

Improving the Quality of Your Research

& Why It Matters

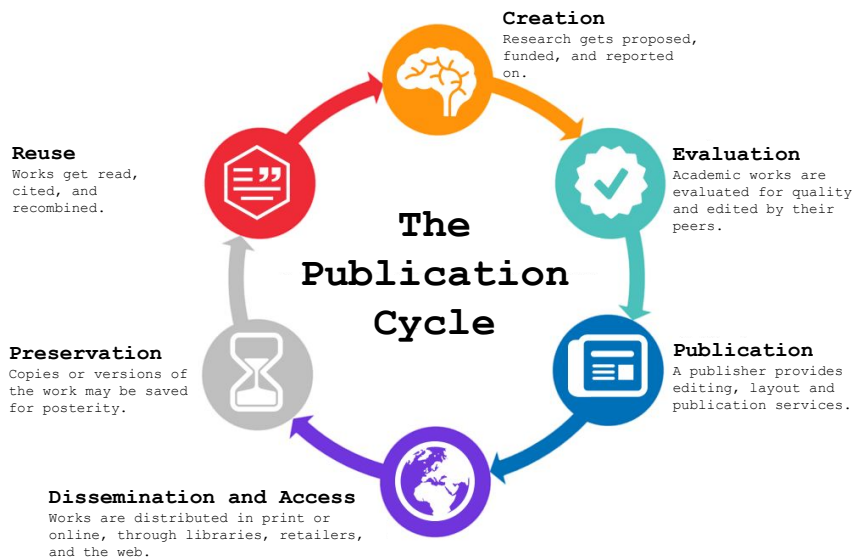
- I. Background
 - A. The Publishing Cycle
 - B. Traditional vs. Open Access Publishing
 - C. Predatory Publishing
- II. Evaluating Articles
- III. Impact Factors
- IV. Tools You Can Use
 - A. @ Roux
 - B. On the Open Web

Question:

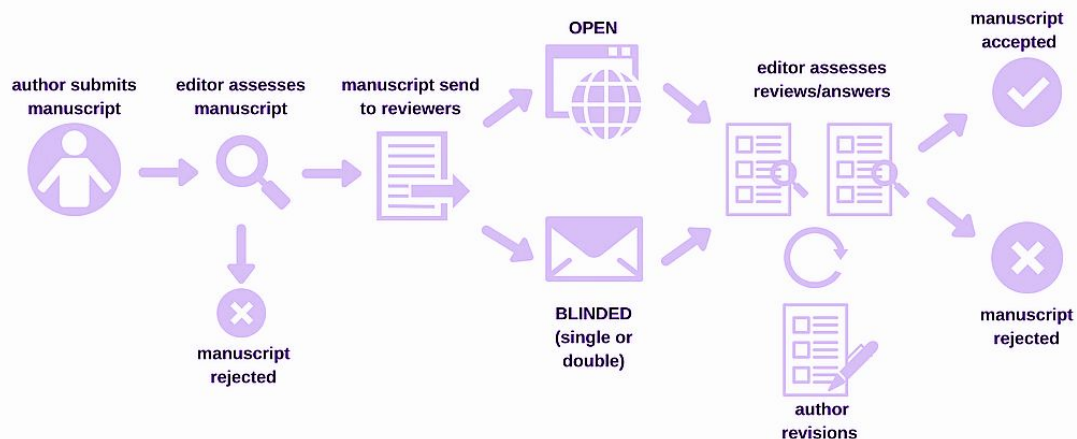
What, if anything, have you done in the past to determine if an article you found online or in Google Scholar was worth including in your research?

Activity

The Publication Cycle



Concept of open and blinded Peer Review



Vanden Akker, O. (2019, October 10). Why I think open peer review benefits PhD students [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://socialsciences.nature.com/posts/54659-why-i-think-open-peer-review-benefits-phd-students>

Traditional vs. Open Access

Traditional Publishing

1. Article is written
 2. Submit to journal
 3. Journal retains copyright
 4. Subscription is paid
 5. User accesses journal through institutional subscription.
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Traditional Publishing

Benefits?

Traditional Publishing

Problems?

Open Access Publishing

1. Article is written
 2. Submit to journal & pay APC
 3. Author (usually) retains copyright
 4. Article is published
 5. Article is freely available to anyone without subscription
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Predatory Publishing

What it is and why
you should
avoid it.

What to look out for

- Very wide scope
- Displays of unofficial impact factors
- False claims of being indexed in major services like PubMed or DOAJ
- Advertises very fast times from submission to publication
- Publishes out-of-scope articles
- Poor or non-existent editing of articles (many spelling mistakes or very poor grammar)
- Spams researchers with many emails inviting submissions, often unrelated to expertise
- Lack of information on the policies of the journal, such as peer review, licensing and copyright

Adapted from Think. Check. Submit

Evaluating an Article

1. Examine articles
2. Try to determine:
 - a. The publisher
 - b. Where journal is indexed
 - c. Journal's peer review process
3. Are there any red flags?
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Impact Factors

Total number of times a journal's articles were cited during the two previous years.



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



A journal's impact factor for a particular year.

H-Index

H-index is the largest number (h) such that h articles have at least h citations each.

H-Index

Example:

Articles published in *Journal X* have been cited an average of about 6 times per article and there are 41 articles that have been cited at least 41 times.

The articles in *Neuropsychologia* have been cited an average of about 3.6 times per article and there are 67 articles that have been cited at least 67 times.

Tools you can use

At Roux Library

1. Cabell's
 2. Scopus
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On the web

1. Scimago
 2. Google Scholar Metrics
 3. DOAJ
-

Handout



References

Think. Check. Submit. (2022). *About predatory publishing*.

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/about-predatory-publishing/>

van den Akker, O. (2019, October 10). Why I think open peer review benefits PhD students [Blog post]. Retrieved from <https://socialsciences.nature.com/posts/54659-why-i-think-open-peer-review-benefits-phd-students>