Finding the Right Journal to Publish
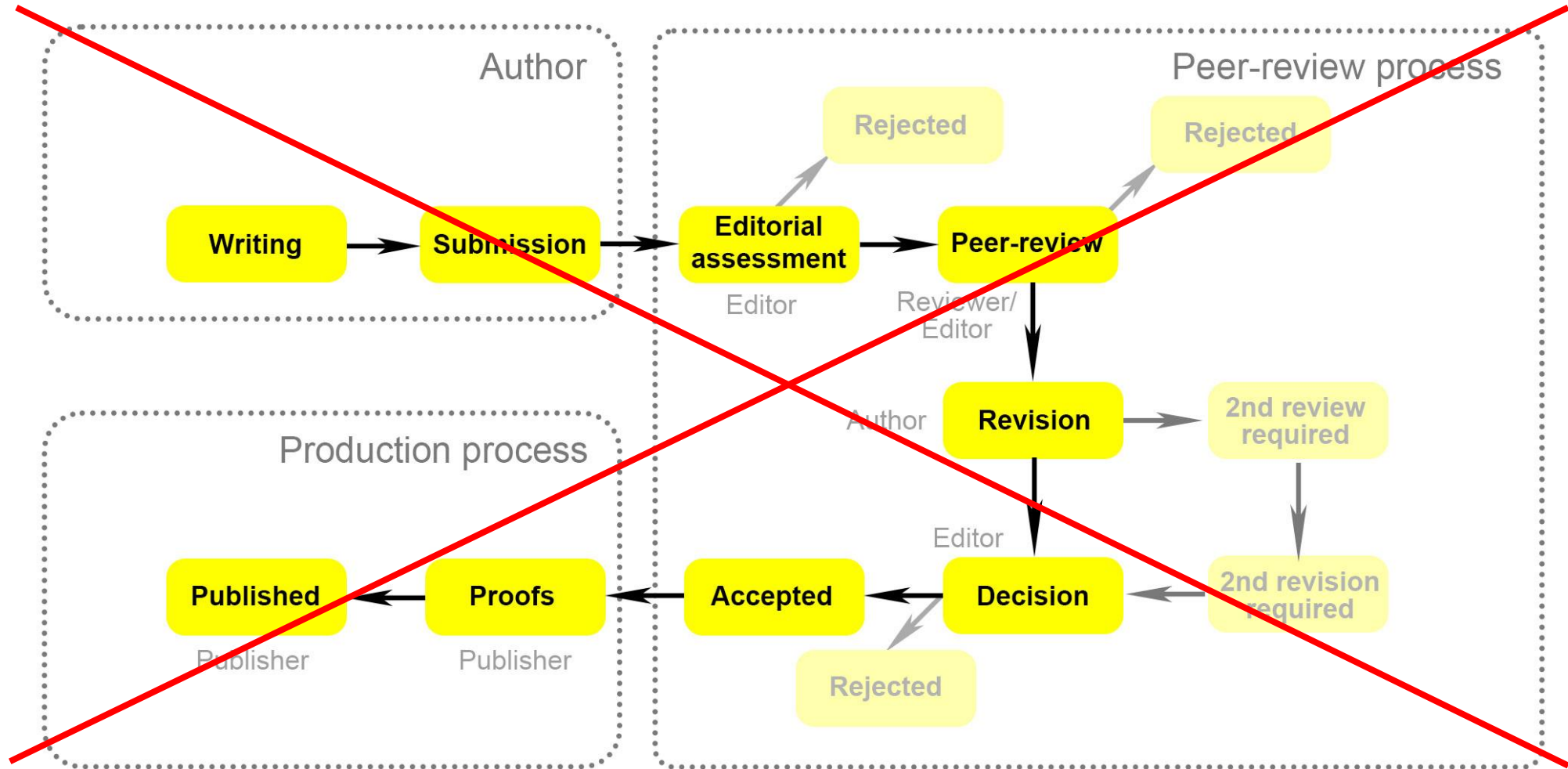
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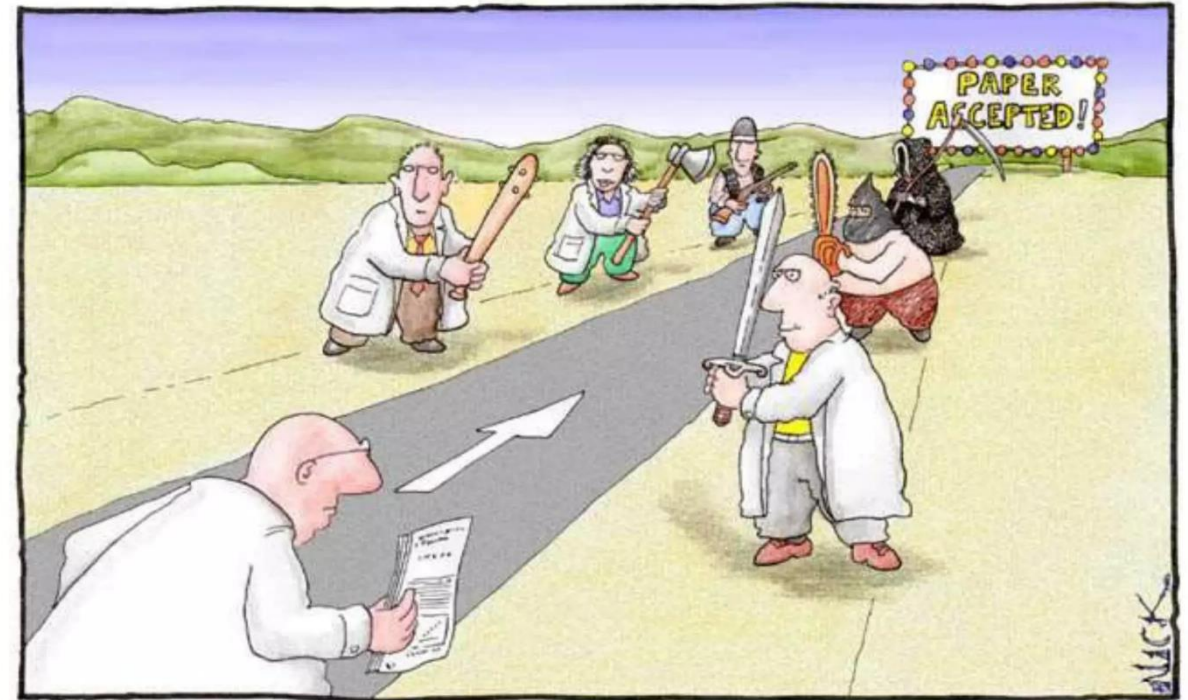1922

