

Succeeding in Academia - Academic Publishing

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Today – Academic Publication Landscape

- History/background of academic/science journals
- Open access publishing
- Predatory journals
- Impact factors and indexes
- Journal choice considerations
- When to submit an academic paper

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Academic Publishing Options

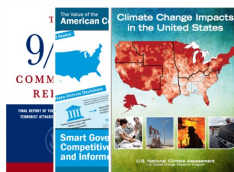


Books & book chapters

Journals & periodicals



Internet publications



Government reports

Science & technology patents



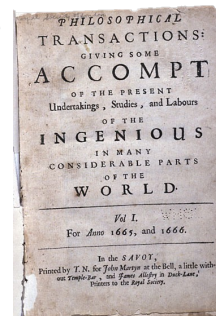
Conference proceedings

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History of the Science Journal

- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society
 - First systematic publication of results from science experiments began in 1665
- Publication of science results was not typical
- Disputes resulting from “simultaneous” discoveries made publication necessary
- In the 1800s, more than a thousand new journals were founded, most did not last
- By 21st century, several thousand journals regularly publish tens of thousands of scientific articles



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Academic Publishing: Journals

- Commercial publishers, profit-based
 - Academic Press
 - Elsevier
 - Springer
 - Pergamon
 - EBSCO
 - PLoS
- Professional associations/societies
 - Not-for-profit, often less costly for members
- Rely on the “gold-standard” of peer review for evaluation of scientific merit
 - Double blind review(s)



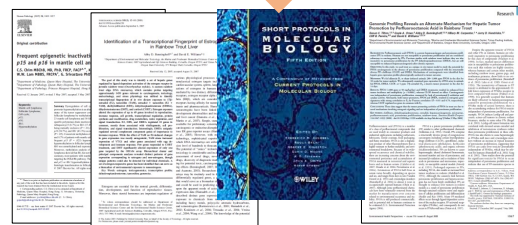
EBSCO

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Publishing Trends

- Printed journals “books” originally
- Shift to electronic journals mid 2000s
- Less costly to libraries
- Ease of access, sharing by authors
- Profit losses for publishers
- Higher subscription fees limit access/availability
- Move to Open Access in late 2010s



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Open Access Publishing

- No restrictions on public access
- Increased visibility of research
- Critical questions
 - Is peer review part of the publication process?
 - How do we judge the quality of a journal if it's open access?
 - Predatory journal issues (currently many from eastern Europe, Asia, and now Africa)
- Many journals now offer an open access option but at a higher cost (higher page charges)
- USU libraries has funds (\$30K annually) to help pay open access costs for USU faculty
 - <https://libguides.usu.edu/openaccess/libraryoafund>

OPEN ACCESS



6.2 MILLION Articles

are archived in PMC.

Content provided in part by:

2362	332	6931
<i>Full Participation</i>	<i>NIH Portfolio</i>	<i>Selective Deposit</i>
Journals	Journals	Journals

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What is a Predatory Journal?

- Online journals with substandard publishing practices
 - Marketed as Open Access
 - Little or no peer review
 - High publication fees
 - Note "high" views/downloads
 - Editorial staff with poor/no expertise
 - Faculty/scientists listed as editors without approval (fraud)
- These journals are often hard to distinguish from quality publications
 - Email invites with no journal address, originates from certain areas/countries, asks to republish and existing article, etc.
- Double check
 - Are they indexed in Web of Science or other major journal database?
 - Do they have an impact factor? (from Journal Citation Reports or Scopus)
- Consult "Beall's" list
 - Jeffery Beall, Librarian at University of Colorado
 - Scholarly work centers on Open Access publishing
 - Curates list of predatory journals and publishers <https://beallslist.net> (archived)

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What is an Impact Factor?

