

Publishing: Identifying Credible Journals

Prepared for Postgraduate Students Virtual Training

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Outline

- Introduction
- Predatory Journals vs credible journals

1. Introduction

- Technology has opened up significant opportunities in publishing while at the same time, it has caused disruptions.
- Opportunities such as open access to publishing have enabled a shorter publishing process via technologies with reduced need for intermediaries.
- On the other hand, digital publishing has opened up avenues for any individual(s) to pose as a publisher creating a challenge in determining journals to publish in, due to an increase in predatory journals.

2. Predatory Journals vs Credible Journals

- There has been an increase in predatory journals which are characterized by:
 - Exist for the sole purpose of making profits prioritizing self-interest.
 - Minimum or no attention to quality research output and furthering of knowledge, thus, low academic standards.
 - Charge Article Processing Charges (APCs) that far outweigh the services offered.
 - Lack of rigorous peer review process despite claiming to provide the service.
 - Use aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices e.g. flattering, persuasive email invitations.
 - May lack a focused scope e.g. willing to publish in as many areas as possible/available.
 - Revisions may not be required, instant publication is guaranteed.

2.1 How to identify predatory/credible journals

i. BEALL's LIST of potential predatory journals and publishers

- Contains an archived list of potentially predatory journals.
- Contains tips and advice on how to investigate journals and publishers before publishing.
- Identify a journal and check if it is listed, if so, avoid publishing in the journal.
- Beall's List: <https://beallslist.net/>

ii. Indexing services: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

- DOAJ is a global indexing service that indexes diverse open-access journals from around the globe.
- Check if the journal you would wish to publish in is listed on DOAJ.
- DOAJ: <https://doaj.org/>
 - Alternatively, search for a journal to publish in from the DOAJ database.
 - Currently, the database has 19, 116 indexed journals.

SEARCH

Journals

- All fields
- All fields
- Title
- Keywords
- Subject
- ISSN
- Publisher
- Country of publisher
- Journal language

SHARE OR EMBED

12,885 indexed journals

This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience. [Learn more about DOAJ's privacy policy.](#) HIDE THIS MESSAGE

DOAJ Journal Example:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with two tabs: 'Journals - DOAJ' and 'The Annals of African Surgery'. The address bar shows the URL: doaj.org/toc/2523-0816?source=%7B%22query%3A%7B%22bool%3A%7B%22must%3A%5B%7B%22terms%3A%7B%22index.issn.exact%3A%5B%221999-...

The DOAJ logo is in the top left. Navigation links include 'SUPPORT', 'APPLY', and 'SEARCH'. The journal title 'The Annals of African Surgery' is prominently displayed. Below the title, the ISSN information is shown: '1999-9674 (PRINT) / 2523-0816 (ONLINE)'. There are two buttons: 'Website' and 'ISSN Portal'. A navigation menu shows 'About' (selected) and 'Articles'. A vertical 'Feedback' button is on the right side.

The main content is divided into three columns:

- PUBLISHING WITH THIS JOURNAL**: A box with a dollar sign icon stating 'There are **NO PUBLICATION FEES** (article processing charges or APCs) to publish with this journal.'
- BEST PRACTICE**: A box with a lock icon stating 'This journal began publishing in open access in 2007.' and 'This journal uses a CC BY license.'
- JOURNAL METADATA**: A box with a location pin icon listing 'Publisher: Surgical Society of Kenya, Kenya' and 'Society or institution: Surgical Society of Kenya'.

A cookie notice at the bottom states: 'This website uses cookies to ensure you get the best experience. [Learn more about DOAJ's privacy policy.](#)' with a 'HIDE THIS MESSAGE' button.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 2:43 PM on 3/22/2023, with weather information for 20°C Sunny.

African Journals Online (AJOL)-African-Based Hosting Service (<https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajol>)

PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFRICAN RESEARCH

AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE (AJOL) JOURNALS SEARCH USING AJOL RESOURCES

Register Login

African Journals Online

ENHANCED BY Google

WELCOME TO AJOL!

Researchers and policy-makers need access to contextually-relevant quality research publications from Africa in order to develop solutions to address the continent's challenges in health, education, climate change & under-development.

African Journals OnLine (AJOL) is the world's largest and preeminent platform of African-published scholarly journals. **AJOL is a Non-Profit Organisation that (since 1998) works to increase global & continental online access, awareness, quality & use of African-published, peer-reviewed research.** Millions of monthly downloads by site users from nearly every country in the world are an indication of the need and widespread use of the AJOL initiative. More than half of the repeat users are from Africa.

