Criteria for choosing the 'right' journal for your research

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**Author‘s Situation**

- You want to publish your research in the optimal journal
- No well-grounded evidence of the best place to publish your research
- Ask around in your section, but:
  - Good advice, but probably also a lot of anecdotes
  - Different people gives very different advices
- In your section circulates a list of „recommended journals“, but:
  - Not all useful for various reasons
  - Often where well-funded research is published by the peers
  - Perhaps hasn‘t been updated
  - Can be just a list of any journals over a certain Journal Impact Factor
  - As PhD student or early in your career, lists may be out of your league and so depressing to read
Dimensions

What are criteria that seem to have proven relevance for researchers to choose the right journal?

- Journal’s Scope
- Review Process
- Dissemination
- Open Access
- Impact

Just some criteria › ask the library to go in depth
Journal’s Scope [1]

• **Scope:** Is it in general for one discipline or more specific?
  – Generalized journals for a single discipline have the largest readership and most prestige > e.g. Geology, Geophysics, Int J Earth Sciences, JGR, GJI
  – After that: sub-discipline journals > e.g. Chemical Geology, Tectonics, Solid Earth
  – Specialized journals = less potential readership > Communications in Asteroseismology

• **Publication history:** How consistently has it been published?
  – Avoiding journals that doesn’t stick to the announced publication schedule or that produce „light content“ issues > difficulties to get appropriate content

• **Publisher affiliation:** Who publishes it?
  – Journals by professional publishers or well-known associations are most prestigious
  – Watch out for obscure predatory publishers > Checklist to assess at Think. Check. Submit.
Journal's Scope [2]

• **Size:** How many scientific libraries does the journal license?
  - Try to use the *Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek* (EZB) or *Zeitschriftendatenbank* (ZDB) for German speaking countries > EZB
  - Subscription price: how many libraries can afford it?
  - The more libraries has subscribed for, the better the chance that relevant researchers will find and be aware of your work
  - But there are package deals with the libraries (consortia)
  - Journals established in the last five years may have a small distribution

• **Editorial Board:** Who is on the editorial board?
  - Well-known and well-respected persons
  - Actively publishes their research
  - Also well-known authors and institutions they come from
Review Process

• Model of peer review: Does the journal use blind or open review or any review?
  – Blind most used, open review best for author > author knows the reviewer = accountability and honesty
  – Journals with interactive discussion > rejected papers stay online
  – Example PLoS ONE: review of GSP but not the scientific approach > faster publication

• Rejection rate: What is the rejection rate good for?
  – Classical presumption: low acceptance, high rejection = most prestigious > ok, but
  – Quite hard to figure out > e.g. by Elsevier Journal Finder
  – Open discussion means better quality of submitted paper means lower rejection rates > nearly immediately publication
Time Delays

• Time delays: How long does the process take from submitting to acceptance to publication?
  – Basically: the shorter the better
  – From submitting to acceptance: the shorter the better, but > caused by the review process that can indicate thoroughness
  – From acceptance to publication: as short as possible is best > well-organized production process
  – Comparison: Each paper is tagged with dates
  – meanwhile standard online first > gap to print > ALBERT for newest articles
  – Experiences of your colleagues > ask them
Dissemination

- **Subscription rate**: the more libraries have subscribed for the journal, the wider the dissemination to readers.
- **Open Access**: openness ensures wider dissemination.
- **Final draft**: submitting your final version to the library to put it into the institutional repository.
- **Scientific databases**: check if the journal is indexed in the most important databases (WoS, Scopus, GeoRef).
Open Access

• Open = citation advantage = wider dissemination
• Gold = OA journal > publication fee, but:
  – GFZ publication fonds supports you > no hybrid journals
  – Closed access journals also charge a fee, e.g. for additional pages or coloured figures (JGR, BSSA, Tectonophysics, ...)
• Green = final draft in the repository = dissemination
• Author keeps the rights for texts, figures, tables > CC-BY
• Easier use for cumulative thesis > no clarification of rights
Impact

