reference lists
- Look at competing publications
- Create a shortlist (5–10 journals)
- Use journal matching tools (e.g., JANE: jane.biosemantics.org)

Find journals that have published similar research and use journal-matching tools such as JANE (jane.biosemantics.org) to identify additional options.

3 MATCH JOURNAL SCOPE



- Ensure your topic aligns with the journal's aims
- Check if your article type is accepted (e.g., original research, review, case report)
- Look at recently published articles

Read the journal's aims and scope carefully before proceeding.

4 CONSIDER YOUR AUDIENCE



- Who needs to read your work?
- Researchers in your field
- Clinicians and healthcare providers
- Public health professionals
- Policy makers

Choose a journal read by the people who can use your findings.

5 EVALUATE JOURNAL QUALITY



- Peer-review rigor
- Editorial board expertise
- Impact factor and citation metrics (use appropriately)
- Society or institutionad affiliation

Look for a reputable, well-established journal.

6 ASSESS PUBLICATION COSTS



- Article processing charges (APCs)
- Page charges
- Color figure fees
- Funder or institutional requirements
- Check potential institutional publishing agreements

Check publication fees, open-access requirements, and whether institutional publishing agreements can reduce APC costs.

7 CONSIDER PUBLICATION SPEED



- Time to first decision
- Revision timeline
- Acceptance to publication time
- Online-first publication options

Important for time-sensitive findings, grant deadlines, or career milestones.

8 MAXIMIZE VISIBILITY



- Indexed in major databases (PubMed, Web of Science, Scopus, etc.)
- Broad international readership
- Social media and press promotion
- Potential for higher citation and impact

Greater visibility increases the impact of your research.

9 AVOID PREDATORY JOURNALS



- ☒ Unsolicited email invitations
- ☒ Unrealistic acceptance times
- ☒ Hidden fees
- ☒ Lack of transparent peer review
- ☒ Unclear editorial board

Be cautious and verify the journal's legitimacy. When in doubt, consult colleagues or trusted resources (e.g., DOAJ, Think. Check. Submit.).

SELECT THE BEST JOURNAL



- ☑ Fits your manuscript and scope
- ☑ Reaches your target audience
- ☑ Has strong peer review and reputation
- ☑ Affordable and within your timeline
- ☑ Indexed in major databases
- ☑ Maximizes the potential impact of your work

The right journal helps your research make a difference.

Choose the journal that best matches your audience, scientific message, and publication goals—not simply the highest impact factor.

Good research deserves a great audience.