Understanding the Journal Selection Process

Concepts

Unani PLUS

INTRODUCTION

- Selecting the right journal is a crucial step in academic publishing.

- Journal selection should be done based on the paper's aim, scope, and findings relative to the aim, scope, and target audience of the journals.

- Journal selection involves picking the journals that would most likely consider a manuscript for peer review and publication.
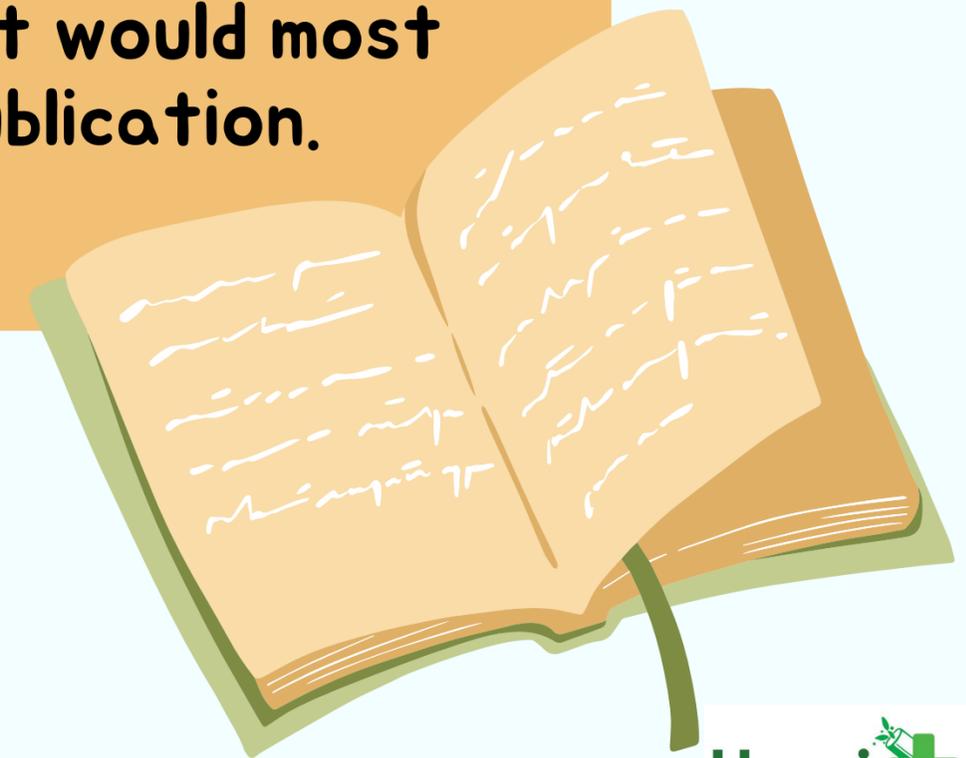
Parameters to consider during Journal selection

During journal selection, the following parameters should be considered:

|			
Scope of the journal	Target readership	Impact factor	Indexing requirements
Mandatory publication charges	Type of manuscript	Limitations on the wordcount, number of figures/tables, number of references	Visibility of the journal in published literature

Scope of the journal

Consider whether the journal publishes studies in your specific field or subfield. This will help you ensure that your manuscript fits the scope of the journal.
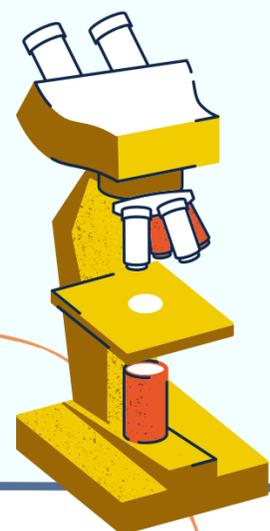
For example - Journals in the field of Unani or Herbal Medicine Research:

