Agenda

• Develop strategies for choosing a suitable publication venue
• Assess the credibility and characteristics of publication venues
• Describe different publication models and their implications for authors
• Discuss the characteristics and limitations of journal level metrics

But first... introductions!
What are your goals/questions?

Share using a sticky note
Choosing a journal

- Look at your own reference list/citation manager
- Talk to your advisor, mentors, peers
- Think about what audience you want to reach
- Consider your needs/goals
- Keep timeline in mind

When in doubt, do some investigation
  - Search a database using your keywords
  - Use an online tool
Choosing a journal - exercise

https://bit.ly/41At04S
Evaluating a journal

- Are the submission guidelines clear and easy to follow?
- Does the journal have an ISSN?
- Is the journal indexed in databases you’re familiar with?
- Check the history of the journal
- Read abstracts and skim a few articles
  - Are papers in line with journal’s stated aims and scope?
  - Is there evidence of copyediting and formatting?
- When in doubt, ask
  - Editorial board about suitability of your piece
  - Mentors and peers about reputability
About “predatory” journals

"Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices."

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)
Typical characteristics of predators

• Often solicit authors to submit/apply
• Always charge article processing charges (APCs)
• Do not offer comprehensive editorial or peer review processes
• Often tout bogus metrics or indexing practices

Trying to withdraw materials after they’ve been submitted is very difficult! Do your evaluation *before* you submit.
Publishing models


It was in a pretty prestigious journal too.
The Dream of Open Access

• “the world-wide electronic distribution of the peer-reviewed literature and completely free and unrestricted access to it by all scientists, scholars, teachers, students, and other curious minds” (Budapest Open Access Initiative, 2001)

• Leverage the power of the internet to cheaply distribute scholarship
• Remove barriers between creators and users of scholarship
• Two main characteristics
  • Free to access
  • Free to use and re-use
The OA Landscape Today

• “Gold” Open Access journals – all content is free to read
  • May involve an article processing charge (APC)
• “Hybrid” OA journals – content behind a paywall by default
  • Authors can pay to make an individual article OA
  • Authors can often self-archive a version of their paper
• “Green” Open Access
  • Publisher’s version is behind a paywall
  • Author has self-archived some version of the paper
**Differences between OA and Subscription**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th><strong>Open Access Journal</strong></th>
<th><strong>Subscription Access Journal</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td>Anyone can read</td>
<td>Must have a subscription to read</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Copyright and licensing</strong></td>
<td>Allows author(s) to keep copyright</td>
<td>Asks author(s) to transfer copyright to journal/publisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cost to publish</strong></td>
<td>May charge a fee (article processing charge)</td>
<td>None, unless author wants to pay to make their article open</td>
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</tbody>
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*Some discounts and waivers available for UCalgary authors.*
Evaluating a journal - exercise

https://bit.ly/41At04S
Journal Metrics – The Impact Factor

- Attempts to quantify the impact of the “average article” in a given journal
- Powered by citations from articles indexed in the Web of Science
  - Reported in Journal Citation Reports database
- Not all journals have one
- May reflect the importance of a journal in its field
- Some disciplines pay more attention to it than others
- Has many, well-documented flaws
How it’s calculated

A journal’s impact factor for a particular year

Total number of times its articles were cited during the two previous years

Total number of citable articles in the journal during those two years

=
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812
JANUARY 12, 2012
NEJM.ORG

108 THIS WEEK AT NEJM.ORG

PERSPECTIVE
101 The Politics of Emergency Contraception
A.J.J. Wood, J.M. Drazen, and M.F. Greene

103 The Constitutionality of the ACA’s Medicaid-Expansion Mandate
I.G. Cohen and J.F. Blumstein

105 Expanding Eligibility, Cutting Costs — A Medicaid Update
J.R. Iglehart

04 Achieving Accountable Care — “It’s Not About the Bike”
J. Walker and A. McKethan

CLINICAL PRACTICE
158 Hidradenitis Suppurativa
G.B.E. Jemec

IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE
165 Paragonimiasis
M.A. Barrientos and A.U. Carrasco

05 Jugular Venous C-V Wave in Severe Tricuspid Regurgitation
N.B. Sengutuvan and G. Karthikeyan

2021 Impact factor 176.082

PLOS MEDICINE

2021 Impact factor 11.613
Many, many criticisms of the impact factor

- Citation distributions within journals are highly skewed
  - “blockbuster” papers

- Journal impact factor is very field specific
  - Different disciplines have varied publication trends and citation patterns

- Impact factor can be “gamed”
  - E.g. editors ask authors to cite recently published works from the same journal
“Do not use journal-based metrics, such as Journal Impact Factors, as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual research articles, to assess an individual scientist’s contributions, or in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions.”

Declaration on Research Assessment, 2012
Find an impact factor

1. Use the library’s discovery tool to find the Journal Citation Reports database
2. Search for a particular journal – or browse by category
3. Report back
For more on this topic

• Attend May 3 GSW session on “Introduction to Peer Review”
• Visit the Demystifying Academic Publishing Guide
  https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/publishing
Thank you!

Questions?

achurrel@ucalgary.ca
References


Declaration on Research Assessment (2012). Read the Declaration on Research Assessment. https://sfdora.org/read/