

# Journal Quality Checklist

Compare the journal you want to assess against this short checklist. The list has two sections: the first section is applicable to open access journals only. The second section is applicable to all journals. The more items you can tick on this list, the better the journal. You may also want to consider [Assessing Open Access Journals: A Full Guide](#), which is available through the [Resources](#) page on the Ediqo website.

## Quality Indicators Specific to Open Access Journals

- Journal is listed in Directory of Open Access Journal (DOAJ)
- Publication fees or “article processing charges” are clearly given and prominently displayed
- Journal publishes under a Creative Commons license, preferably CC-BY
- Publisher or journal is a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)

## Quality Indicators Applicable to All Journals

- Indexed in either one of Science Citation Index (SCI), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), MEDLINE or INSPEC
- Indexed in specialized, subject-specific databases
- Journal assigns working Digital Object Identifier (DOI) numbers for each paper
- Publisher or journal is a member of the STM Publishers Association and the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Journal is preserved in LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, Portico, PubMed Central or at least one national archive or national library
- Journal regularly publishes 10 papers or more per issue
- Journal regularly publishes new issues, preferably quarterly or more often
- Journal offers possibility to subscribe publication alerts by e-mail
- Journal lists a reasonably sized editorial board with a chief editor
- Journal offers a search engine to search papers by keywords
- Editorial board is primarily composed of full university professors or senior scholars at research institutes
- Editors swiftly respond to e-mail inquiries by using their institutional e-mail address

- Publisher / publishing house is clearly identified in the imprint
- Journal has a clearly defined scope; papers published in the journal are within the scope
- Research journals publish a high proportion of research articles and only few review papers, letters and other items
- Journals with an international scope are truly international: editorship and authorship is geographically diverse
- Journal includes a publication ethics statement or refers to the guidelines of COPE
- Journal includes statements on ethical approval of research conducted on animals or humans, and the registration of clinical trials (where applicable)
- Journal uses a decent technology inventory that includes modern websites, clear design, online submission system, search engine, individual page for each paper/abstract, key journal- and article level statistics (downloads, citations, Altmetric score, etc.), recommended/related articles, or possibility to subscribe to e-mail alerts.

Version 1 (26 January 2016). This checklist was compiled by Dietrich Rordorf. For questions, please send a message to Dietrich Rordorf, E-mail: [dr@edigo.com](mailto:dr@edigo.com). Refer to the [Resources](#) section on the Edigo website for more guides and checklists.



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