Contents

Publication Process

What is the *Right Journal*?

Getting your paper published might be long and complicated

So, picking the *right* journal is very important

The *right* journal:

- Matches your **research area**
- Increases **credibility** of your research
- Increases the **visibility** of your research
- Ensures meeting the needed **evaluation** criteria

Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Cartoon by Nick Kim, Massey University, Wellington

Why is It Important to Find the Right Journal?

Maximizing Research Visibility and Impact

Journal Metrics for Research Evaluation

Avoiding Predatory Journals

Enhancing Research Credibility

Improving Chances of Citation and Collaboration

Building Professional Reputation

Alignment with Career and Research Goals

Reaching Target Audience

Self-motivation

Source: Elsevier

Where to Look for the Right Journal?

Web of Science Core Collection	Scopus Search
Journal Citation Reports	Scopus Sources
Master Journal List	Journal Finder
InCites	SciVal
Research Horizon Navigator	

Google Scholar **?**

Web of Science (WoS) Tools

Useful to know which one to use for each case:

- **Web of Science Core Collection** – find publications, authors ([link](#))
- **Journal Citation Reports** – check journals (JIF, Quartile) ([link](#))
- **Master Journal List** – find the right journal ([link](#))
- **InCites** – check metrics, trends, compare institutions, researchers ([link](#))
- **Research Horizon Navigator** – check emerging research topics ([link](#))
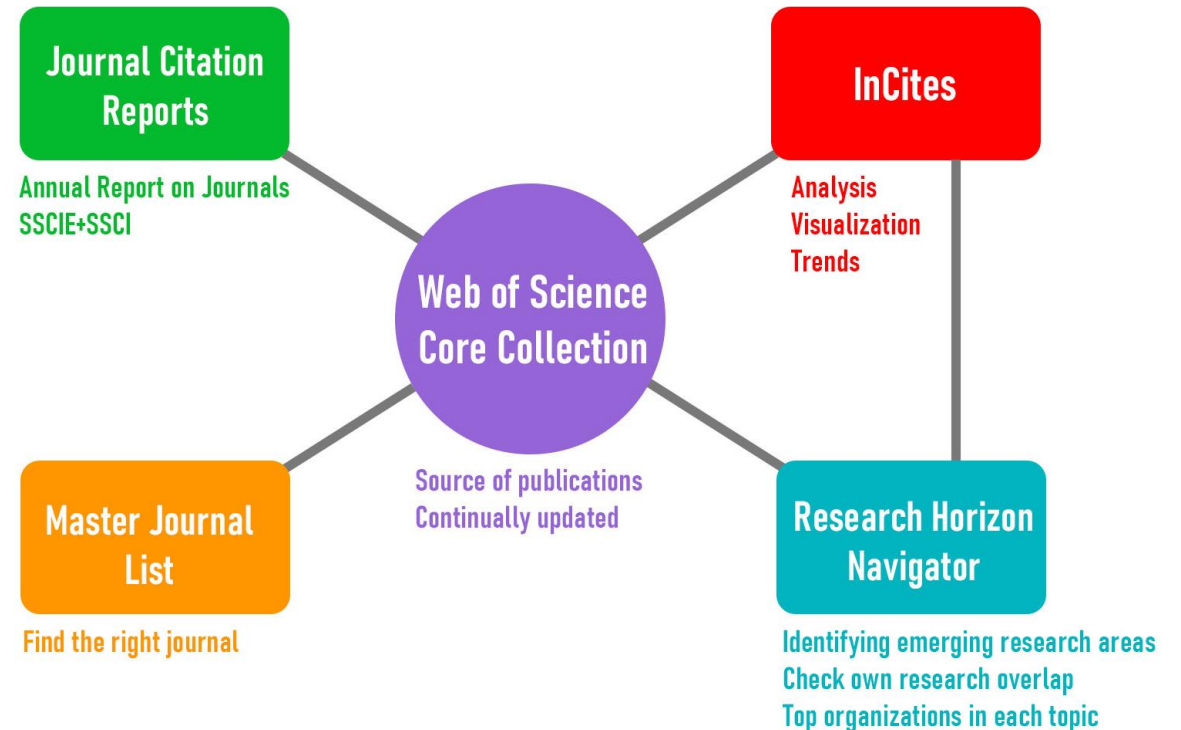
Web of Science Tools