- Journal Impact Factor, but
- Single JIF = overestimated but can be a proxy
- Rather to divide journals into quartiles > also based on JIF
- Q1 = journal is one of highest cited 25% for a specific discipline > top journals
- Altmetric scores for social media impact > especially for short-term outreach
Tools

- InCites Journal Citation Reports
- Journal Metrics by Scopus
- Essential Science Indicators
- Google Scholar Metrics to determine the h5-Index
- Forget ResearchGate Score
### Compare Journals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>5-year JIF Quartile</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BULLETIN OF THE SEISMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA</td>
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<td>EARTH AND PLANETARY SCIENCE LETTERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>TECTONOPHYSICS</td>
<td>Q2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**RECOMMENDATION LIST**

5. **Select Metrics**
   - JIF
   - JIF-subject category
   - 3-Year JIF
   - Source Index
   - Eigenfactor
   - Article Influence Score

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**Instructions**

1. **Select Comparison**
   - Quartile
   - Trends

2. **Select Journals**

3. **Select JCR Year**
   - 2015

4. **Select Category**

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**Buttons**

- Clear
- Submit
- Save
Introducing CiteScore metrics for serials

We are proud to introduce CiteScore metrics from Scopus – comprehensive, current and free metrics for serial titles in Scopus. Search or filter below to find the sources of interest and see the new metrics. Report using these annual metrics and track the 2016 metrics via the links to each title’s Scopus source details page.

Be sure to use qualitative as well as the below quantitative inputs when presenting your research impact, and always use more than one metric for the quantitative part.

Refine titles

Refine by subject areas...

Geophysics

Search titles...

2015

Show fewer filters

Refine titles

Select quartiles

Quartile 1

Showing 24 titles

CiteScore metrics calculated on 31 May, 2016. SNIP and SJR calculated on 27 April, 2016.
### Essential Science Indicators

#### Top Papers by Journals

**Results List**
- Journals

**Filter Results By**
- Geosciences

**Include Results For**
- Top Papers

**Map View by Top / Hot / Highly Cited Papers**

**Report View by Selection**

<table>
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<td>1. Geochemica et Cosmochimica Acta</td>
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<td>5. Journal of Petrology</td>
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<td>7. Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology</td>
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<td>8. Journal of Geochemical Exploration</td>
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<td>9. Ore Geology Reviews</td>
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<td>10. Organic Geochemistry</td>
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<td>11. American Mineralogist</td>
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<td>12. Economic Geology</td>
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<td>17. Russian Geology and Geophysics</td>
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<td>18. Chemio der Erde-Geochimistry</td>
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<td>19. Mineralogical Magazine</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>20. The Canadian Mineralogist</td>
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</table>

*Datumangaben und Zitierhäufigkeiten werden automatisch von einem Computerprogramm ermittelt und stellen Schätzwerte dar.*
Synopsis

- Scope: general or specialized
- Check the publisher
- Review, acceptance, time delays for quality and speed
- Larger audience with wider dissemination and openness
- Comparison of journals using quartiles

Ask us › all mentioned points can be discussed in depth with the library.
Any Questions?

Thank you for your attention!
Links

• Publisher Assessment:
  – Think. Check. Submit. Publisher evaluation: http://thinkcheckssubmit.org/
  – Zeitschriftendatenbank für deutschsprachige Länder: http://dispatch.opac.d-nb.de/DB=1.1/
  – Elsevier Journal Finder: http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/

• Metrics:
  – InCites Journal Citation Reports: http://jcr.incites.thomsonreuters.com/
  – Essential Science Indicators: http://esi.incites.thomsonreuters.com/
  – Google Scholar h5-Index: http://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues
  – Altmetric Score for social media impact: http://www.altmetric.com/top100/

• Databases:
  – Web of Science: http://apps.webofknowledge.com/
  – Scopus: http://www.scopus.com/
  – GeoRef: http://search.proquest.com/georef?accountid=15969
  – ALBERT: http://waesearch.kobv.de/
  – GFZ Institutional Repository: http://gfzpublic.gfz-potsdam.de/

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