

A Quick Guide to Academic Publishing

How do I evaluate a publication?

Legitimacy

The advent of digital publishing has led to a proliferation of online-only academic journals, many of similar or even superior quality to some print publications, but others of dubious reputation. If you've been invited to submit to a journal but are unsure about its legitimacy, ask yourself the following questions:

- If the journal is open access, is it registered with the Directory of Open Access Journals (<http://doaj.org>)?
- Does the journal list the names of its editorial and advisory boards?
- Are the journal's peer review and editorial policies openly available?
- Do you recognize the names of current contributors as scholars in your field?
- Do you recognize the publisher of the journal? Is this information easy to find? Is that publisher a member of COPE (the Committee on Publication Ethics)? See: <https://publicationethics.org>

If the answer to any of these questions is no, it's possible (but not guaranteed) that you're dealing with a predatory publisher.

Impact

- You can investigate journal rankings at Scimago Journal & Country Rank : <https://www.scimagojr.com/>
- We can also get an idea of how people will find your work by understanding where it is indexed. Ulrich's Global Serials Directory can help you find this information: <http://ulrichsweb.serialssolutions.com/>

Access and Copyright Policies

- What rights will you retain (if any) if this journal publishes your work?
- Is the journal open access, or will its policies allow you to make a version of your work available in a disciplinary or institutional repository?
 - Check Sherpa/Romeo for this information: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php>

Manage your scholarship

ORCID | <https://orcid.org/register>

A persistent digital name identifier that distinguishes you from any other scholar with the same name and assures that your research is correctly attributed to you

GOOGLE SCHOLAR PROFILE | <https://scholar.google.com/>

Once you've made your profile, Google will automatically enrich it with publications it deems to be yours and when it indexes an article (or presentation, white paper, and so on) that cites your work, you'll see those citations on your profile too. You can even set up alerts to be sent when your work is cited—or when research similar in subject matter to your own is published.

RESEARCHER WEBSITES

If your coding chops aren't quite up to speed, one easy solution is to use one of the many easy site builders such as WordPress, Squarespace, or GitHub Pages. CUIT offers hosted WordPress sites for individuals and teams affiliated with Columbia at blogs.cuit.columbia.edu. Another good source of free hosting (if you are looking for a custom domain you will still need to purchase that) is Humanities Commons: <https://hcommons.org/>

For more info on reputation management and tracking your impact, check out the digital scholarship website and resources available at scholcomm.columbia.edu.

Some tips for researcher websites:

- Keep your site (and CV) updated!
- Take advantage of the non-paper nature of the Web: embed video or audio of you teaching or talking, include a slide deck from a recent presentation, link to openly available versions of your publications.
- Include links to your other profiles across the Web so that other researchers can find you wherever they prefer to network. If you use Twitter professionally, consider embedding your Twitter feed on your site.
- Did you win a teaching award? Are you particularly proud of your mentorship? Be sure to feature elements of your professional self that might be eclipsed on a departmental web page.
- Link to your CV by all means, but include a short bio and a photo so that people can quickly understand your research interests and experience.
- If your work is being talked about in the media, be sure to link to that coverage!
- List conferences and events you'll be attending in the future so that people interested in collaboration will know where to find you in person.
- Consider adding a research blog where you can think through ideas, new projects, and events you attend, in addition to the more static content on your site.