AJOL hosts **675 Journals**
including **372 Open Access Journals**

The site has **17 719 Issues**
containing **218 988 Abstracts**
with **212 610 Full Text Articles** for download
of which **149 307** are **Open Access**

HOW TO USE AJOL:

- [for Researchers](#)
- [for Librarians](#)
- [for Authors](#)
- [FAQ's](#)

RESOURCES:

- [for Journals](#)
- [for Researchers](#)
- [for Authors](#)
- [for Policy Makers](#)

GENERAL:

- [About Open Access](#)
- [Journal Quality](#)
- [More about AJOL](#)
- [AJOL Usage Stats](#)
- [AJOL's Partners](#)

AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE
AJOL

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20°C Sunny 2:48 PM 3/22/2023

AJOL Journals by category

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the AJOL website. The browser's address bar shows the URL ajol.info/index.php/ajol/browseBy/category. The website header includes the text "PROMOTING ACCESS TO AFRICAN RESEARCH" and navigation links for "AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE (AJOL)", "JOURNALS", "SEARCH", "USING AJOL", and "RESOURCES". There are also links for "Register" and "Login". The main heading is "African Journals Online". Below this, there is a search bar with the text "ENHANCED BY Google" and a search icon. A navigation menu includes "BY CATEGORY", "ALPHABETICALLY", "BY COUNTRY", "ALL TITLES", and "FREE-TO-READ TITLES". The main content area is titled "Titles by Category" and lists various journal categories with their respective counts. On the right side, there is a logo for "AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE AJOL" and sections for "HOW TO USE AJOL:", "RESOURCES:", and "GENERAL:" with links to various resources.

Titles by Category

- [African Studies](#) (79)
- [Agriculture & Food Sciences](#) (66)
- [Aquatic Sciences](#) (10)
- [Art & Architecture](#) (20)
- [Biology & Life Sciences](#) (105)
- [Chemistry, Mathematics & Physics](#) (47)
- [Earth Sciences](#) (8)
- [Economics & Development](#) (79)
- [Education](#) (49)
- [Environmental Sciences](#) (39)
- [Finance & Management](#) (27)
- [Fish & Fisheries](#) (4)
- [General Science \(broad subject range\)](#) (153)
- [Health](#) (209)
- [History](#) (4)
- [Humanities \(broad subject range\)](#) (91)
- [Information, Communication & Library Sciences](#) (21)
- [Language & Literature](#) (28)
- [Philosophy](#) (9)
- [Political Science & Law](#) (27)

AFRICAN JOURNALS ONLINE
AJOL

HOW TO USE AJOL:

- [for Researchers](#)
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- [for Authors](#)
- [FAQ's](#)

RESOURCES:

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- [for Authors](#)
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GENERAL:

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- [AJOL Usage Stats](#)
- [AJOL's Partners](#)

iii. Think Check Submit

- Think. Check. Submit. is a campaign to help researchers identify trusted journals for their research. It is a simple checklist researchers can use to assess the credentials of a journal or publisher.
- Contains a checklist for books and journals that help you discover what you need to know when assessing whether to publish or not.
- You can download the checklists for self-assessment or fill online and get results.

ThinkCheckSubmit: <http://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

The screenshot shows the ThinkCheckSubmit website in a browser window. The browser's address bar displays "http://thinkchecksubmit.org/". The website features a navigation menu with "Books & Chapters", "Journals", "Resources", "News", and "About". Below the navigation, there are three main sections: "Think" (red background), "Check" (orange background), and "Submit" (green background). Each section contains a large icon and a brief description of the step. The "Think" section asks if the user is submitting research to a trusted journal or publisher. The "Check" section encourages using a checklist to assess the journal or publisher. The "Submit" section states that submission is only for those who can answer 'yes' to the checklist questions. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the date as March 29, 2023, and the time as 3:04 PM.

Identify trusted publishers for you x +

Not secure | thinkchecksubmit.org

THINK CHECK SUBMIT

Books & Chapters Journals Resources News About

Books & Chapters Journals

Think
Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal or publisher? Is it the right journal or book for your work?

Check
Use our check list to assess the journal or publisher.

Submit
Only if you can answer 'yes' to the questions on our check list.

3:04 PM 3/22/2023

Think...

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/. The page features a navigation bar with buttons for 'THINK', 'CHECK', and 'SUBMIT', and a menu with 'Books & Chapters', 'Journals', 'Resources', 'News', and 'About'. The main content area is titled 'THINK' and asks 'Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?' and 'Is it the right journal for your work?'. It lists four concerns with checkboxes: 'More research is being published worldwide.', 'New publishers are launched each week.', 'Many researchers have concerns about predatory publishing.', and 'It can be challenging to find up-to-date guidance when choosing where to publish.' Below this is the 'CHECK' section, which says 'Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if'. A sidebar on the right lists languages: Albanian, Arabic, Azerbaijani, Basque, Bengali, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Catalan, and Croatian, each with a right-pointing chevron. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as March 29, 2023, and the time as 3:15 PM on 3/22/2023.

