

# Navigating Journal selection

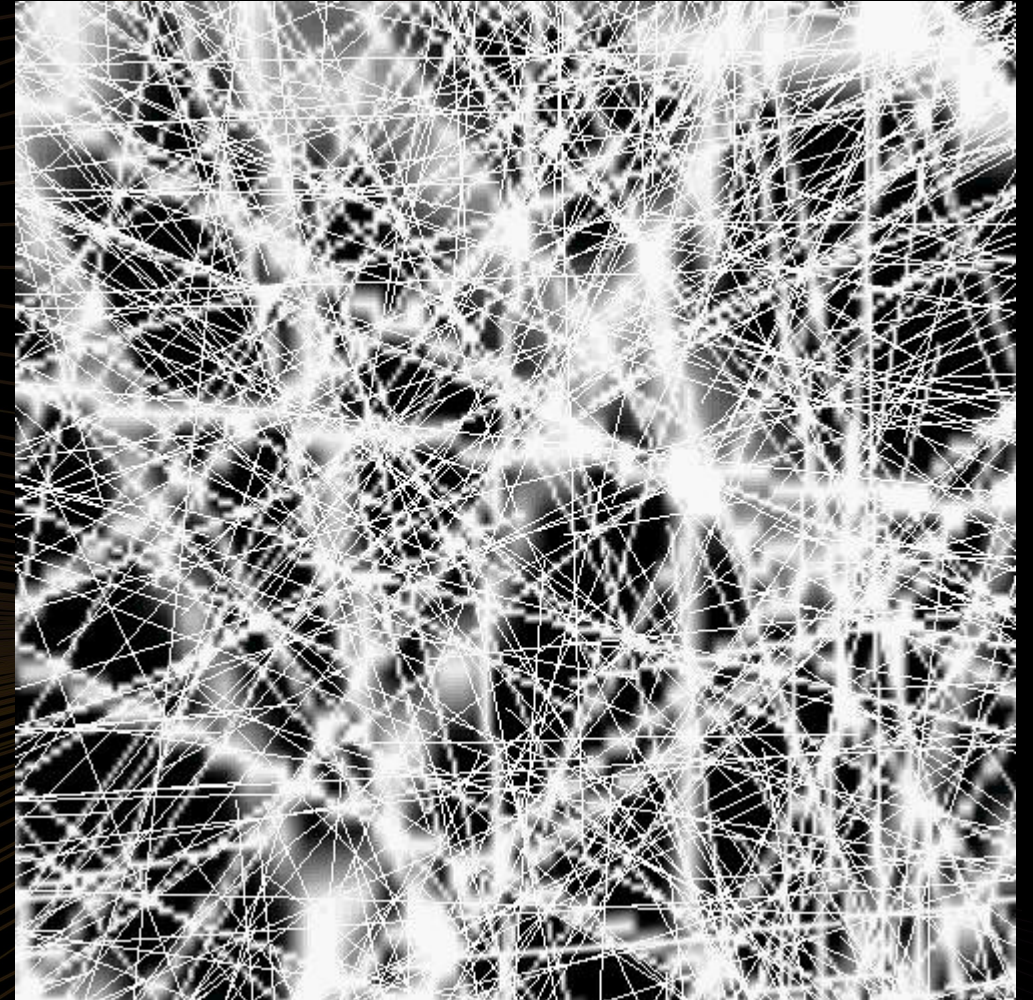
Francesca Soldati  
Open Research Advisor





# The importance of selecting the right journal

Selecting a suitable journal is a strategic decision that goes beyond mere publication. It influences the reception, credibility, and long-term impact of your research, contributing to the advancement of knowledge within your field.



Picture: "knotsice" by andybient (CC BY 2.0)



But how to make an informed decision?





# Aim of the session:

To provide you with a framework to navigate the publishing landscape

- Tools to evaluate journals quantitatively and qualitatively
- How to avoid predatory journals





# 1. Know your research

Think about the topic of your study:

- What are the key concepts?
- Is it specialised or interdisciplinary?
- Is it an original study? Is it a review? Is it a replication study?
- What is the degree of novelty in your research?

Identify the scope  
Identify Audience

*Ask your supervisors/co-authors or peers for advice*

Think about other requirements:

- Is your research funded?
- What are the funder requirements (publishing model, data availability, availability on PubMed)?
- What are your options to satisfy funder requirements?
- Do you have funds available?