Journal of Ethnopharmacology
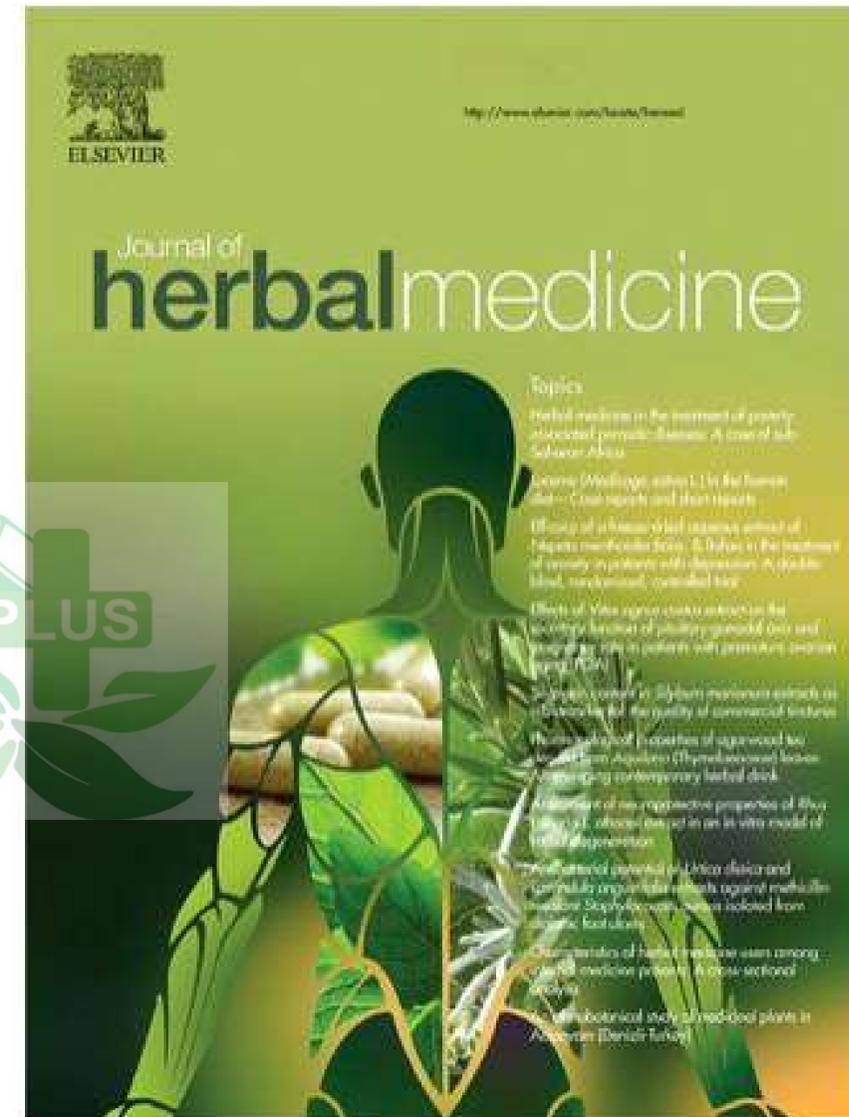
Journal of Herbal Medicine

Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Journal overview ⌄   For authors   For reviewers   For editors   Table of Contents   Special Issues ⌄

Recently Published

The Diabetic Lung Can Be Ameliorated by *Citrullus colocynthis* by Reducing Inflammation and Oxidative Stress in Rats with Type 1 Diabetes

Mohammad Abbas Bejeshk | Fatemeh Bagheri | ... | Mohammad Amin Rajizadeh | +1 Others

Read the full article

Journal metrics

Acceptance rate	20%
Submission to final decision	69 days
Acceptance to publication	26 days
CiteScore	3.500
Journal Citation Indicator	-
Impact Factor	-

See full report

Journals publishing Diabetes Research:

Diabetes Care

Diabetes

Diabetologia

Journals publishing Cancer Research:

Journal of the National Cancer Institute

Cancer Cell

Oncogene

Nature Reviews Cancer

Molecular Cancer

Cancer Immunology

Clinical Cancer Research

Pay close attention to the Aims & Scope of the journal.

For example, if the paper is on animal behavior, do not select the journals that prefer papers on human behavior.

Or, if the paper involves a clinical trial with 30 people, avoid journals that aim to publish large-scale clinical trials.

