Himmelfarb Library Liaison Letter - April 2023

George Washington University, Himmelfarb Health Sciences Library

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Choosing the right journal for your manuscript can be a difficult undertaking. From the ever-expanding list of academic journals to the recent rise in predatory publishers, the process has become even more of a challenge for academic authors. This process can be especially daunting for early-career faculty who haven't yet learned the landscape of scholarly publishing in their field. But thankfully, there are resources to help people facing this situation.

One such resource is the database, Scopus. Scopus can be used to identify potential journals for your manuscript by looking for articles covering similar topics and analyzing where those were published. This means typing in relevant keywords – perhaps even taking them directly from your abstract. On the subsequent results page, you can scroll down the gray bar on the left side and click on 'Source title' to see a list of the journals that are most commonly represented in the results set. This can be a good way to generate a list of candidate journals to consider for your manuscript.

Another resource is Journal Citation Reports (or JCR). In this database, you can search for information on candidate journals including the journals Impact Factor as well as how that Impact Factor ranks among other journals within the same category as your journal of interest. With this information you can help narrow your list to those journals that are most appropriate for your manuscript.

GW faculty also have access to a database called Ulrich's Global Serials Directory. In this database, you can look up a candidate journal to discover whether it is peer-reviewed and in which article databases it's indexed to know how widely accessible your paper will be if you choose to publish in that journal.

To help you in choosing the best journal for your manuscript, Cabells Directory of Publishing Opportunities lists journals which are linked to predatory publishers based on their deceptive and/or fraudulent practices.

Beyond library-subscribed resources, such as those discussed above, there are many resources that are freely available on the internet. One of these is JANE (Journal/Author

Name Estimator), which will suggest candidate journals based on your abstract and/or keywords. Another is JOT (Journal Targeter), which also suggests candidate journals based on author-provided titles, abstracts, and references. Several prominent publishers also provide tools for helping you to identify appropriate journals for your manuscript – some of these are from Springer and Elsevier.

Also, you can reach out to the library for assistance with identifying potential journals for your manuscript – just email us at himmelfarb@gwu.edu to set up an appointment!.

New E-Books:

- **Anatomy**
  Moore's essential clinical anatomy

- **Health Education**
  Theoretical foundations of health education and health promotion

- **Neurosurgery**
  Surgical nuances of head injury

- **Nursing**
  Successful nurse communication : safe care, healthy workplaces, & rewarding careers

- **Pediatrics**
  Red Book atlas of pediatric infectious diseases

- **Social Medicine**
  Black women and public health : strategies to name, locate, and change systems of power

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- Reference questions? Call 202-994-2850 or email us at himmelfarb@gwu.edu

- Remember, Himmelfarb Library is Here for You!

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