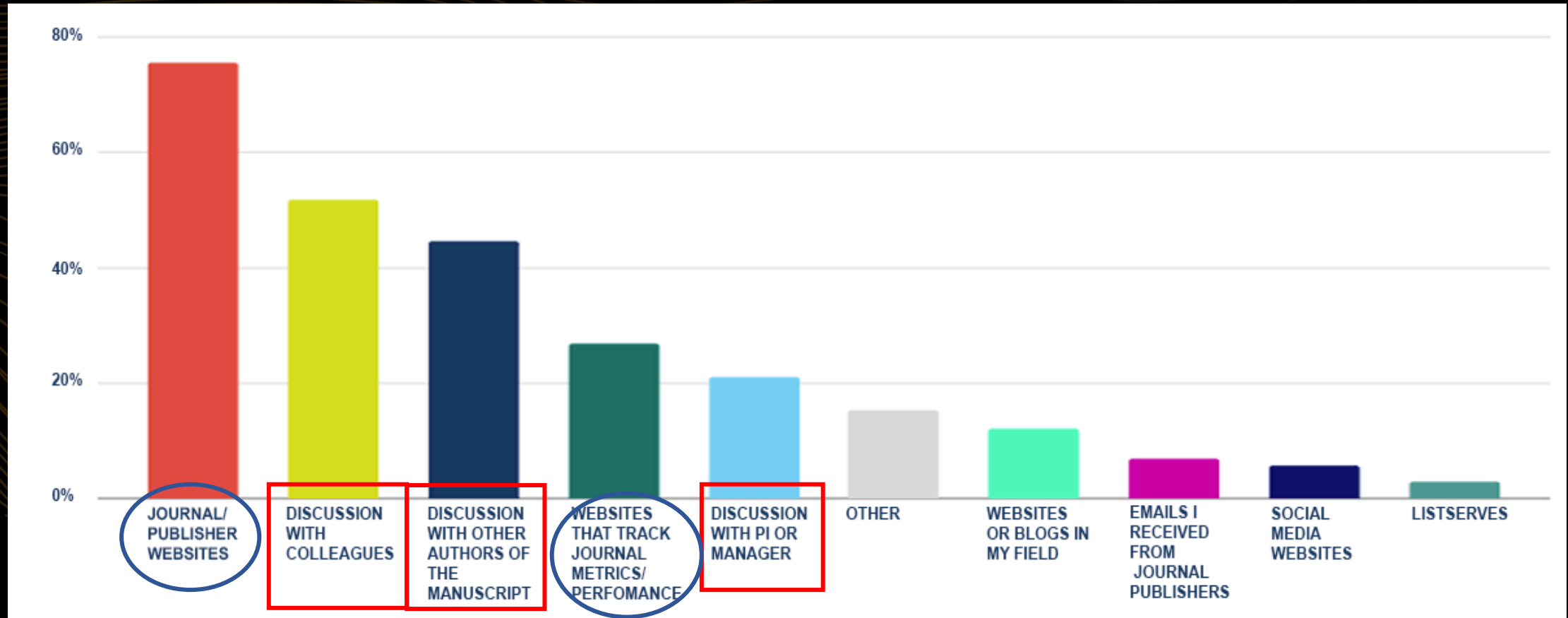
Be compliant

*Look at the funder policy or ask the Open Research team:*

- [openresearch@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:openresearch@abdn.ac.uk)
- [www.abdn.ac.uk/open-research](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/open-research)
- [UoA Open Research - YouTube](#)



## 2. Search for the right Journal for you



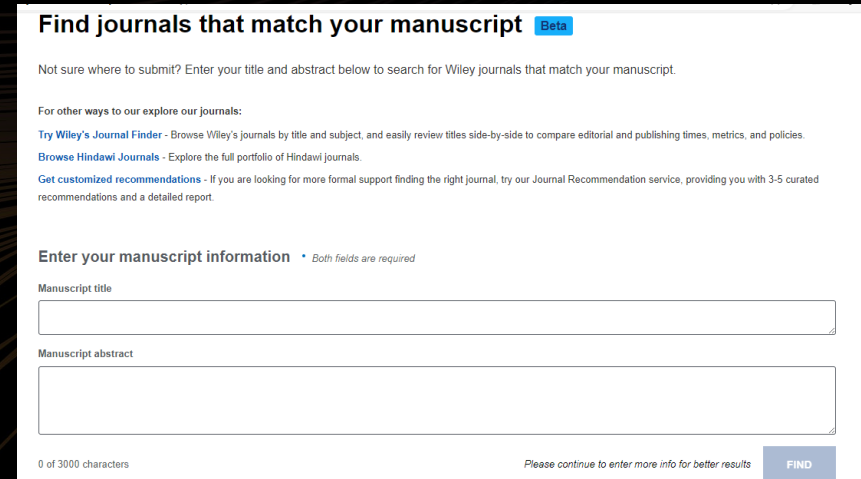
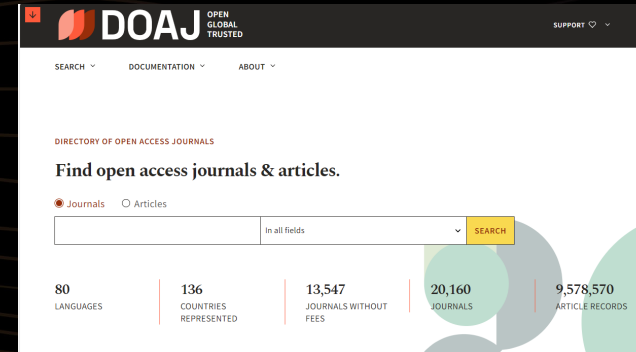
[How to Choose the Journal That's Right for Your Study - PLOS](#)



# 2.1. Narrow your search using journal indexes

## Some Indexes:

- [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#)
- [Scopus Sources Search](#)
- [Web of Science Master Journal List](#)
- [SciELO](#)
- [JANE](#)
- ‘Journal Finder Tool’ on the publishers’ website (e.g. [Elsevier](#), [Wiley](#)...)