- Thompson Reuters produces the Journal Citation Reports yearly, which indexes all science journals by their calculated impact

$$\text{Journal impact factor} = \frac{\text{\# citations to articles published in most recent 2 years}}{\text{\# articles published in most recent 2 years}}$$



41



33



9.6



55



6.6



4.6



144

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Finding Journal Impact Factors

- Thomson Reuters Impact Factors (IF) by subscription only (not available at USU)
 - The gold standard used by journals
- Elsevier CiteScore
 - Similar score calculated by #citations / #articles
 - Freely accessible at <https://journalmetrics.scopus.com>
 - One key difference . . . All journal content is included in the # articles, including letters to editor, commentary, etc. So, CiteScores are typically a bit lower than IFs
- Google Scholar/Publish-or-Perish impact factors/indexes
 - H, G, and i10 indexes
 - <https://harzing.com/resources/publish-or-perish>
- Journal website will note their impact factors

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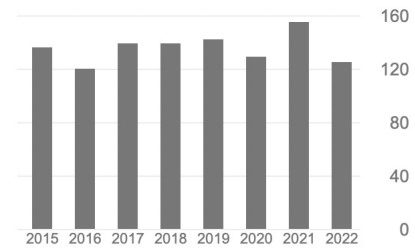
Google Scholar

- The h-index is a measure of the number of publications published (productivity), as well as how often they are cited
 - h-index = the number of publications with a citation number greater than or equal to h
 - 15 publications cited 15 times or more, is a h-index of 15
- i10-Index = the number of publications with at least 10 citations
 - Very simple measure only used by Google Scholar

Cited by

[VIEW ALL](#)

	All	Since 2017
Citations	1775	831
h-index	18	15
i10-index	39	27



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Impact Factors – Not Perfect

- IF scores are very dependent on the discipline
 - Consider the **ranking** of the journal within the discipline as an alternative
- Author self-citation dilutes the “impact” of his/her work
- Journal self-citation may be encouraged to increase the IF score
 - More common in narrow disciplines with few journal options
- Journals may publish more review articles, which are cited more often
- Impact factors are skewed by individual articles within a journal, do not necessarily reflect typical impact of all articles
 - For example, 90% of “Nature’s” impact factor is based on only 25% of its articles

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Finding the “Right” Journal

- Professional association journals
 - For example, the Applied and Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) has five journals
 - If you are a member of the association the publication costs may be reduced
 - Publication page charges can be as high as \$75/page
- Journal types to consider in publishing choices
 - Field journals
 - Journals that focus on a specific topic
 - Journal of Food Distribution Research
 - General “disciplinary” journals
 - Journals that publish a wide variety of topics in a “discipline”
 - Journal of Economics, HortScience, Journal of Psychiatry
 - General science journals
 - Nature, Science,

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Differences in Journal Types

- Field journals
 - Cite (recent) articles from that journal in your paper
 - Must be a good fit (scope, topics currently publishing, etc.)
- General “disciplinary” journals
 - Minimize citations of field journals
 - Paper must improve on current science and be generalizable
 - Competition is fierce
- General science journals
 - Findings and implications most important
 - Written for all researchers, not just plant scientists or economists
 - Follow a different structure than typical disciplinary journals