Target readership

Consider whom the journal is intended for – researchers, academics, practitioners, or a particular group

Assess whether your work matches the readers' interests and requirements.

For example, an article about the ecacy of a known drug combination may not be meaningful to journals that target mainly researchers and publish clinical trials.

However, journals whose readers are clinical practitioners, physicians, etc., may find this article interesting.
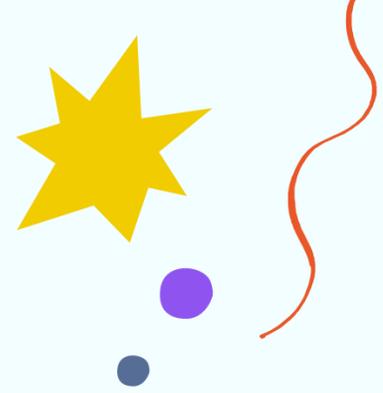
Journal of Ethnopharmacology:

Researchers and professionals in the fields of pharmacology, natural product discovery, and ethnobotany who are interested in the study of traditional medicine and its use in modern healthcare.

Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine:

Healthcare professionals, researchers, educators, and students who are interested in complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) and its role in healthcare.

Journal of Herbal Medicine:

Researchers, healthcare professionals, and students interested in studying herbal medicine and its use in modern healthcare. The journal publishes original research articles, review articles, and case studies related to the therapeutic use of medicinal plants.
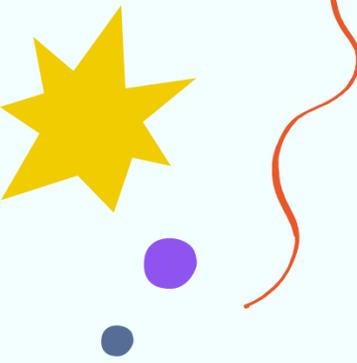
Impact Factor

An impact factor is a number that indicates the influence of the journal in the scientific community.

The Impact Factor measures the average number of citations received in a particular year by papers published in the journal during the two preceding years. [2022 Journal Citation Reports (Clarivate Analytics, 2023)]

Unani PLUS

Consider a journal with a high impact factor to see whether it aligns with your goal and the significance of your research.

For example,

Impact factor of Journal of Ethnopharmacology is 8.6(2022), while that of Diabetologia is 8.2(2022)

The higher the impact factor, the higher the authority of the journal.

You can find the impact factor on the home page of each journal's website

You can find the impact factor on the home page of each journal's website

Indexing Requirements

Indexing improves the visibility and impact of your research. .

Check whether the journal you select is indexed in databases like PubMed, Scopus, or Web of Science
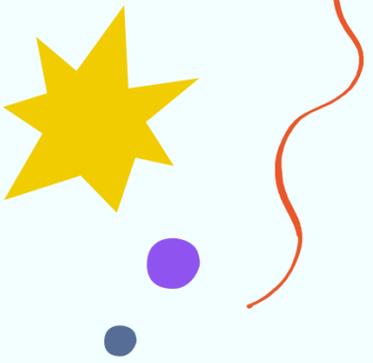
For example,

Scopus is a database that curates abstracts and citations from worldwide research fields.

Scopus has recently added 195 million references and now covers 18.8 million records between 1970-1995

Publishing your manuscript in an indexed journal increases the accessibility of your research to a great extent.

IMPACT FACTOR 5.2

Indexed in: PubMed

CITESCORE 7.4

Ready for Prime Time? Dendritic Cells in High-Grade Gliomas

Cancers

E-Mail Alert

Add your e-mail address to receive forthcoming issues of this journal:

Enter Your E-Mail Address...

Subscribe

News

7 July 2023

Cancers | Highly Cited Papers and Hot

TOOLS TO FIND INDEXING

Go to

http://mjl.clarivate.com/cgi-bin/jrnlst/jlsearch.cgi?PC=MASTER

Put the journal name you want to check in the search box

Hit search

Search...

Once the name shows up, clicking on 'Coverage' will reveal the databases the journal is indexed in.

For example, the science citation index expanded (SCIE)

However, this information is already available on the journal's homepage; therefore, you must examine each journal on the list.