***Limitation: indexes provide titles and information exclusively pertaining to the indexed content.***



## 2.1 Index example: DOAJ

### Index of fully open access journals

You can search by subject, title, ISSN, publisher, keywords, language and country

Example: Zoology → 136 journals

The screenshot shows the DOAJ website interface. At the top, the DOAJ logo is displayed with the text 'OPEN GLOBAL TRUSTED' and a 'SUPPORT' link. Below the logo, there are navigation links for 'SEARCH', 'DOCUMENTATION', and 'ABOUT'. The main heading reads 'DIRECTORY OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS' and 'Find open access journals & articles.' There are radio buttons for 'Journals' (selected) and 'Articles'. A search bar is present with the text 'In all fields'. The search results for 'Archives Animal Breeding' are shown, including the journal title, its German name 'Archiv Tierzucht', the publisher 'Copernicus Publications in Germany', and the note 'Accepts manuscripts in English'. The journal subjects are listed as 'Agriculture: Animal culture, Science: Zoology'. On the right side, there is a 'DOAJ seal' logo, the date 'Last updated on 18 Dec 2019', a 'Website' link, 'APCs: 240 (EUR)', and the statement 'Author retains all rights' with a 'CC BY' license.

80 LANGUAGES	136 COUNTRIES REPRESENTED	13,547 JOURNALS WITHOUT FEES	20,160 JOURNALS	9,578,570 ARTICLE RECORDS
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# 3. Evaluating a journal quantitatively:

## Scopus Sources

The screenshot shows the Scopus Sources interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links for Sources, SciVal, and help. The main heading is 'Sources'. Below it, there is a search filter section with a dropdown menu for 'Subject area' and a text input field for 'Enter subject area'. The dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Subject area', 'Title', 'Publisher', and 'ISSN'. Below the search filters, there is a 'Filter refine list' section with 'Apply' and 'Clear filters' buttons. To the right, it shows '45,806 results' and links for 'Download Scopus Source List' and 'Learn more about Scopus Source List'. Below this, there is a table of results with columns: 'Source title', 'CiteScore', 'Highest percentile', 'Citations 2019-22', 'Documents 2019-22', and '% Cited'. The first result is 'Ca-A Cancer Journal for Clinicians' with a CiteScore of 642.9, a highest percentile of 99% (1/366 Oncology), 69,429 citations, 108 documents, and 94% cited. There are also 'Display options' on the left, including checkboxes for 'Display only Open Access journals', 'Counts for 4-year timeframe', and 'No minimum selected'.

Source title	CiteScore	Highest percentile	Citations 2019-22	Documents 2019-22	% Cited
1 Ca-A Cancer Journal for Clinicians	642.9	99% 1/366 Oncology	69,429	108	94

- Includes journals, book series and conference proceedings index in Scopus
- All publishing models



# Scopus Sources Example: Zoology → 627

Apply
Clear filters

All
Export to Excel
Save to source list

View metrics for year: 2022

	Source title ↓	CiteScore ↓	Highest percentile ↓	Citations 2019-22 ↓	Documents 2019-22 ↓	% Cited ↓
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Annual Review of Animal Biosciences <a href="#">Find It</a>	23.5	99% 1/456 Animal Science and Zoology	1,978	84	94
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Nature Food <a href="#">Find It</a>	16.7	99% 2/456 Animal Science and Zoology	5,302	318	77
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics <a href="#">Find It</a>	15.4	99% 3/456 Animal Science and Zoology	1,862	121	74
<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Information Processing in Agriculture <i>Open Access</i> <a href="#">Find It</a>	13.7	99% 4/456 Animal Science and Zoology	2,650	193	93
<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Agricultural Systems <a href="#">Find It</a>	11.9	99% 5/456 Animal Science and Zoology	8,941	754	89
<input type="checkbox"/> 6	Annals of Agricultural Sciences <i>Open Access</i> <a href="#">Find It</a>	11.2	98% 6/456 Animal Science and Zoology	1,195	107	80

Apply
Clear filters



# Scopus CITE SCORE

Cite Score is Scopus method to quantify journal impact

$$\text{Cite Score} = \frac{N \text{ citations to } \textit{documents} \text{ published in a 4 year period}}{N \textit{ documents}}$$

**Documents**= articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters, and data papers

Note that Cite Score is not a field-weighted metric, and you should only compare journals from the same subject category.

[How are CiteScore metrics used in Scopus? - Scopus: Access and use Support Center \(elsevier.com\)](#)



# Annual Review of Animal Biosciences

Scopus coverage years: from 2013 to Present

Publisher: Annual Reviews Inc.

