

Journal Selection Checklist

Research Topic

- Note that the best time to select a journal is BEFORE you begin writing.
- Find and compare journals using [JournalGuide](#), [Jane](#), [Elsevier Journal Finder](#), [Springer Suggester](#) or [Wiley Journal Finder](#). You may also check websites of related associations to find journals.
- Find high-quality Open Access journals specifically by using [DOAJ](#) or [OASPA](#).
- Use a database such as [Scopus](#) to consider where top authors in the field are publishing.
- Identify the topics covered by a journal using their website. Peruse recently published articles to find out if they seem to favor certain topics over others. You may first contact the journal to find out if your paper would be a good fit.

Quality

- Review the DUMC Library's [Be INFORMED checklist](#) for some quick tips
- Review red flags for predatory publishing by using the [journal legitimacy checklist](#) or [Think.Check.Submit](#).
- Check [Ulrichsweb](#) or publisher websites to find out if the journal is peer-reviewed.
- Check publisher websites to find out if any known researchers in the field are members of a journal's editorial board.
- Use [Journal Citation Reports](#), [Scimago](#) or the [Compare Sources tool in Scopus](#) to compare impact factors and other metrics relating to journals and their published articles. See the [Publication Metrics guide](#) or [Metrics Toolkit](#) for information about various types of metrics.

Logistics

- Consider the specific [Open Access options](#) available from a particular journal.
- Consider if the costs (article processing charges or APCs) are feasible. Costs are often outlined on publisher websites. Duke faculty, grad students, and postdocs may qualify for [COPE funds](#) to cover the costs of publishing in Open Access journals.
- Closely review [contracts/author's rights agreements](#) to determine if they meet your preferences or your institution's requirements for access.
- Consider the speed of publication.
- Ask colleagues about their experiences publishing with specific journals.