You can access different WoS tools via *Products* tab:

Clarivate™
Web of Science

ktu

WoS has several indexes for scholarly journals, books, conferences etc.

- **Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)** - multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the sciences (natural science, technology, medical science);

- **Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)** - multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the social sciences;

- **Arts & Humanities Citation Index (A&HCI)** - multidisciplinary index to the journal literature of the arts and humanities. Journals in the ESCI obtained an impact factor (IF) in 2023;

- **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)** – includes peer-reviewed publications of regional importance and in emerging scientific fields. Journals in the ESCI obtained an impact factor (IF) in 2023;

JIF

Other: Conference Proceedings (CPCI-S; CPCI-SSH), Book Citation Index (BKCI-S; BKCI-SSH).

Match Your Research Area to the Journal

- WoS Core Collection Edition is important
- Category name can be misleading: *Environmental Studies* is <u>SSCI</u>, not SCIE. On the other hand, category *Environmental Sciences* is <u>SCIE</u>

Journal Citation Reports™   Journals   Categories   Publishers   Countries/Regions

Journals > Journal profile

JCR Year
2023

Land

ⓐ Open Access since 2012

ISSN
N/A

EISSN
2073-445X

Journal information

EDITION
Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)

CATEGORY
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

LANGUAGES
English

REGION
SWITZERLAND

Journal Citation Reports

Match Your Research to the Journal

Research Horizon Navigator

- Provides new topics emerging in articles, reviews and conference proceedings published in the past five years

- Enables to quickly discover emerging topics that point to where future breakthroughs are likely to occur

- Provides core publications for the specific topic

- Provides Interdisciplinarity score for each emerging topic
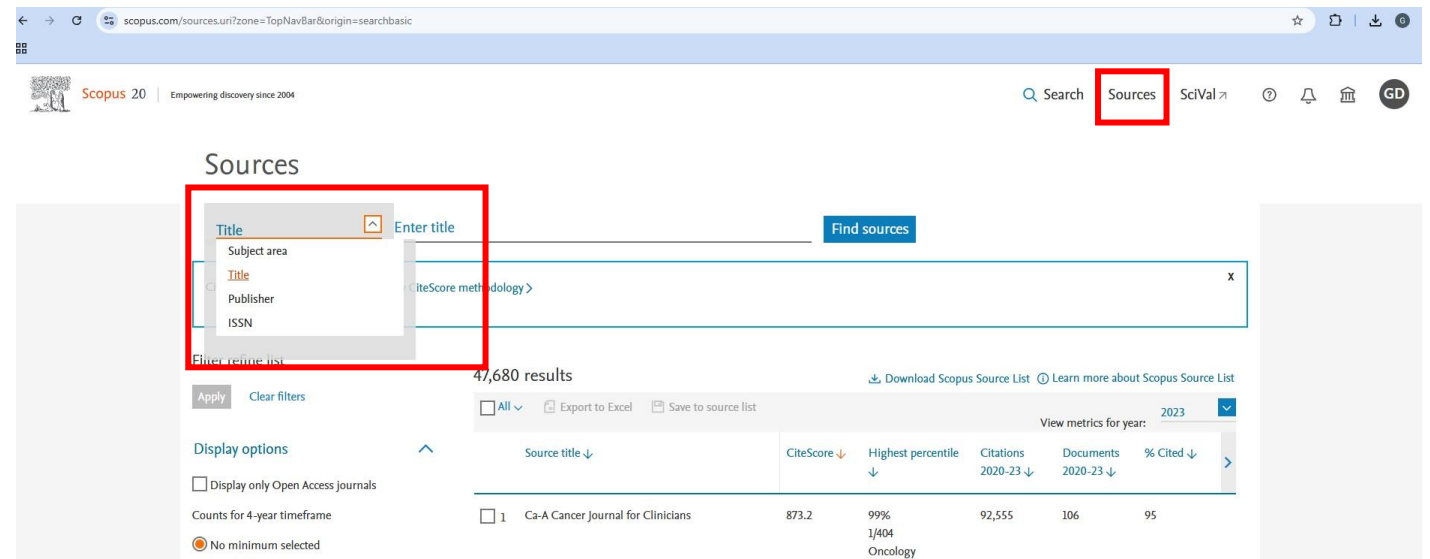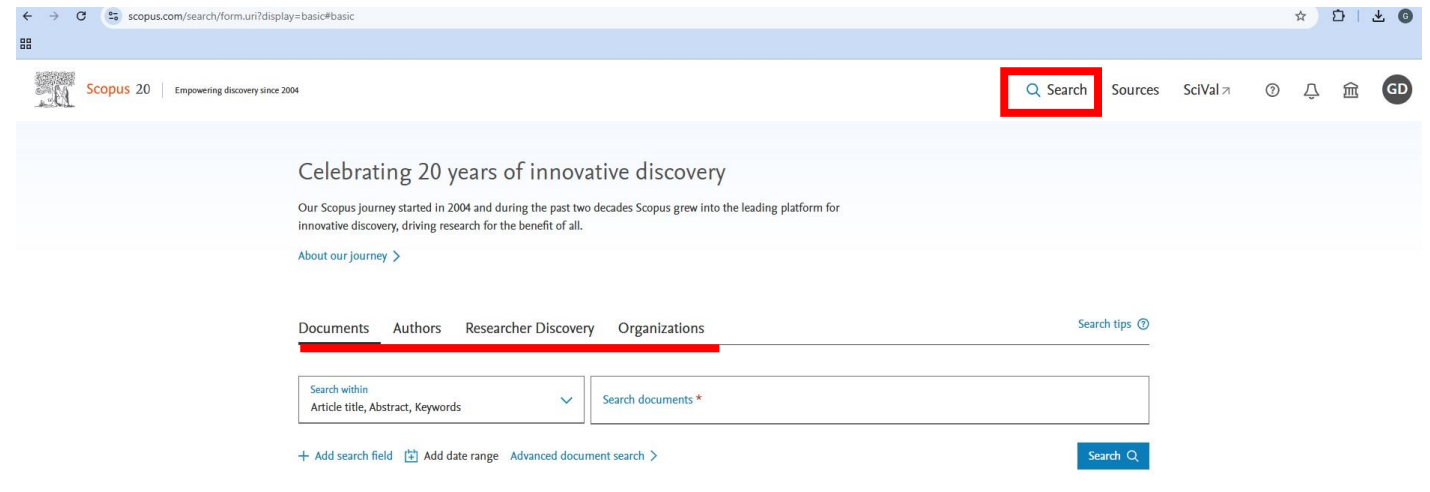