ISSN: 2165-8102 E-ISSN: 2165-8110

Subject area: Agricultural and Biological Sciences: Animal Science and Zoology Veterinary: General Veterinary  
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Genetics Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology: Biotechnology

Source type: Journal

[View all documents >](#)

[Set document alert](#)

[Save to source list](#)

[Find it](#)

CiteScore 2022

23.5

SJR 2022

3.696

SNIP 2022

3.248

Quartile	Percentile
Q1	75-100
Q2	50-74
Q3	25-49
Q4	0-24

[CiteScore](#) [CiteScore rank & trend](#) [Scopus content coverage](#)

## Improved CiteScore methodology

CiteScore 2022 counts the citations received in 2019-2022 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in 2019-2022, and divides this by the number of publications published in 2019-2022. [Learn more >](#)

CiteScore [2022](#)

23.5 =  $\frac{1,978 \text{ Citations 2019 - 2022}}{84 \text{ Documents 2019 - 2022}}$

Calculated on 05 May, 2023

CiteScoreTracker [2023](#)

19.6 =  $\frac{1,471 \text{ Citations to date}}{75 \text{ Documents to date}}$

Last updated on 08 November, 2023 • Updated monthly

[CiteScore rank 2022](#)

[How is SNIP \(Source Normalized Impact per Paper\) used in Scopus? - Scopus: Access and use Support Center \(elsevier.com\)](#)

[How is SJR \(SCImago Journal Rank\) used in Scopus? - Scopus: Access and use Support Center \(elsevier.com\)](#)

## CiteScore rank 2022

Category	Rank	Percentile
Agricultural and Biological Sciences		
Animal Science and Zoology	#1/456	99th
Veterinary		
General Veterinary	#1/186	99th
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology		
Genetics	#8/328	97th

[View CiteScore methodology >](#) [CiteScore FAQ >](#) [Add CiteScore to your site >](#)

# More Metrics....

SNIP (Source Normalised Impact per Paper): is the ratio of a source's average citation count per paper and the citation potential of its subject field.

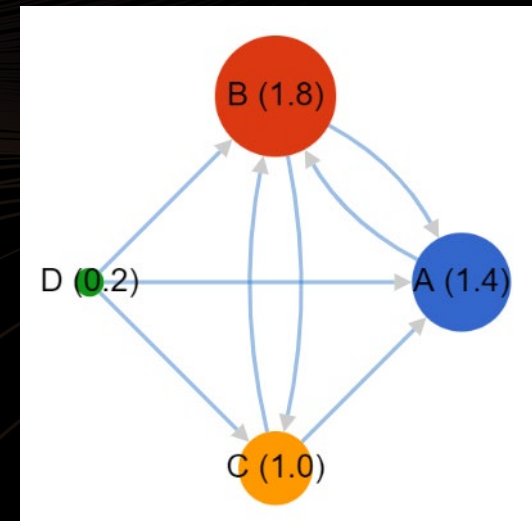
Citation potential = likelihood of being cited for documents in a particular field calculated according to the number of average cited references in papers.

[How is SNIP \(Source Normalized Impact per Paper\) used in Scopus? - Scopus: Access and use Support Center \(elsevier.com\)](#)

SJR- Scimago Journal Rankings: It considers factors such as the number of citations received by a journal and the importance or prestige of the journals that cite it. Subject field, quality, and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation.

[How is SJR \(SCImago Journal Rank\) used in Scopus? - Scopus: Access and use Support Center \(elsevier.com\)](#)

A → B  
B → A, C  
C → A, B  
D → A, B, C



[PageRank \(withcode.uk\)](#)



# Source details

Feedback > **Compare sources >**

## Annual Review of Animal Biosciences

CiteScore 2022  
**23.5**

SJR 2022  
**3.696**

Scopus  
Publis  
ISSN:  
Subject

begin comparing sources  
To start your comparison, search for sources and select which ones you want to compare.

Select up to 10 sources to compare  
Selected sources: Behavioural Processes x Annual Review of Animal Biosciences x  
Remove all selections

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area  
Source title  
Enter title \*  
E.g., Cell, cancer  
limit to  
All subject areas  
Search

1 Search results  
CiteScore  
Source  
Behavioural Processes 3.2

CiteScore publication by year

Year	Annual Review of Animal Biosciences	Behavioural Processes
2011	0	3.0
2012	0	3.0
2013	1.0	2.8
2014	3.0	2.8
2015	5.0	2.8
2016	10.0	3.0
2017	11.0	3.2
2018	12.5	3.2
2019	11.5	3.2
2020	12.5	3.5
2021	17.0	3.2
2022	23.5	3.2

Calculations last updated: 10 Nov 2023

# Comparing sources with Scopus

Select up to 10 sources to compare

Selected sources: ■ Behavioural Processes x ■ Annual Review of Animal Biosciences x

[Remove all selections](#)

[Chart](#) [Table](#)