Journals • Think. Check. Submit. × +

thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/

! **THINK** ✓ **CHECK** > **SUBMIT**

🏠 Books & Chapters **Journals** Resources News About 🔍 A A A

! THINK

Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?

Is it the right journal for your work?

- More research is being published worldwide.
- New publishers are launched each week.
- Many researchers have concerns about **predatory publishing**.
- It can be challenging to find up-to-date guidance when choosing where to publish.

✓ CHECK

Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if

If you'd like to help us get the message out more widely, and can translate Think. Check. Submit. into your own language, do get in touch with us, either by **email** or via **Twitter**.

- [Albanian >](#)
- [Arabic >](#)
- [Azerbaijani >](#)
- [Basque >](#)
- [Bengali >](#)
- [Bosnian >](#)
- [Bulgarian >](#)
- [Catalan >](#)
- [Croatian >](#)

Windows taskbar: 20°C Sunny 3:15 PM 3/22/2023

Check...

Journals • Think. Check. Submit. x +

thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/

! THINK **✓ CHECK** **➔ SUBMIT**

🏠 Books & Chapters **Journals** Resources News About 🔍 A A A

✓ CHECK

Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.

Do you or your colleagues know the journal?

- Have you read any articles in the journal before?
- Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- Name of journal: is the journal name the same as or easily confused with that of another?
- Can you cross check with information about the journal in the [ISSN portal](#)?

Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?

- Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
- Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post?

[Bosnian](#) >

[Bulgarian](#) >

[Catalan](#) >

[Croatian](#) >

[Chinese \(Simplified\)](#) >

[Chinese \(Traditional\)](#) >

[Czech](#) >

[Danish](#) >

[Fijian](#) >

[Finnish](#) >

[French](#) >

[Galician](#) >

[German](#) >

[Greek](#) >

Windows taskbar: 20°C Sunny 3:19 PM 3/22/2023

Submit...

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/. The page features a navigation bar with buttons for 'THINK' (red with exclamation mark), 'CHECK' (orange with checkmark), and 'SUBMIT' (green with arrow). The main content area has a large green 'SUBMIT' button with an arrow icon. Below it, the text reads: 'If you can answer 'yes' to most or all of the questions on the list. Complete the checklist and submit your manuscript only if you can answer 'yes' to most or all of the questions above.' A note in italics states: 'This checklist for journals is the current published English language version and may be subsequently amended. Translations of this checklist have been made by volunteers, and this may lead to differences. This version was last updated in February 2022'. At the bottom, there is a green button labeled 'Download your results' with a download icon. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as March 29, 2023, and the time as 3:21 PM on 3/22/2023.

iv. Journal Finder or Suggester

- These are tools that help potential authors to search for journals, particularly in subscription databases.
- Examples:
 - Scopus Journal Analyzer
 - Compare up to 10 journal titles. Gives a range of metrics including whether they're well cited and if they publish many review articles.
 - Elsevier Journal Finder
 - Paste in the title and/or abstract of your paper to match it with suitable journals.
 - Springer Journal Suggester
 - Enter the details of your paper to get suggested journal matches.
 - Manuscript matcher
 - Accessed via a free EndNote Online account. Use your manuscript details to find relevant journals.
 - IEEE Publication Recommender
 - Finds recommended IEEE publications based on keywords from your paper.
 - Wiley Journal Finder
 - Enter the details of your paper to get suggested journal matches.

Taylor and Francis Journal Suggester

<https://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/choosing-a-journal/journal-suggester/>

AS Taylor & Francis Journal Suggester

authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/publishing-your-research/choosing-a-journal/journal-suggester/

AUTHOR SERVICES
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Home > How to publish your research > Choosing a journal > Taylor & Francis Journal Suggester

Journal Suggester

BETA

Helping you find the best home for your research article

There are two easy steps

Step 1: Paste in the full abstract of your article.
The suggestions will be more accurate if you use a full abstract containing relevant keywords.

Step 2: Click on 'Reveal suggested journals' to see a short description of the journal and some citation and speed metrics.

Paste your abstract here...

20°C Sunny 3:35 PM 3/22/2023

Note!!!

- Plan as early as possible for your publication to avoid last minute rush that will only leave you with the choice of predatory journals.

References

- AJOL. (n.d). *African Journals Online*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajol>
- DOAJ. (2023). *Directory of open access journals*. Retrieved from: <https://doaj.org/>
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- Maynooth University. (2022). *Open Access: a Guide for researchers*. Retrieved from: <https://nuim.libguides.com/openaccess/predatory>
- UOW Library. (2023). *Journal finder tools*. Retrieved from: <https://uow.libguides.com/support-researchers/journal-finder-tools>
- Think.Check.Submit. (2023). *Journals*. Retrieved from: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>

THANK
YOU

