

Selecting an Appropriate Publication Outlet: A Comprehensive Model of Journal Selection Criteria For Researchers in a Broad Range of Academic Disciplines

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Abstract

Building upon previously published articles from eighteen different disciplines, this research delves into the area of how academics inform one another, addressing the issue of how academic scholars can determine the optimum journal for submission of their research. A comprehensive model of the journal selection process is developed, including 39 detailed considerations spread over three major categories: likelihood of timely acceptance; potential impact of the manuscript (journal credibility, prestige, visibility); and philosophical and ethical issues. Specific guidelines are given for evaluating such concepts as manuscript-journal “fit,” journal prestige, and journal visibility. The graphical model developed here assists authors in comparing journal alternatives, and provides new researchers with insights into how the three primary journal selection categories are weighed and balanced. In addition, less commonly understood concepts, such as Time to Publication, Review Cycle Time Delay, and Publication Time Delay are identified and named, and their relationships are defined in this article. On a broader level, this research demonstrates that scholars across disciplines have substantial common interests with respect to journal publishing, that the ties that unite academics seeking to publish are strong, and that the potential for future cross-disciplinary research in the area of how academics inform one another is correspondingly robust.

Keywords: journal selection, peer-review, publication, journal prestige, journal credibility, journal visibility, Time to Publication, Review Cycle Time Delay, Publication Time Delay, Open Access, Impact Factor