Search by title, publisher, ISSN, and/or subject area

Source title

Enter title \*

*E.g., Cell, cancer*

limit to

All subject areas

1 Search results

CiteScore

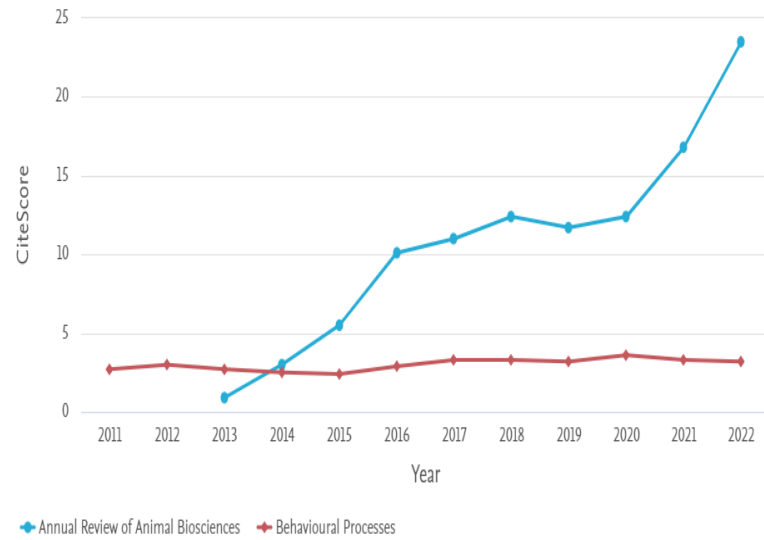
Source

CiteScore

■ Behavioural Processes

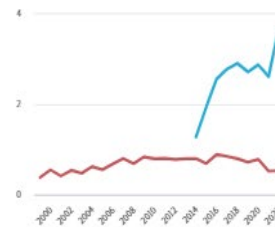
3.2

CiteScore publication by year

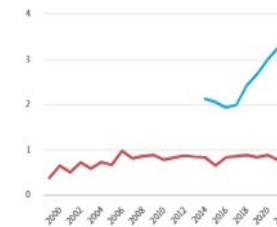


Calculations last updated: 10 Nov 2023

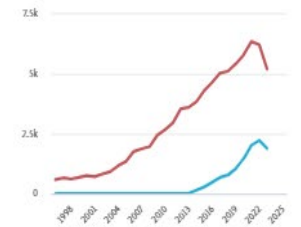
SJR by year



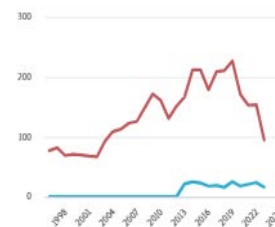
SNIP by year



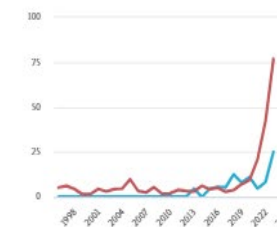
Citations by year



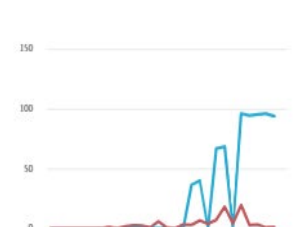
Documents by year



Percent not cited by year



Percentage review articles by year





# Web of Science Master Journal List (Clarivate)

The screenshot displays the Web of Science Master Journal List interface. At the top, navigation links include 'Master Journal List', 'Search Journals', 'Match Manuscript', 'Downloads', and 'Help Center'. A user is logged in as 'Welcome, Fra' with a 'Settings' icon. The main header reads 'Browse, search, and explore journals indexed in the Web of Science'. Below this, a descriptive paragraph states: 'The Master Journal List is an invaluable tool to help you to find the right journal for your needs across multiple indices in the Web of Science platform. Spanning all disciplines and regions, Web of Science Core Collection is at the heart of the Web of Science platform. With care by an expert team of in-house editors, Web of Science Core Collection includes only journals that demonstrate editorial rigor and best practice. As well as the Web of Science Core Collection, you can search across the following specializations: Biological Abstracts, BIOSIS Previews, Zoological Record, and Current Contents Connect, as well as the Chemical Information Abstracts.' A search bar contains the text 'Search Journal, ISSN or title word...' and a blue 'Search Journals' button. Below the search bar, a section titled 'Already have a manuscript?' features a document icon and a 'Match Manuscript' button. A text box explains: 'Find relevant, reputable journals for potential publication of your research based on an analysis of tens of millions of citation connections in Web of Science Core Collection using Manuscript Matcher.' On the right, a search results panel shows 'Found 508 results (Page 1)'. A filter sidebar on the left includes 'Web of Science Coverage', 'Open Access', 'Category' (with a search box and 'ZOOLOGY' selected), 'Country / Region', 'Language', 'Frequency', and 'Journal Citation Reports'. The main results area shows an 'Exact Match Found' for 'ZOOLOGY', published by 'ELSEVIER GMBH, HACKERBRUCKE 6, MUNICH, GERMANY, 80335' with ISSN/eISSN '0944-2006 / 1873-2720'. It lists 'Web of Science Core Collection' as 'Science Citation Index Expanded' and 'Additional Web of Science Indexes' as 'Biological Abstracts | BIOSIS Previews | Current Contents Agriculture, Biology & Environmental Sciences | Essential Science Indicators | Zoological Record'. Below this, 'Other Possible Matches' are listed: 'AFRICAN ZOOLOGY' (Taylor & Francis Ltd) and 'AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF ZOOLOGY' (CSIRO Publishing). Each result includes publisher, ISSN/eISSN, and index information. 'Share This Journal' and 'View profile page' buttons are present for each entry.

