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Blobaum's Checklist for Review of Journal Quality for Submission of Scholarly Manuscripts

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Paul Blobaum, University Library, Governors State University
April 19, 2013

None of these indicators establish credibility and legitimacy alone, but together may build a body of evidence that will support evaluative judgments.

- Journal is indexed in a reputable disciplinary or multidisciplinary index with established review processes. Sources: Journal web page, Ulrich'sWeb, Cabell's, etc.*
 - CINAHL
 - ERIC
 - PSYCINFO
 - MEDLINE -
 - Sociology Abstracts
 - ABI INFORM
 - Social Work Abstracts
 - Education Abstracts
 - Chem Abstracts
 - Biology Abstracts/BIOSIS
 - AGRICOLA
 - etc.
- Consider indexer's inclusion criteria. Example: National Library of Medicine's MEDLINE - <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/jsel.html>
- Consider Jeffrey Beall's Predatory Publisher criteria <http://wp.me/p280Ch-g5> (Scholarly OA blog)
- Relevancy and credibility: Is the journal part of a core literature of the field, or is it insignificant or irrelevant? Consult core literature lists, mapping studies, citation analysis, etc.
- Reputation of journal
 - Affiliation with a scholarly or professional society, or University.
 - New vs. established publication record
 - Credentials of editorial board
 - National vs. International
 - Positive reviews
 - Acceptance rates
 - Impact factor, h-index, etc. analysis
 - Vanity vs. independent

- Profit vs. nonprofit model
- Community of practitioners/researchers

- Peer Reviewed Journal Status
 - Scholarly, research, or Trade journal
 - Levels of peer review (Blind, double blind, editorial?)

- Status of Publisher and Journal on Beall's Predatory OA Publisher List at <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers>

Other factors to consider:

- Pay to publishing vs. page fees, open access charges.
- Copyright ownership and distribution rights
- Open access vs. firewalled
- Transparency and contact information for Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor,
- Contact authors and editors and interview them
- Review the quality of articles for yourself
- Is the publisher a member of an industry organization that vets its members? OASPA.org, International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE), COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics <http://publicationethics.org/>) etc.

*Resources notes:

University Library Databases: Ulrich'sWeb, Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities, etc. are directories of various publishers, who survey publishers. Information is *self-reported*, not critically reviewed or vetted.

<http://bit.ly/how-oa> How to Publish in Open Access (wiki) – Harvard U related.

Directory of Open Access Journals <http://www.doaj.org> Caution: The Directory of Open Access Journals does not have significant independent vetting standards.

Comments and suggestions to:

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