Link: Research Horizon Navigator

Scopus Search & Sources   ktu

Scopus Search is used to find:
- Documents (articles, books, reviews etc.)
- Authors
- Researcher Discovery
- Organizations

Scopus Sources is used to find **Journals** by their:
- Title
- Subject area
- ISSN
- Publisher

Credibility: Research Metrics

Journal-level metrics	Article-level metrics	Author-level metrics
Journal rankings are intended to reflect the place of a journal within its field, the relative difficulty of being published in that journal, and the prestige associated with it.	▪ How many times was an article cited? ▪ How does it compare to other similar papers? (above/below expected count for its discipline, age or publishing outlet) ▪ Is it in the top 0.1%, 1% or 5%, etc. in its discipline? (measure of excellence) ▪ Is it gaining citations at an unusually rapid rate? (measure of early impact) ▪ How is it tracking on social media? (possible indication of later citation performance)	Author-level metrics are citation metrics that measure the bibliometric impact of individual authors, researchers, academics, and scholars.
Impact Factor JCI/SNCI AIF Eigenfactor CiteScore SNIP SJR Quartiles …	Citations Views/downloads Altmetrics	h-index Author-level Eigenfactor Number of publications

Journal-level metrics

Article-level metrics   **Author-level metrics**
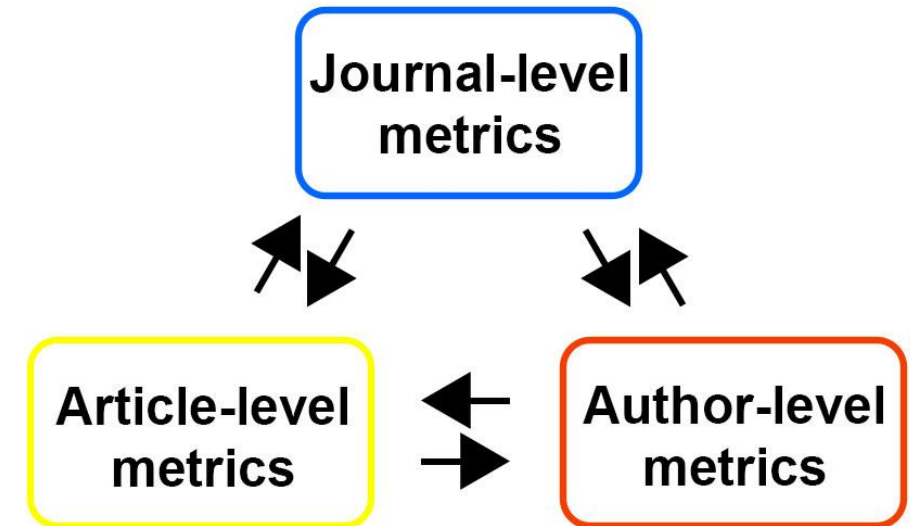
Credibility: WoS & Scopus Indicators