Zoology → 508 results

# Journal citation report (requires web of science log in)

The screenshot displays the JCR website interface. On the left, a purple sidebar contains the text 'The world's leading journals and publisher-neutral data' and a search bar. The main content area shows the journal profile for 'Annual Review of Animal Biosciences' for the year 2022. The profile includes the following information:

- JCR YEAR:** 2022
- Journal information:**
  - EDITION: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
  - CATEGORY: AGRICULTURE, DAIRY & ANIMAL SCIENCE - SCIE; ZOOLOGY - SCIE; BIOTECHNOLOGY & APPLIED MICROBIOLOGY - SCIE; VETERINARY SCIENCES - SCIE
- ISSN:** 2165-8102
- EISSN:** 2165-8110
- JCR ABBREVIATION:** ANNU REV ANIM BIOSCI
- ISO ABBREVIATION:** Annu. Rev. Anim. Biosci.
- LANGUAGES:** English
- REGION:** USA
- 1ST ELECTRONIC JCR YEAR:** 2013
- Publisher information:**
  - PUBLISHER: ANNUAL REVIEWS
  - ADDRESS: 4139 EL CAMINO WAY, PO BOX 10139, PALO ALTO, CA 94303-0139
  - PUBLICATION FREQUENCY: 1 issue/year

At the bottom of the page, the text 'Journal's performance' is visible, followed by a large blank area.



# Impact Factor

## Journal: Annual Review of Animal Biosciences

12.0

[View calculation](#)

11.9

[View calculation](#)

### Journal Impact Factor Trend 2022



### Calculation

Journal Impact Factor™ is calculated using the following metrics:

$$\frac{\text{Citations in 2022 to items published in 2020 (216) + 2021 (229)}}{\text{Number of citable items in 2020 (17) + 2021 (20)}} = \frac{445}{37} = 12.0$$

Citable items= Original Research (research papers, proceeding papers, reviews)

Not citable items= Editorial materials (commentary, perspectives, letters...)

## 4. Evaluating a journal qualitatively:

What to look for in a publisher's website and how to avoid *predatory journals*



Think.check.submit



UKRIO

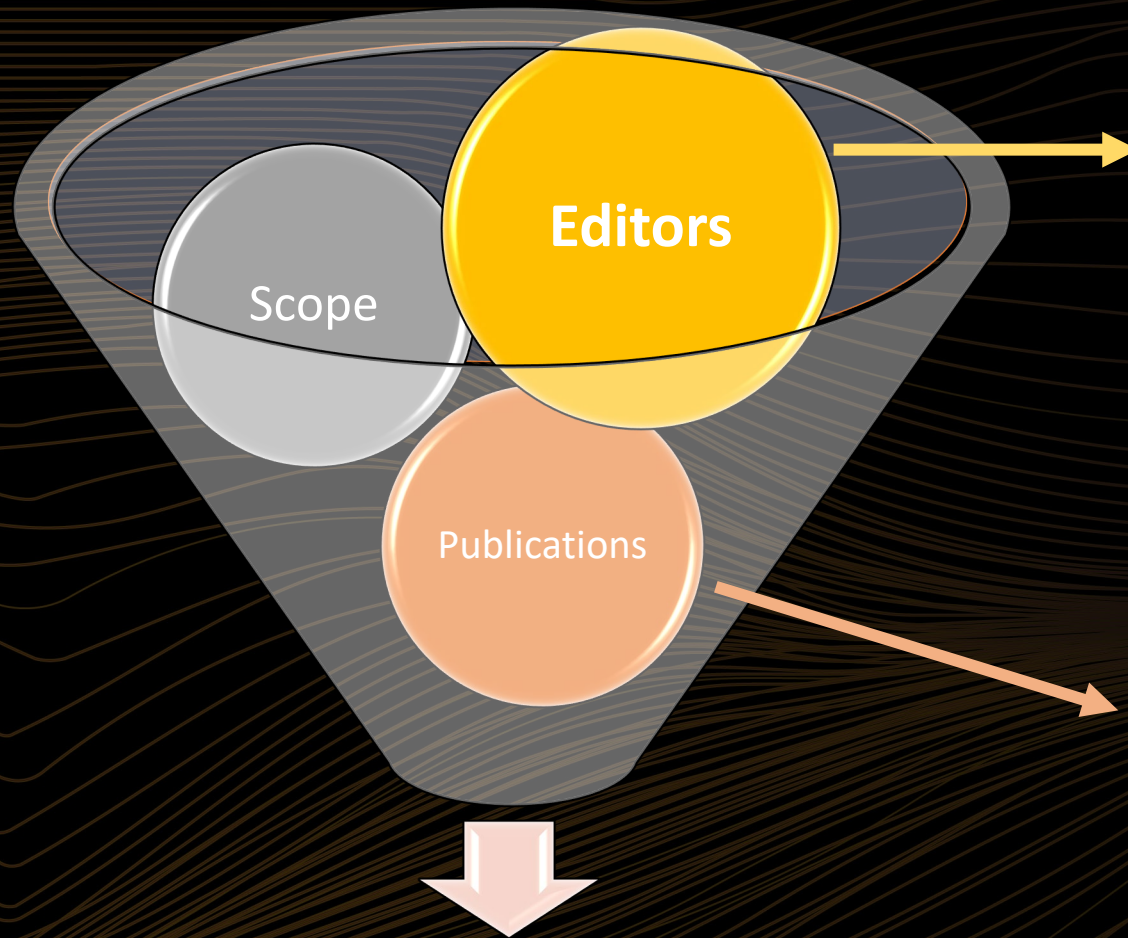


Predatory Journals are journals with questionable publishing practices

They mimic reputable journal websites and they require fees for delivering poor or non-existent publishing services such as inadequate peer-review, typesetting, or article promotion.