Mandatory publication charges

Check whether the journal requires you to pay mandatory publication charges, like

manuscript processing or submission fees, for the publication of your research.

You should also check whether the charges fit your budget or available funding.

Publication charges/fees may be checked in the "Information of Authors" or "submission guidelines" section of the journal website.
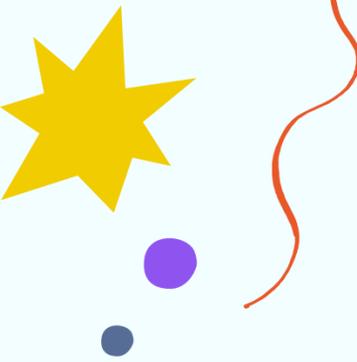
Type of Article

Some journals only publish certain kinds of papers, like original research articles, reviews, case studies, or pieces of opinion.

ARTICLE

Ensure that the journal accepts the type of manuscript you are submitting and that it fits the style and topic of your study.

For example,

Case reports →
- **Case Reports in Oncology,**
- **Journal of Case Reports and Images in Medicine,**
- **BMJ Case Reports**

Review articles →
- **Journal of Unani Medical Sciences (JUMS)**
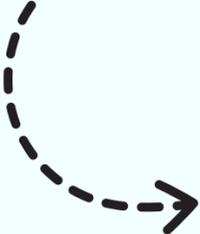- **International Journal of Unani and Integrative Medicine (IJUIM)**

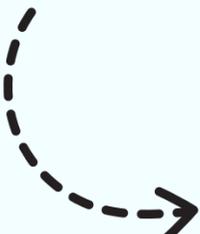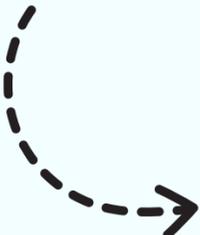# LIMITATIONS ON THE WORD COUNT, NUMBER OF GURES/TABLES, NUMBER OF REFERENCES

Check the guidelines of the journal you're submitting to see if there are any limitations on

- the length of your manuscript

- the number of figures or tables you can use

- the maximum number of references you can include.

Nature Journal allows a manuscript of 4500 words, 8 figures and/or tables, and up to 60 references

Plagiarism Checker... | How To Become A... | Official Website Of... | How to Keep Your S... | DIGISIGN APPOINT... | Multivitamin Suppl... | Nature's Plus - In-S...

• Registered Reports

Format of articles

Scientific Reports publishes original research in two formats: Article and Registered Report. For Registered Reports, see section below. In most cases, we do not impose strict limits on word count or page number. However, we strongly recommend that you write concisely and stick to the following guidelines:

- Articles should ideally be no more than 11 typeset pages
- The main text should be no more than 4,500 words (not including Abstract, Methods, References and figure legends)
- The title should be no more than 20 words, should describe the main message of the article using a single scientifically accurate sentence, and should not contain puns or idioms
- The abstract should be no more than 200 words

- References (limited to 60 references, though not strictly enforced)
- Acknowledgements (optional)
- Author contributions (names must be given as initials)
- Data availability statement (mandatory)
- Additional Information (including a Competing Interests Statement)
- Figure legends (these are limited to 350 words per figure)
- Tables (maximum size of one page)

Please note, footnotes should not be used. Please also do not include keywords, as these are not published in *Scientific Reports* articles.

You may include a limited number of uncaptioned molecular structure graphics and numbered mathematical equations if necessary. Display items are limited to 8 (figures and/or tables). However, to enable typesetting of papers, we advise making the number of display items commensurate with your overall word length. So, for Articles of 2,000 words or less, we suggest including no more than 4 figures/tables. Please note that schemes should not be used and should be presented as figures instead.

By following these limitations, you can make sure that your manuscript fulfills the requirements of the journal.
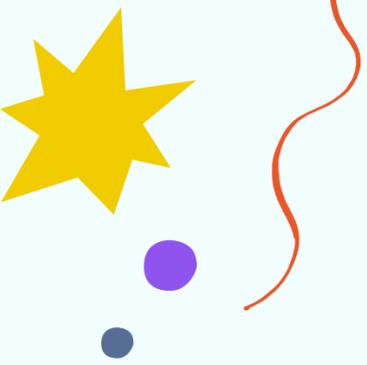
Visibility of the journal in published literature

For a good research impact, researchers should consider the visibility of the journal within the scientific community and published literature.