Clarivate™ Web of Science   **Scopus**

	Web of Science	Scopus	
Impact metrics	JIF Percentile, Q	CiteScore Percentile, Q	► Not suitable to compare between different subjects
Normalized metrics	CNCI JCI	SNIP	► Suitable to compare between different subjects
Prestige metrics	Eigenfactor AIS	SJR	► Suitable to compare between different subjects

More on this subject > Research Assessment Indicators and Tools course

Main indicators in Web of Science (WoS)

JIF (Journal Impact Factor)	All citations to the journal in the current year to items published in the previous two years, divided by the total number of scholarly items (these comprise articles, reviews, and proceedings papers) published in the journal in the previous two years.
Quartiles	Quartile (1/4) rankings based on rank for the JIF in category (Q1 (highest) > Q2 > Q3 > Q4 (lowest))
Journal Citation Indicator (JCI)	A three-year average of a field-weighted metric called CNCI (Category Normalized Citation Impact), itself a ratio between number of citations to a journal and the number of expected citations to a journal.
Eigenfactor Score	Eigenfactor Score – is based on the number of times articles from the journal published in the past 5 years have been cited, but it also considers which journals have contributed these citations so that highly cited journals will influence the network more than lesser cited journals. Excludes self-citation.
Article Influence Score (AIS)	An average influence of journal's publication, accumulated within 5 years after its publishing

Main Indicators on Web of Science

Example: Tribology International journal on JCR

Main Indicators in Scopus

CiteScore	Based on the number of citations to documents (articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers) by a journal over <u>four years</u>, divided by the number of the same document types indexed in Scopus and published in those <u>same four years</u>.
CiteScore Quartile	Quartile (1/4) rankings based on rank for the <u>CiteScore</u> (Q1 (highest) > Q2 > Q3 > Q4 (lowest))
SNIP – Source-Normalized Impact per Paper	Measures the contextual citation impact by weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field for a source. It helps you make a direct comparison of sources in <u>different subject fields</u>.
SJR – Scimago Journal Rank	Weighted by the prestige of a journal. Subject field, quality, and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation. A citation from a source with a relatively high SJR is worth more than a citation from a source with a lower SJR.

Main Indicators in Scopus

Example: Tribology International on Scopus

Visibility: Open Access or Subscription

How easy will it be to access your publication?

- **Open Access (OA):**

    - Publishing in OA journals may increase visibility as articles are freely available. However, OA journals may charge an Article Processing Charge (APC). [More on APC >>](#)

- **Subscription-Based Journals (Non-Open Access (NOA)):**

    - These tend to have no APC for authors but limit access to institutions with subscriptions, which might reduce the audience.

- **Hybrid Models:**

    - Many journals offer both subscription-based and OA options. Important to understand the financial aspects of these choices.

Open Access

- Number of open access publications overtook non-open access (subscription based) in 2020 (KTU)

- Similar trend globally

- More open access publishing → bigger audience → increased citation, collaboration opportunities

- Different options:
  - **Gold**
  - **Gold-Hybrid**
  - **Bronze (Free to Read)**
  - **Green**
  - **Platinum (Diamond)**

Open Access vs Non-Open Access publications (KTU)
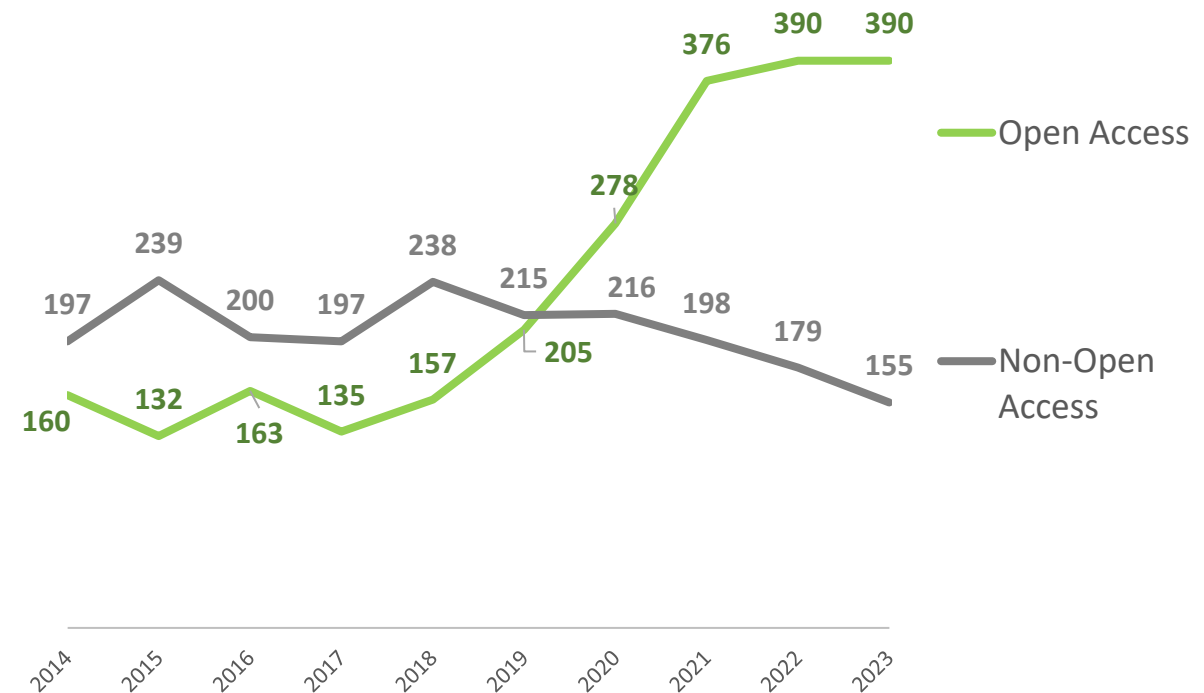
Source: InCites (Articles & Review articles published by KTU researchers)

