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

Paul M. Blobaum

University Library, Governors State University

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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’s Web, Cabell’s, etc.*
  - CINAHL
  - ERIC
  - PSYCINFO
  - MEDLINE -
  - Sociology Abstracts
  - ABI INFORM
  - Social Work Abstracts
  - Education Abstracts
  - Chem Abstracts
  - Biology Abstracts/BIOSIS
  - AGRICOLA
  - etc.


- 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.


Comments and suggestions to:

Paul Blobaum
University Library, Governors State University
One University Parkway, University Park, IL 60484
pblobaum@govst.edu