Research

PUBLICATION

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Publication refers to distribution or access to information to the public with the consent of the author. This is in itself a very vital aspect of research as the use and importance of the work gets diminished if the work is not published by the author.

The dissemination of information is a vital aspect of knowledge development; when researches are published, it adds to the existing knowledge base of society and paves way for further research, thus, leading to a continuous process of knowledge creation and distribution.

7.1 Importance of Journal Publication

- Discoverability

Publishing your work in journals provides visibility of the work to other researchers working in the same field or domain, including the ones who are not in your immediate social or professional circle.

- Record of the research

Publication helps in preserving the work in a permanent form and therefore, becomes part of the record of research in the field it is related to. This record helps you to become a part of the community and helps you to expand your network and collaborate with new people.

- Peer Review

The peer review process helps in improving the way one represents their work, as the feedback from experts helps you to better analyze and frame the ideas.

- Career Advancement

Publications are essential components in a lot of professions. They act as evaluating factors in case of admission for higher education, scholarships, research funding, jobs in academics, etc.

- Preventing Duplication

One of the most important uses of publication is to prevent the work from being wasted and enable others to build on the work done by you. It also helps in avoiding unnecessary duplication of work by others, which is an unethical research practice.

7.2 Indication of Quality of Journal (Indexation)

Journal Index refers to a list of journals which are organized based on different factors such as discipline, subject, region, etc. This index can be used by other readers to search for research on a certain specific topic. Publication of work in indexed journals brings more credibility and visibility to author's work, as these journals are index based on certain specific criteria such as:

- Ethics and peer review policies
- Assessment criteria for submitted articles
- Editorial board transparency

Indexes are created by different organizations and every index has its own set of standards and rules. These organizations include:

- **Public Bodies:** For example - UGC Care is a list of high-quality journals approved by the UGC. This list is made for promotion of quality research and to prevent publications in sub-standard journals.'

- **Analytic Companies:** For example – Web of Sciences (WoS) Core Collection is created and maintained by Clarivate Analytics. WoS Core Collection also includes various sub-indexes based on different factors. These sub-indexes include: (1) Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE); (2) Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI); (3) Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI); (4) Emerging Sources Citation Index.

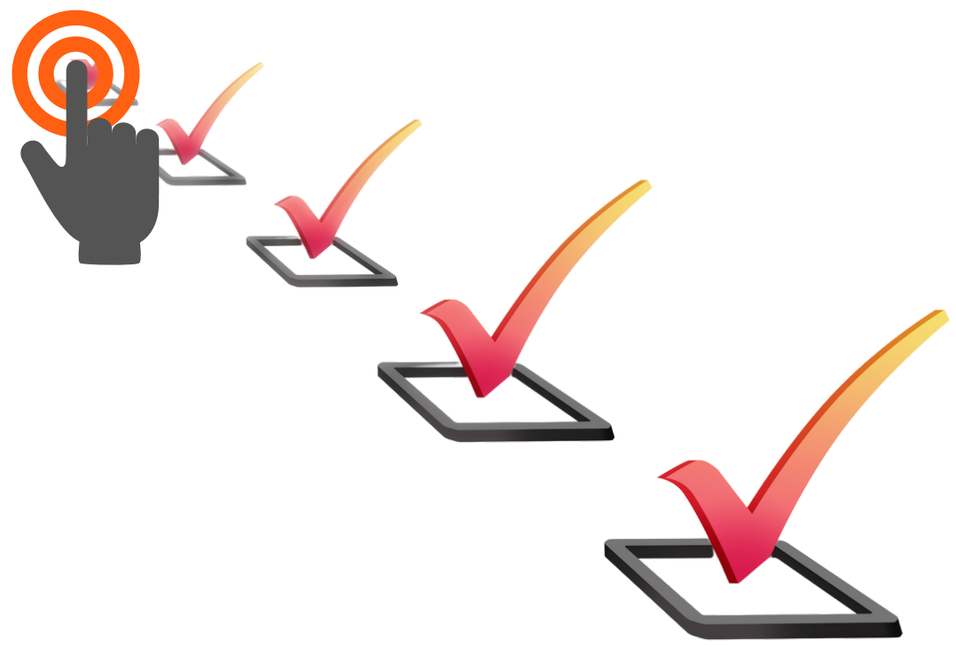
- **Publishers:** For Example: One of the most highly rated index SCOPUS is owned by Elsevier and is maintained by 'Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board'. This index includes journals of all disciplines but majorly from science and technology.

7.2.1 Importance of Indexing

- Publication of research in indexed journals increases the credibility and visibility of the work as they are considered to be of higher quality than non-indexed journals.

- Due to increase in fully open-access and online-only journals, it is necessary to recognize and avoid predatory journals. Indexing a journal is a good sign indicating the journal is credible.

- A researcher needs to ensure that their work is visible to as many readers as possible. Indexed journals are often preferred by researchers or readers searching for specific information.



7.2.2 Different Index Metrics

There are different index metrics used by organizations using different factors to indicate the quality of the research journal. Some of the widely used index metrics are discussed below:

- H-Index

It is a number that represents both productivity and the impact of a particular researcher/scientist/scholar's output. It is a widely used research metric across the world including Web of Science and Google Scholar.
h-index = 'h' has at least 'h' papers that have been cited 'h' times

For Example: If a scholar has h-index of 12, it means that he has 12 papers that have been cited at least 12 times.

- Impact Factor

It is a metric that reflects the yearly average number of citations to recent articles published in that journal. It is often used as a proxy for relative importance of a journal within its field.
It must be noted that journals with higher impact factors are considered more important as compared to lower ones.

- G-Index

It was proposed in 2006, as an improvement to h-index. This metric gives more importance to highly cited articles.

In this metric, the given set of articles are ranked in decreasing order of the number of citations that they received; the g-index will be the largest number 'g' articles relieved together at least g2 citations.

- i10-Index

It refers to the number of articles which has 10 or more citations. This metric is used by Google Scholar, and is the number of publications with at least 10 citations for all the articles in the profile

- CiteScore

This metric is used for measuring journal impact in SCOPUS. It is mathematically calculated based on the number of citations received by a journal in last four years.

For example: Cite Score for 2021 will be –

$$\textit{CiteScore in 2019} = \frac{\textit{Number of citations recieved in 2018-2021 to document published in 2018-2021}}{\textit{Number of documents published in 2018-2021}}$$

7.3 Points to Remember when Choosing Journals/Publisher

Researchers/Students must always be careful while deciding the journal in which they wish to publish their work. Here are some of the points which must be kept in mind while making such decisions

1. Try avoiding predatory journals and publishers. Such publishers while taking advantage of a growing number of open access and author-paid publishing model attempt to make money. Such publishers often make dubious claims about the quality of journal, don't provide editorial support and charge fee after the article is published.

2. The researcher/student must think and figure out the answer to few simple questions such as:

- Have you read any articles from the journal before?
- Is it easy to discover the latest article in the journal?
- Can the publisher be identified and contacted?
- Is it clear about the peer-review policies?
- Is it indexed in any known services?
- Is there any known person in the editorial board?