Finding Open Access Journals   ktu

- **DOAJ** – Directory of Open Access Journals – **always check if the journal is in this directory**

- **Open policy finder** - online resource that aggregates and presents publisher and journal open access policies.

➤ More on Open Access and Open Science > Library course **Open Science Essentials**

Find courses here: Training - Library | KTU

Journal Search Tools

- Web of Science Master Journal List: link

- Elsevier's Journal Finder (based on Scopus data): link

- Springer's Journal Suggester: link

- Wiley's Journal Finder: link

- JANE (Journal/Author Name Estimator) based on PubMed data: link
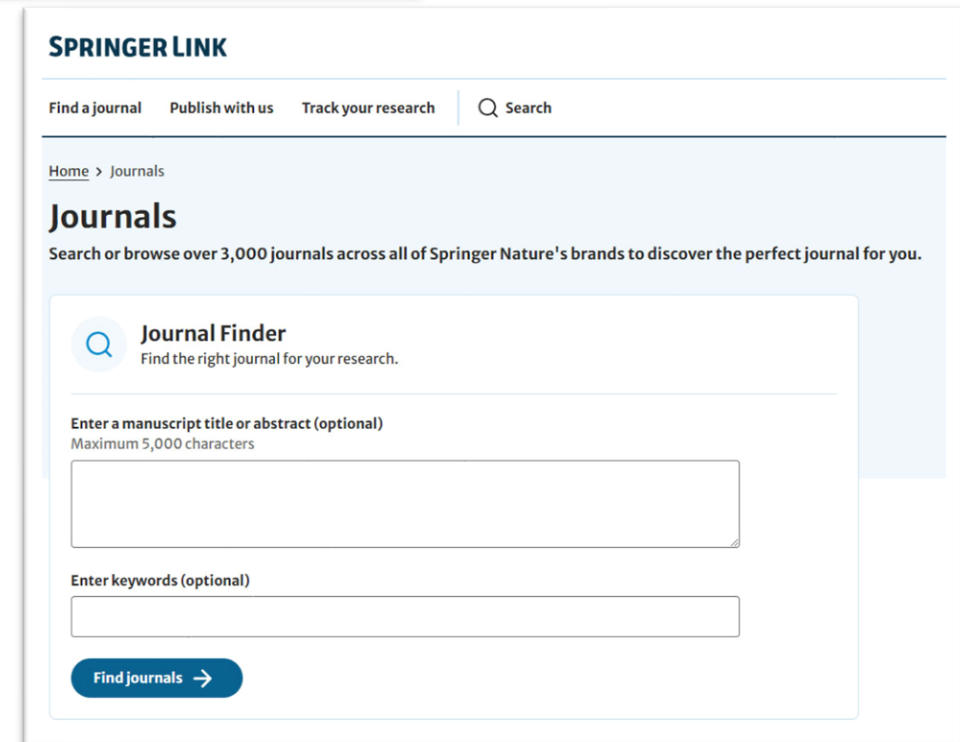
Journal Search by Metrics

Clarivate [InCites](#) (Web of Science)

- Choose research areas
- Filter by quartiles and other indicators
- Big selection of journals
- Useful additional tool

InCites for Checking & Comparing Metrics

Journals in Research Area: **Electrical & Electronic Engineering**

Name	Web of Science Documents	% Docs Cited	JIF (Journal Impact Factor)	JIF Quartile	Citation Impact	Category Normalized Citation Impact	Journal Normalized Citation Impact	% All Open Access Documents
NATURE ELECTRONICS	913	73.38	**33.7**	**Q1**	41.37	5.03	0.99	29.79
PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE	521	90.6	**23.2**	**Q1**	51.84	4.52	1.00	71.21
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PATTERN ANALYSIS AND MACHINE INTELLIGENCE	2479	94.07	**20.8**	**Q1**	45.76	4.73	1.00	64.22
ETRANSPORTATION	262	91.22	**15**	**Q1**	33.27	2.37	0.99	22.9
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INTELLIGENT VEHICLES	646	97.52	**14**	**Q1**	19.18	3.12	1.00	32.66
IEEE JOURNAL ON SELECTED AREAS IN COMMUNICATIONS	1187	96.8	**13.8**	**Q1**	36.16	3.37	1.00	58.13
NPJ FLEXIBLE ELECTRONICS	241	98.76	**12.3**	**Q1**	29.60	2.51	0.99	99.59
IEEE WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS	766	92.04	**10.9**	**Q1**	30.06	2.74	1.00	44.13
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON IMAGE PROCESSING	2904	96.94	**10.8**	**Q1**	30.17	2.22	1.00	40.53
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON FUZZY SYSTEMS	1630	97.79	**10.7**	**Q1**	31.20	2.83	1.00	21.41
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON NEURAL NETWORKS AND LEARNING SYSTEMS	4297	93.23	**10.2**	**Q1**	26.11	2.30	1.00	29.21
IEEE SIGNAL PROCESSING MAGAZINE	469	68.66	**9.4**	**Q1**	26.48	2.63	0.98	63.54
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS	3016	96.52	**8.9**	**Q1**	24.90	2.33	1.00	58.29
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON MEDICAL IMAGING	1617	96.17	**8.9**	**Q1**	30.24	2.40	1.00	61.9
IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON KNOWLEDGE AND DATA ENGINEERING	1979	90.7	**8.9**	**Q1**	18.70	2.57	1.00	41.08