Consider whether:

- Other researchers frequently cite the journal you want to select

- It has a strong online presence

- It has a significant readership

When you publish your research in a well-known journal (Eg. Nature, The Lancet, JAMA, etc), it can help increase the visibility and impact of your work.

For example,

I want to check the visibility of the journal "Biotechnologia".

I pasted the ISSN of the journal here: https://portal.issn.org/ .

The search results showed the status as "confirmed", which means that ISSN has found the record of the "Biotechnologia" in their worldwide database, enriched with data from partners like Scopus, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), etc.

FREE ACCESS

0860-7796 | ISSN only | **Search**

2 results found based on your search

I← →I

Search criteria

ISSN only: 0860-7796

Modify search

Refine

∧ Medium

+ Select all | List ∨ | Relevance∨ | 50 ∨ | ≪ < 1 On 1 > ≫

+ **BioTechnologia (Poznań)**

ISSN: 0860-7796
Country: Poland
Status: Confirmed

My Tools

👁 View records

🖎 Print

Discover all the features of the complete ISSN records

Access the full version

How to identify authentic journals?

- **An authentic journal ensures that the research findings are subjected to rigorous peer review and maintain high standards of academic integrity.**

Unani PLUS

Unani PLUS

Identify Predatory Open-Access Publishers

- **The Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE) aims to ensure ethical practices in publishing culture.**

- **COPE has established guidelines for the ethical publication of research manuscripts.**

- **These COPE practices apply to all involved in publishing scholarly literature: editors and their journals, publishers, and institutions.**

Therefore, researchers must differentiate between

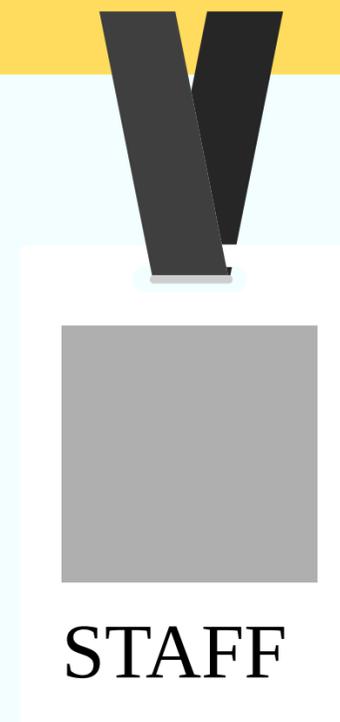authentic journals

AND

predatory journals

POINTS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN FINDING JOURNALS FOR SUBMISSION OF YOUR RESEARCH MANUSCRIPT

Evaluate the editor and staff

Check if the owner is the editor for all journals, if there is a lack of an editorial board, if there is insufficient academic information, and if there are duplicate editorial boards.
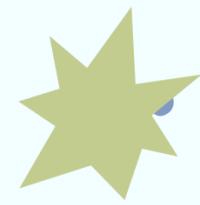
STAFF

Assess business management:

Look for transparency, digital preservation policies, hidden author fees, restricted search engine crawling, and locked PDFs.
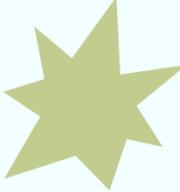
PDF

# Examine integrity:

Watch out for incongruent journal names, false impact factor claims, spam requests for peer reviews, misleading indexing claims, and a lack of action against author misconduct.

