

Where (Not) to Publish?

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Outline

- What factors decide choice of journals
- Journal impact factors
- Predatory journals

WHERE TO REPORT

Choosing a journal -- international or local

International journals:

- More prestigious (than local ones);
- Wider readerships
- Higher standards and rejection rates;
- Publishing in international journals requires more efforts, but is more rewarding in the long run.

How do you choose a journal for publishing the paper?

- Whoever will accept my article
- Has friends on the editorial board
- Has good artwork
- Has (does not have) ads
- Has fast turnaround time
- Highest Journal Impact Factor
 - Impact factors are used to rank and, therefore, identify the so-called best journal to publish one's work.
- Journal most relevant to my field
- Journal likely to be read by colleagues
- Journal with reputation for timely, helpful review
- Journal affiliated with professional society
- Other factors : Intuitively - prestige? Past experience
- Ask a librarian or respected colleague

Journal Impact Factor: the central dogma of scholarly publishing

Journal Impact Factor: Historical Aspects

- Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI, now the Thomson Scientific) in 1955 envisioned creating a metric to evaluate journal performance.
- Over the next 20 years, Garfield and the late Irving H. Sher, worked to refine the Journal Impact Factor concept.
- Science Citation Index in the 1960s, subsequently published in 1975 the *Journal Citation Reports (JCR)*.
- **Calculated each year for those journals which Thomson Reuters indexes and are published in JCR.**
 - A highly influential ranking tool used by participants in all phases of the research publishing cycle — librarians, publishers, editors, authors and information analysts.



Scientometrics and Journalology

- Study of measuring and analysing science, technology and innovation.
- Citation analysis has blossomed over the past four decades.
 - The field now has its own International Society of Scientometrics and Informetrics
- *Journalology*, Metrics-based publication assessment, application of bibliometrics to journals evaluation
- Bibliometrics: statistical analysis of books, articles, or other publications.

Journal Impact Factor: Physical meaning

- Average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the JCR year.
- A measure of the frequency with which the “average article” in a journal has been cited in a particular year or period.
 - JIF of 1.0 means that, on average, the articles published one or two year ago have been cited once. An impact factor of 2.5 means that, on average, the articles published one or two year ago have been cited two and a half times.

How calculated and the properties

- The impact factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the two previous years.
 - For example, the 2015 impact factor of a journal would be calculated as follows:
 - A = the number of times articles published in 2013-2014 were cited in indexed journals during 2015 (14 citations)
 - B = the number of "citable items" (usually articles, reviews, proceedings or notes; not editorials and letters-to-the-Editor) published in 2013-2014 (39 items)
 - 2015 impact factor = A/B (= 0.36)
- The 2015 impact factor is published only in 2016, because it could not be calculated until all of the 2015 publications had been received.
- It is a proprietary metric, published annually by the Thomson Reuters via Journal Citation Reports (JCR).

Uses/advantages

- It is an objective measure.
 - Alternative measure of quality is "prestige."
 - Rating by reputation, which is very slow to change, and cannot be quantified or objectively used. It merely demonstrates popularity.
- Comparing different journals and research groups.
 - number of publications and citation statistics are two obvious candidates for such an objective measure.
 - However, the use of such measures in general and the impact factor in particular is still a matter of debate.
- Results are widely (though not freely) available.
 - Thomsons Scientific's wide international coverage. Web of Knowledge indexes 9000 science and social science journals from 60 countries. This is perhaps only partially correct.

Misuses/The Importance of “Context”

- The most prominent misuse of the Journal Impact Factor is its misapplication to draw conclusions about the performance of an individual researcher.
 - The Chronicle of Higher Education (October 2005), “The Number That’s Devouring Science.”
 - Members of a tenure committee or a hiring panel find it increasingly difficult to assess the papers of a candidate working outside their own subdiscipline, so they use the impact factor of the journal in which the paper appeared as a measure of the paper’s quality.
 - By that logic, evaluators rate a paper more highly if it appears in a high-impact journal, regardless of what the paper actually says.

Misuses/The Importance of “Context” (contd..)

- Journal Impact Factor be considered only within the discipline one is researching.
 - Citation patterns vary greatly across disciplines, and when reviewed outside the context of journals in the same scientific disciplines
- Caveat: journals can only be compared with like journals — particularly journals within the same discipline.

Manipulation

- Editorial policies: Journals sometimes may publish a larger percentage of review articles. While many research articles remain uncited after 3 years, nearly all review articles receive at least one citation within three years of publication.
 - Journals cite articles in the same journal which will increase the journal's impact factor.
 - Journals may change the fraction of "citable items" compared to front-matter in the denominator of the IF equation.
 - Letters of the type published in the *BMJ* and the *Lancet* are not included in the publication count.

JIF to measure productivity: a potential misuse

Hirsch's h-index

- Hirsch (2005): an alternative that is reliable, robust and easily computed.
- The h index of a researcher is the number of papers coauthored by the researcher with at least h citations each
- an estimate of the importance, significance, and broad impact of a scientist's cumulative research contributions.
- H-index is well correlated with the JIF in most cases. A further advantage, however, is that it may be computed for the many journals not acknowledged by the Thomson Scientific.