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/2023/08/23/guide-for-librarians-supporting-researchers-in-avoiding-predatory-publishers/>





Chance to go under peer review

- Does the journal have at least 5 members on the editorial board?
- Do you know their work?
- Is the affiliation indicated and is it correct?

- Are the publications of good quality?
- Do you recognise some of the authors?
- How many articles are published per issue?



# Good practice – information must be clear

## Peer review policy

- Does the journal offer at least 2 peer reviewers?
- Does it specify the type of peer review? (single-blind, double-blind, etc)
- Is the peer review time acceptable? (not all journals specify this)

## Author instruction

- Is there clear information about the copyright?
- Is it clear if you have to pay a fee? (APC, extra pages, colours)
- Does the journal have a self-archiving policy?

## Article visibility

- Is the content indexed?
- Does the journal offer advertising services (e.g. posts on social media, press releases)?

### Abstracting and Indexing Information

- Academic Search (EBSCO Publishing)
- Academic Search Alumni Edition (EBSCO Publishing)
- Academic Search Premier (EBSCO Publishing)
- Anthropological Literature (Harvard University)
- Art, Design & Architecture Collection (ProQuest)
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (Clarivate Analytics)
- Arts Premium Collection (ProQuest)
- BIAB: British & Irish Archaeological Bibliography (biab online)
- Current Contents: Arts & Humanities (Clarivate Analytics)
- Earth, Atmospheric & Aquatic Science Database (ProQuest)
- GEOBASE (Elsevier)
- GeoRef (AGI)
- International Bibliography of Art (ProQuest)
- Natural Science Collection (ProQuest)
- Proquest Business Collection (ProQuest)
- ProQuest Central (ProQuest)
- ProQuest Central K-428
- ProQuest Politics Collection (ProQuest)
- ProQuest Sociology Collection (ProQuest)
- Research Library (ProQuest)
- Research Library Prep (ProQuest)
- SciTech Premium Collection (ProQuest)
- SCOPUS (Elsevier)
- Social Science Premium Collection (ProQuest)



# Good practice – information must be clear

## Ethics:

- Is the publisher a member of COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics)?
- Does the journal promote EDI in the publishing process?

## Open science practices:

- Requires to share data according to FAIR principles
- Has a system integrated with ORCID
- Adopts the CrediT taxonomy
- Supports open peer reviews
- Adheres to open science initiatives such as I4OC and I4OA

***Don't always trust what is written on the website! Cross-check the information***

## Citation Impact


CiteScore (Scopus):	9.6
Journal Citation Indicator (Clarivate):	1.31
Journal Impact Factor (Clarivate):	5.2


## Usage

Full Text Views (2022):	1340223
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## Speed

Acceptance rate:	18%
Submission to first decision:	13 days

 [Submit an article](#)

 [Subscribe to this Journal](#)

### BES Member Access

If you are a BES member click here for instructions on how to access all BES journal content

Note: you will be redirected to BES for access.

Login

Journal Impact Factor™ (JIF)

2022

5.2

Category:  
Ecology

1 Functional Ecology



9.6

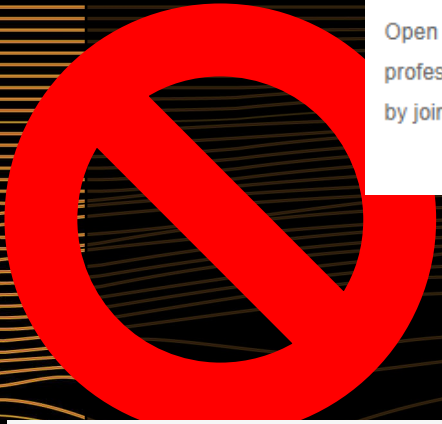
94%  
38/687  
Ecology, Evolution,  
Behavior and  
Systematics

Ecological Disciplines

Geographic Regions

Habitats





### Editorial Board

Open Science Journals is in process of appointing Editorial Board Members. Our Journals are seeking qualified professionals/researchers for the positions of Editorial Board Members. The invitation is extended to you by joining as members of editorial board.

### Research Pioneers

### Editorial Board

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- About Us
- Editorial Board
- Contact Us

#### Editorial Board

B. Demiryurek  
P. Bray  
S. Williams  
L. Colwell  
L. Revil  
N. Walter

9. After acceptance of the article, all the authors are required to submit the copyright form with publication fee transaction(exempted for Vol-1, Issue-1) details for online publication of the article. The form is available [here](#).

- Archive
- Volume 4, 2019 >
  - Issue 4 (Aug.)
  - Issue 3 (Jun.)
  - Issue 2 (Apr.)
  - Issue 1 (Feb.)
- Volume 3, 2018
  - Issue 4 (Aug.)
  - Issue 3 (Jun.)

Volume 4, Issue 4, Aug. 2019

[1] Hematological Changes in Patients Infected by *Plasmodium Falciparum* Versus Patients Infected by *Plasmodium Vivax*  
Abdelnassir Mohammed Ahamed, Hafiz Ahmed Hobiel, Mohammed Saeed Elsammani  
Pages: 48-51 | >> Abstract

Paper in PDF Downloads: 29 Since Nov. 21, 2019 Views: 880 Since Nov. 21, 2019

- #### For Authors
- Author Guidelines
  - Plagiarism Policy
  - Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement

Fake information

Approved by Ministry of Education

[Predatory Journals List 2023 \(predatoryreports.org\)](http://predatoryreports.org)

# MDPI and Frontiers case

**ResearchGate** @ResearchGate · Nov 15

With all 200,000+ version-of-record articles from these #OpenAccess titles being made readily available on ResearchGate, including all archive material and all new articles as they are published...