Consider other indicators:

Beware of republishing without credit, exaggerated claims of being a leading publisher, functioning as a vanity press, minimal copyediting, and publishing non- academic content.
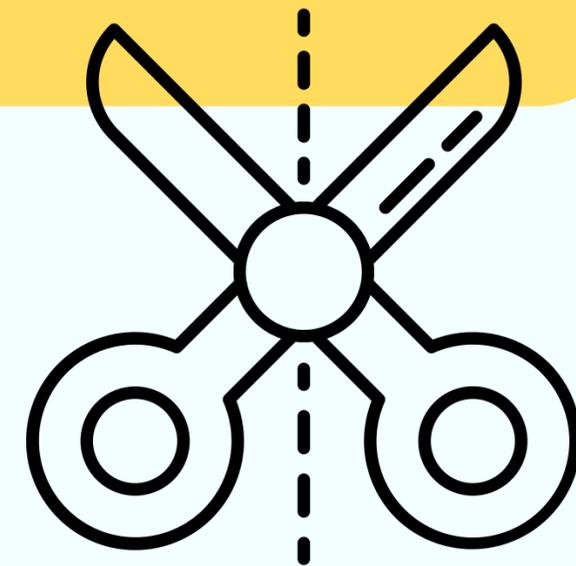
Assess poor journal standards/practices:

Check for copied author guidelines, insucient contact information, excessively broad journal titles, inappropriate field combinations, unfair copyright practices, poor website maintenance, excessive spam emails, and a lack of industry association membership.

Pay attention to indications of questionable practices:

Look for lacking retraction policies, improper use of identifiers, misleading publisher names, excessive advertising, absence from standard directories, mimicking journal titles, and false associations with the open access movement.
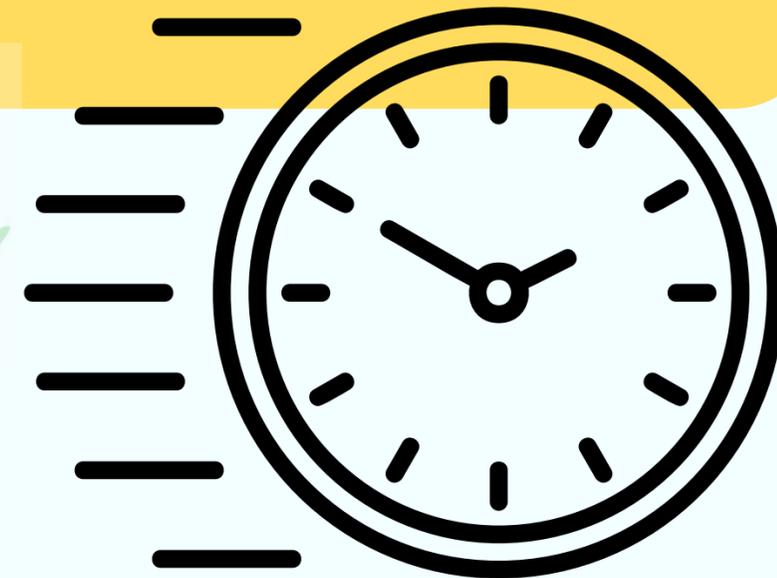
Ensure diversity and geographic representation:

Assess the diversity of editorial board members and author affiliations.

Be cautious of optional expedited services:

Scrutinize fast-track fee-based services that may compromise the peer-review process.

A curated list of predatory open-access publishers

- Visit **https://beallslist.weebly.com/standalone-journals.html** for a curated list of Predatory Open-Access Publishers.

- Ensure that the journal you select does not belong to this list.

Checklist for selecting an authentic journal

Visit the Think Check Submit website at
https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals

Download the checklist from here:
https://thinkchecksubmit.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ThinkCheckSubmit-Journals- English.pdf

Fill out the checklist and submit your manuscript to the journal only if you get most of the answers as 'YES'.

All the best for your Journal Selection!

REFERENCES

- McVeigh M. Journal Citation Reports 2022: A preview. Clarivate [Internet]. 2023 Jun 23; Available from: https://clarivate.com/blog/journal-citation-reports-2022-a-preview/

- Think. Check. Submit. Identify trusted publishers for your research • Think. Check. Submit. [Internet]. Think. Check. Submit. 2022. Available from: https://thinkchecksubmit.org/

- How to choose a target journal | Springer – International Publisher [Internet]. Available from: https://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/journal-author/how-to-choose-a-target-journal/1396#

- COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics [Internet]. COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics. Available from: https://publicationethics.org/

- Welcome to The ISSN Portal | The ISSN Portal [Internet]. Available from: https://portal.issn.org/

THANKYOU