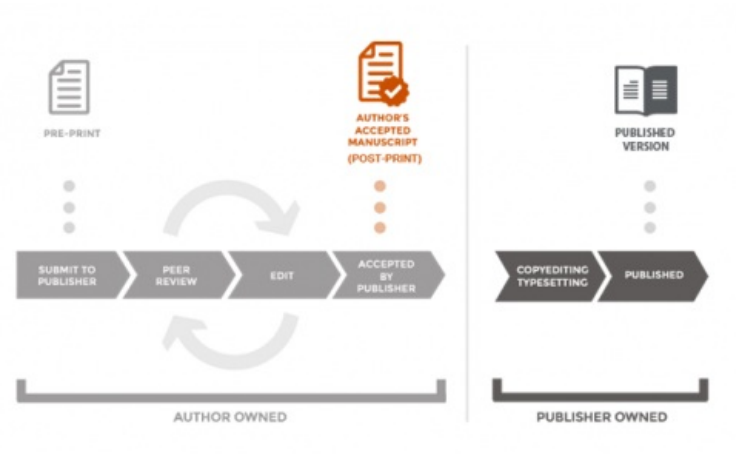
Finding your way around the journal landscape

It can be difficult to find your way around the journal landscape given how vast an ecosystem it is. Not all journals are of equal worth, and they all function in their own way. So how does one choose where best to publish an article ? What counts as a good journal ?

When selecting a journal to promote your research, it is important to compare journals' characteristics and specificities concerning several criteria :

- the issues treated
- the language of publication: does it target a national or international readership?
- the reader profile: the academic community in the broad meaning of the term, or specific to your field, the general public, decision-makers, etc.
- the type of articles published: works of popularisation, research, overviews
- the (good) reputation: publishing in a well-reputed review provides a way of winning peer recognition. It is thus very important to consider the composition of its editorial board.
- the journal's economic model: a classic (subscription) model, open access, hybrid, diamond access.
- the lead-times announced for publication and the content of any publishing contracts proposed: an increasing number of "predatory" publishers abuse the "author publication charge" system.



Predatory publishers and how to identify them

Certain journals and publishing houses abuse the "Gold Open Access" system by making authors pay unjustified APCs. These are "predatory" journals/publishers. They do not work to disseminate and share science, all that matters is their bottom line, and they are unconcerned by the quality of scientific content. Publishing in a predatory journal may thus damage a researcher's reputation.

There are ever more predatory journals/publishers, but some clues can help you identify them :

- the journal/publisher badgers the researcher
- the journal is not listed in WOS or SCOPUS despite claims to the contrary
- the journal has an identical name to an old journal or a name which does not coincide with its geographical area
- the researcher has difficulty finding who sits on its editorial board, or notes that the board is exactly the same as that of other journals
- the peer-review process is not clearly specified, or the deadlines announced for review seem very brief
- it is hard to find any information on the web about their APC costs

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Knowing the reputation of scientific journals

- Be familiar with the evaluation criteria for publications in your field: HCERES website / CNU website (french)
- Know which databases they are referenced in: JournalBase
- Ensure that the chosen journal complies with Plan S requirements: Journal Checker Tool / Transitional Agreement Look-Up (MVP)(this service provides information on TAs held by institutions, and the journals listed within TAs)

Identifying reliable OA journals and publishers

- DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals): index of diverse open access journals from around the world
- COPE(Committee on Publication Ethics): forum for editors of peer-reviewed journals on integrity of scientific documents
- Think. Check. Submit: Identify trusted publishers and journals. The right questions to ask for conferences, journals, books and book chapters

- Compass to publish (from University of Liège): test and evaluate the authenticity of Open Access journals
- List of predatory publishers: List of predatory journals (2017 archive) / Blacklist « stop predatory journals » (2021 archive)

Protecting your copyright

- Sherpa Romeo: database listing the copyright and self-archiving policies of scientific journals
- Rights retention strategy (with major publishers)

Further information

- CoopIST guide "Publishing and distributing" (french)