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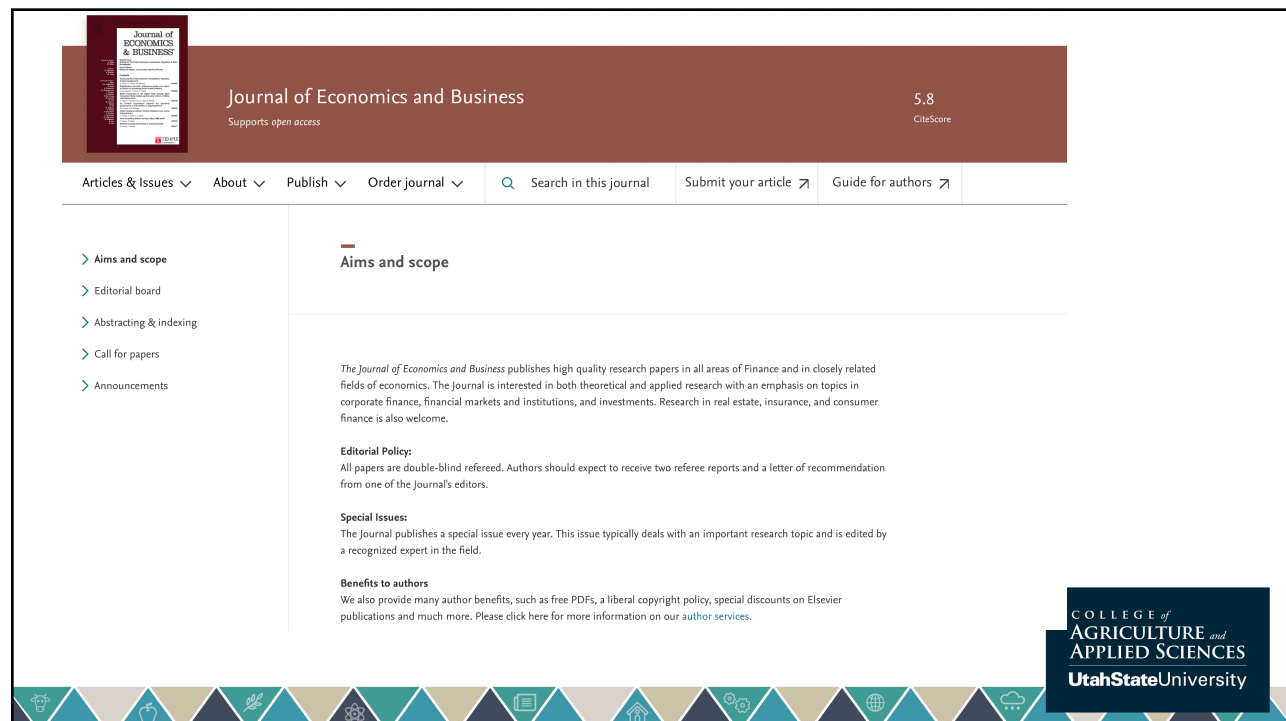
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Journal Choice Considerations

- Aims and scope
 - Each journal describes the types of papers and topics they publish
 - Look at papers recently published to double check
- Research published in the last few years
 - Make sure to cite papers published in the journal from the last 2 years
 - Assists the editor in finding reviewers
- Departmental priority journals
 - Academic unit/department may have journals you must publish in for tenure
- Journal “turn-around” or time to decision
 - Agricultural and Resource Economics Review
 - 2-month (60 day) decisions

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The screenshot displays the website for the *Journal of Economics and Business*. The header includes the journal title, a CiteScore of 5.8, and a note that it supports open access. A navigation menu at the top contains links for 'Articles & Issues', 'About', 'Publish', 'Order journal', a search function, 'Submit your article', and 'Guide for authors'. The main content area is titled 'Aims and scope' and contains the following text:

Aims and scope

The *Journal of Economics and Business* publishes high quality research papers in all areas of Finance and in closely related fields of economics. The Journal is interested in both theoretical and applied research with an emphasis on topics in corporate finance, financial markets and institutions, and investments. Research in real estate, insurance, and consumer finance is also welcome.

Editorial Policy
All papers are double-blind refereed. Authors should expect to receive two referee reports and a letter of recommendation from one of the Journal's editors.

Special Issues:
The Journal publishes a special issue every year. This issue typically deals with an important research topic and is edited by a recognized expert in the field.

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When to Submit an Academic Paper

- When the paper is ready!
 - Has been presented a few times/read by colleagues
 - When the marginal cost of editing exceeds the marginal benefit
 - No paper is ever perfect
 - A submitted paper is better than a sitting paper
 - Reviewers can assist in making the paper better
- Publishing "timeline" in discipline
 - May take 3-5 years to publish a paper in economics
 - Lucky if accepted for publication in less than a year
- Consider your situation
 - If in a tenure-track position, submit as soon as its ready....submit, submit, submit
 - Don't wait for full professor advisors to review if they are slow, they are busy and less motivated (already tenured)
 - Consider journal "turn-around" times
 - Some provide a decision quickly for graduate students/early career folks

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Next

- Academic research planning
 - Conducting literature reviews
 - Selecting a research topic and associated questions

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Questions?

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