Learn more about the new partnership here:



researchgate.net

1 8 12 30K

A big loss for ResearchGate! You must certainly know how the scientific community at large now views MDPI and its peer review and publishing practices right....???? 🤔🤔

This is terrible @cesarmarin203 · Nov 18 2.8K

We don't want this you guys · Nov 16 10K

I just deleted my @ResearchGate account · Nov 18 7.4K

Lol read the room please · Nov 16 7.1K

I don't believe this is the smartest move you can do. Whatever this predatory publisher is paying you is not worth it. · Nov 18 13K

Embarrassing · Nov 18 11K

**nature**

Explore content ▾ About the journal ▾ Publish with us ▾

nature > social selection > article

Social Selection | Published: 23 October 2015

### Backlash after Frontiers journals added to list of questionable publishers

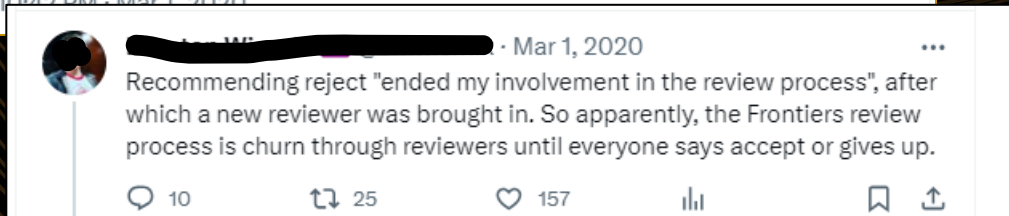
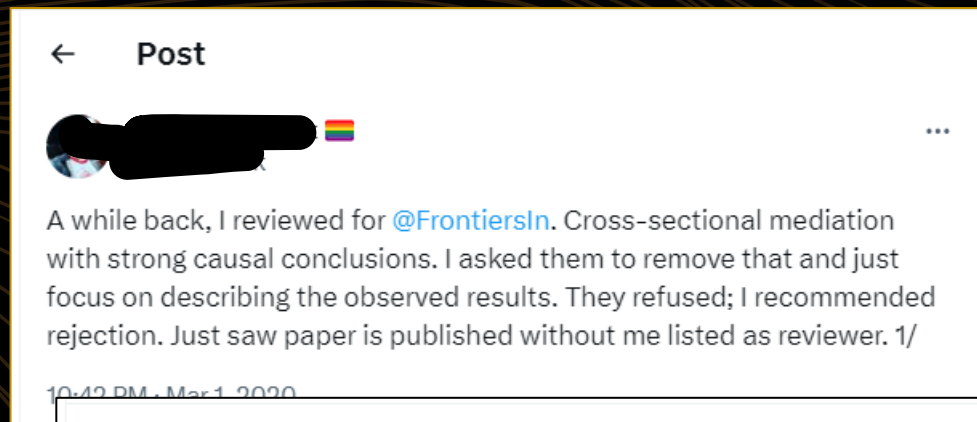
Mollie Bloudoff-Indelicato

There is no black and white definition of predatory publishing | Impact of Social Sciences (lse.ac.uk)



# Why?

- Aggressive marketing strategy
- Doubt regarding peer review
- High number of special issues



# However...

- Indexed in DOAJ
- COPE members
- Applying open science practices to prove they are not predatory e.g. open peer review

**Open Peer review**

MDPI journals operate an open peer review option by default, meaning that the authors have the option to publish the review reports and author responses with the published paper (often referred to as open reports). Publishing the reviewer reports and author responses together with the article provides greater transparency and trust for readers as they can track and check the peer review process. The Open Peer Review model also encourages reviewers to provide high quality comments as they will be made public if the article is accepted for publication.

To promote open communication further and increase the robustness of the peer review process, we encourage reviewers to sign their reports so that their name appears on the review report (referred to as open identity). By signing the reports, reviewers receive direct credit for their contribution to the peer review process and also shows their commitment towards open science. The default option is for reviewers to remain anonymous. If an article is rejected no details will be published.

MDPI authors have embraced the Open Peer Review model and we have seen an increase in published reports since the launch of this initiative in 2014. Further information can be found on our blog.

Is MDPI a predatory publisher? (\*Updated) (predatoryreports.org

Backlash after Frontiers journals added to list of questionable publishers |

Nature

**Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience**

Published by *Frontiers Media S.A.* in Switzerland Accepts manuscripts in English

**Journal subjects**  
Medicine: Internal medicine: Neurosciences. Biological psychiatry, Neuropsychiatry

Last updated on 13 May 2021  
[Website](#)   
APCs: 2950 (USD)  
[Author retains all rights](#)  
[CC BY](#)

# Are they predatory....?

There is no uniform standard across all MDPI and Frontiers journals;

If you consider publishing with either, revise the journal in question and make an informed decision:

**think.check.submit**