Predatory publishers and journals: one of the maladies of academic publishing

- Predatory publishers (journals) are those that exploit the gold open-access model for their own profit
- They take advantage of, exploit, and pander to scholarly authors
- Spam mails: Strange, dubious journal invitations popping up in your inbox every day
- They pretend to be legitimate, copying established and respected journals' websites and practices
- Many do a poor or fake peer review

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OTHER NEWS

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is in Progress at Archive section

Hijacked journals



Hijacked journal



Authentic journal



Fake metrics

- Fake metrics (or misleading metrics) are numbers that are just “made up” and assigned to journals, etc.
- Companies sell these metrics and call them “impact factors”
- Publishers use fake metrics on their websites and in their spam email to make their journals look like real ones and attract more papers
- Problem: The real impact factor data is not free



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*(Click new submission to upload your paper by following the instruction)
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Predatory journals recruit fake editor



Source: **Pisanski, 2017**

An investigation finds that dozens of academic titles offered 'Dr Fraud' — a sham, unqualified scientist — a place on their editorial board.

Predatory Junk Journals/Publishers Poisoning Scholarly Communication

Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

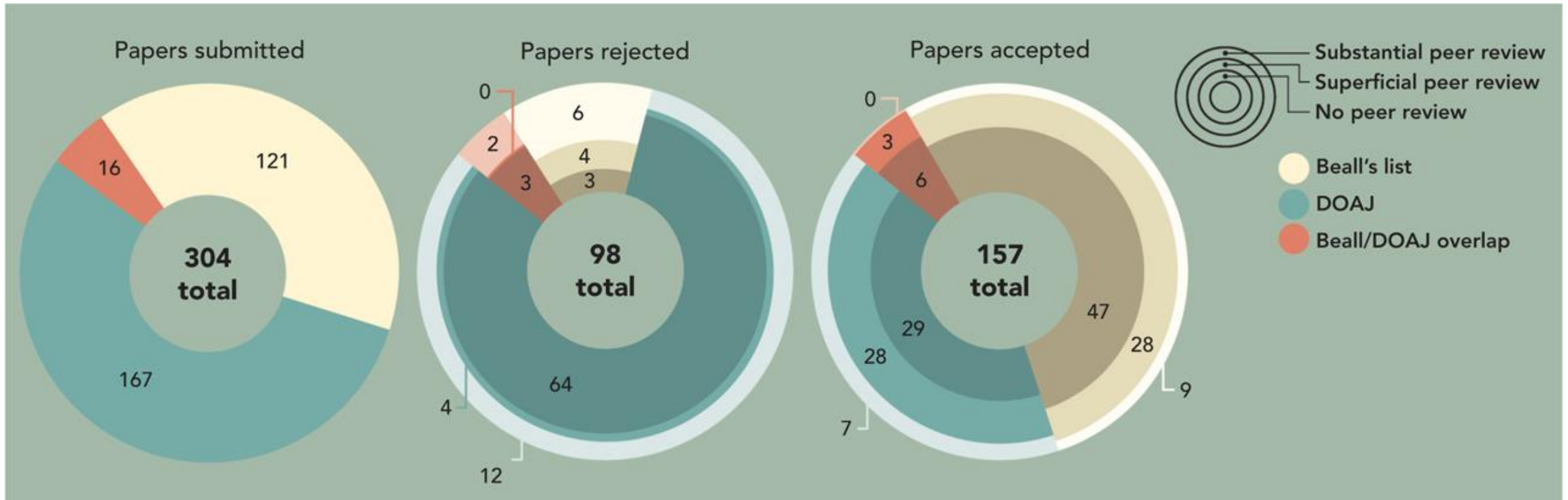
John Bohannon

Science 2013;342:60-65

A spoof paper concocted by *Science* reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals



Peer review reviewed. Few journals did substantial review that identified the paper's flaws.



John Bohannon Science 2013;342:60-65



Tangled web. The location of a journal's publisher, editor, and bank account are often continents apart. Explore an interactive version of this map.



John Bohannon *Science* 2013;342:60-65



Blacklists, whitelists, and other defenses against predatory publishers

- Jeffrey Beall, a librarian at the University of Colorado-Denver, who curates a blacklist of “potential, possible, or probable” predatory OA publishers and journals. Now defunct.
- The central player in the whitelisting movement is the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
- **Publisher’s membership of [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association \(OASPA\)](#) – members are bound by a code of conduct based on standard publishing practices and transparency**
- **Publisher’s membership of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) – membership demonstrates commitment to widely accepted publishing practices**
- Do not submit manuscripts in response to spam mails.

In summary

- Journal Impact Factor can only be used to evaluate journals.
- Journal Impact Factor do not to assess the performance of an individual researcher.
- It is, however, possible to measure the Impact factor of the journals in which a particular person has published articles.
- There's no end in sight to the problem of predatory publishers
- Despite the OA movement, we're seeing an increased commercialization of various scholarly communication components
- Scholarly publishing is becoming more author-focused and less-reader focused