Predatory & Hijacked Journals

! **Predatory journal** – publishes low-quality science and deviates from best editorial practices.

! **Hijacked journal** - malicious third party creates a cloned website to impersonate a legitimate publication.
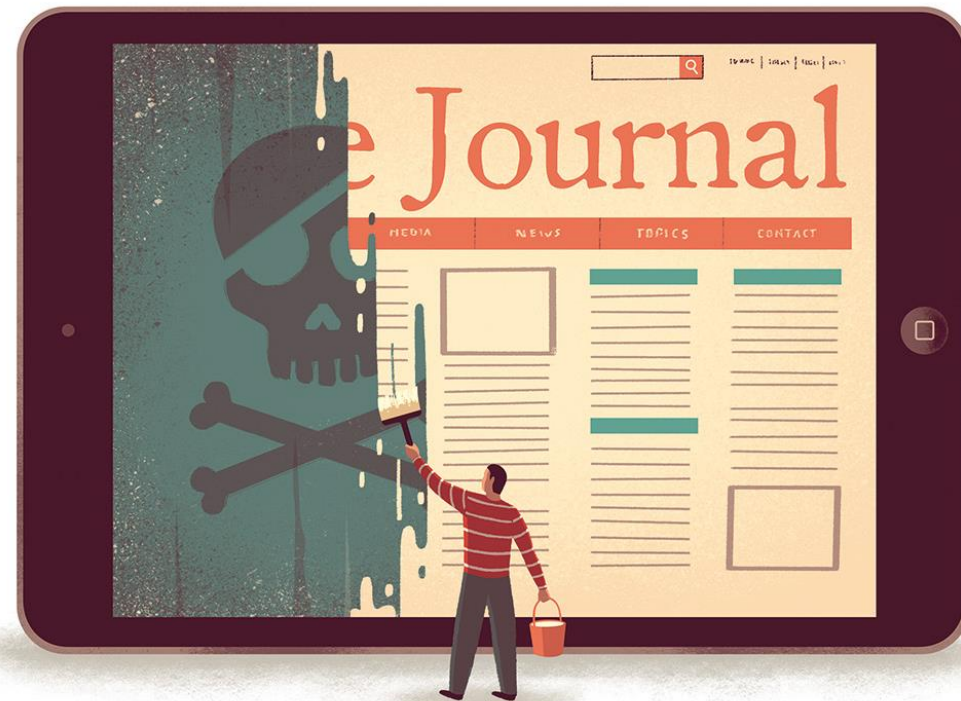
Illustration by David Parkins

Illustration by Davide Bonazzi/@ Salzmanart

Red Flags: Predatory & Hijacked Journals

Predatory journals typically:

- Accepting articles quickly with little/none peer review or quality control;

- Mimicking name or website style of established journals.

- Notifying academics of article fees only after papers accepted;

- Accepting papers outside of the declared scope of the journal

- Citing fake or non-existent impact factors;

- Aggressively campaigning for academics to submit articles or serve on editorial boards;

- Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission and/or appointing fake academics.

Hijacked journals typically:

- Use ISSN of established journals;

- Have very similar titles, web domains etc.;

- Target journals with low JIF on WoS database;

- Provide no contact information;

- Hijack identity of journals published in local language or print-only journals.

26

Predatory/Hijacked Journal Example

Baltica vs Baltica Journal

- Similar names, personnel, identical ISSN.
- Very important to check the journal thoroughly!

