Tips for Evaluating Quality of Open Access Journals

- Look up the journal in Ulrich’s Serials Directory to learn more about content, frequency, and indexing status: [http://purl.lib.uiowa.edu/ulrichs](http://purl.lib.uiowa.edu/ulrichs)
- Read selected content of the journal web pages, look for details on editorial board and process, and review content in issues
- Verify accuracy of claims made on home page such as impact factor by looking up journal directly in these sources (Web of Science for Impact Factor, NLM catalog for indexing for PubMed, other major databases)

Signs of a Predatory Publisher

- Journal web page claims an impact factor, but is not listed in Journal Citation Reports. Check for impact factor in JCR: [http://purl.lib.uiowa.edu/jcr](http://purl.lib.uiowa.edu/jcr)
- Peer review turnaround time of only a week or two
- Journal web page has errors and is poorly written
- Publisher is not listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, or the Committee on Publication Ethics (refer to links below)
- Publisher lists many journals with the same editor, or lists same editorial board for more than one journal
- Publisher lists many journals, and content is sparse or irregular

Resources for Evaluating Journals

Directory of Open Access Journals
[https://doaj.org/](https://doaj.org/)

OA Scholarly Publishers Association
[http://oaspa.org/membership/members/](http://oaspa.org/membership/members/)

Committee on Publication Ethics

Sherpa (information about publishers’ copyright, archiving, and open access policies)
[http://www.sherpa.ac.uk](http://www.sherpa.ac.uk)
Additional Resources

UI Libraries Scholarly Publishing Subject Guide
http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/scholarly_publishing

UI Libraries and Provost’s Office Open Access Fund
http://guides.lib.uiowa.edu/OAfund

NIH Public Access Policy
http://publicaccess.nih.gov/

PubMed Central (required repository for all NIH-funded research articles)
http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/

MEDLINE, PubMed, & PMC: How are they different?

Nursing specific- INANE Directory of Nursing Journals:
https://nursingeditors.com/journals-directory/