Baltica

Baltica Journal

Tips to Avoid Predatory & Hijacked Journals

- Use resources like **Think. Check. Submit.** to verify journals;

- Use trusted databases: **Web of Science**, **Scopus**, or **DOAJ** for Open Access;

- Access journal website from its **publisher**;

- Check lists of Predatory Journals:

  - **Retraction Watch Hijacked Journals Checker**;

  - **Questionable Journals Zotero Library**

- **Beall's List** of **Potential Predatiry Journals** and **Hijacked Journals** (**not updated since 2021**)

- If still not sure, consult your library.
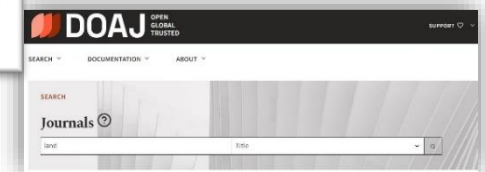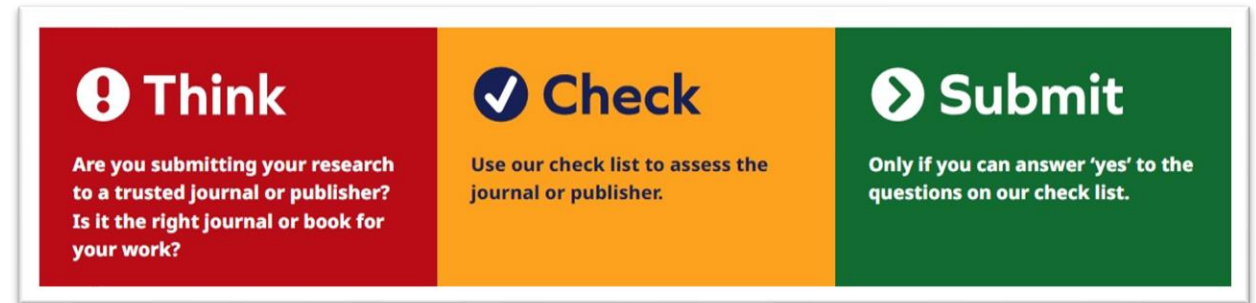
Suspended Journals

- In some cases, established journals are put *on hold* or *suspended* by database (for example, WoS) due to questions about the quality of the content published in this journal or other reasons.

- In such journals, new content is not indexed during the course of the re-evaluation.

- When looking for journal, important to check its status.

- Should not publish in such journal.

Check here: Master Journal List

Checklist: Is this journal good for my work?

1. Unique title
2. Unique journal serial number (ISSN, eISSN)
3. Dedicated URL and homepage
4. Landing pages and DOIs for articles
5. The name and the contact information of the publisher
6. Scholarly content and original research articles
7. Mission, aims and scope, languages
8. Editorial Board
9. Peer review
10. Author guidelines
11. Regular schedule of publication
12. Transparent information about publication fees (if any)
13. Open access status
14. Copyright and licensing information
15. Publicly available journal policies
16. Digital preservation
17. Functional journal website
18. Online publishing workflows
19. Indexing information
20. Metrics
21. It is a plus for a journal if it

Source: [EIFL guide and checklist for researchers and librarians: Choosing a journal for your research | EIFL](#)

It is a plus for a journal if it…

✓ Requires the use of persistent identifiers (such as **ORCID**, **ROR**);

✓ Allows the deposit of the "**Version of Record**" or the "**Publisher Version**" of its articles in repositories;

✓ Accepts manuscripts presenting and **discussing negative** or **unexpected** scientific results and data that do not confirm the initial hypotheses;

✓ Accepts manuscripts already published **as preprints** in open repositories, including preprint repositories and encourages authors to share their manuscripts as preprints by depositing them and making them immediately available in open repositories, including preprint repositories, at all stages of the publication process;

✓ Encourages authors to publish / make available **research protocols** and **methods**, **research software**, e.g. through a source code repository, and details of their research in a public registry before conducting the study (as a preregistration report);

✓ Displays **article-level metrics** (visits, views, downloads, citations).

Specific Case: Finding the Journal for My Paper

Publication Name: *Peatland restoration potential in Lithuania: an ecosystem service approach*

Research areas: Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Restoration Ecology

Keywords: *ecosystem restoration, ecosystem services, environmental engineering*

Master Journal List (WoS) **Manuscript Matcher**: find by keywords, abstract

Journal Citation Reports: check indicators: JIF and Quartile

Journal Finder (Elsevier): find by keywords, abstract

Specific Case: Finding the Journal for My Paper

Master Journal List (Web of Science)

Publication Name: *Peatland restoration potential in Lithuania: an ecosystem service approach*

Research areas: Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Restoration Ecology

Keywords: *restoration ecology, ecosystem services, environmental engineering*

Web of Science Master Journal List - WoS MJL by Clarivate

- **WoS:** Edition – important: SCIE (for example, *Environmental Studies* are SSCI);
- JIF (2023) – **3.9;**
- JIF Quartiles in 3 categories for 2023:
    - ECOLOGY – **Q1**
    - ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING – **Q2**
    - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES – **Q2**

Specific Case: Finding the Journal for My Paper

Journal Finder (Elsevier)

Publication Name: *Peatland restoration potential in Lithuania: an ecosystem service approach*

Research areas: Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Environmental Engineering, Restoration Ecology

Keywords: *restoration ecology, ecosystem services, environmental engineering*

Find a journal | Journal Finder

- Important to remember that there is no single perfect method to find a journal, no *silver bullet*;

- Best to use a combination of sources, tools, peer recommendation (colleagues, supervisor etc.), your own experience (you prefer some publisher over others).

- In the end, there won't be the single right journal, but several options (not every time the publication is accepted).

- Having a list of potential journals, these will be options for your future article(s).

Source: Elsevier

Contacts

If you have any questions, please contact us

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Finding the Right Journal to Publish

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