

# How to Choose a Right Journal for Publishing Your Paper

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# Tips for finding the right journal

- ▶ Submitting a manuscript to unsuitable journals is a common mistake, and can cause journal editors to reject the manuscript before peer review.
- ▶ Choosing a relevant journal makes it more likely that your manuscript will be accepted
- ▶ Some factors to consider are:

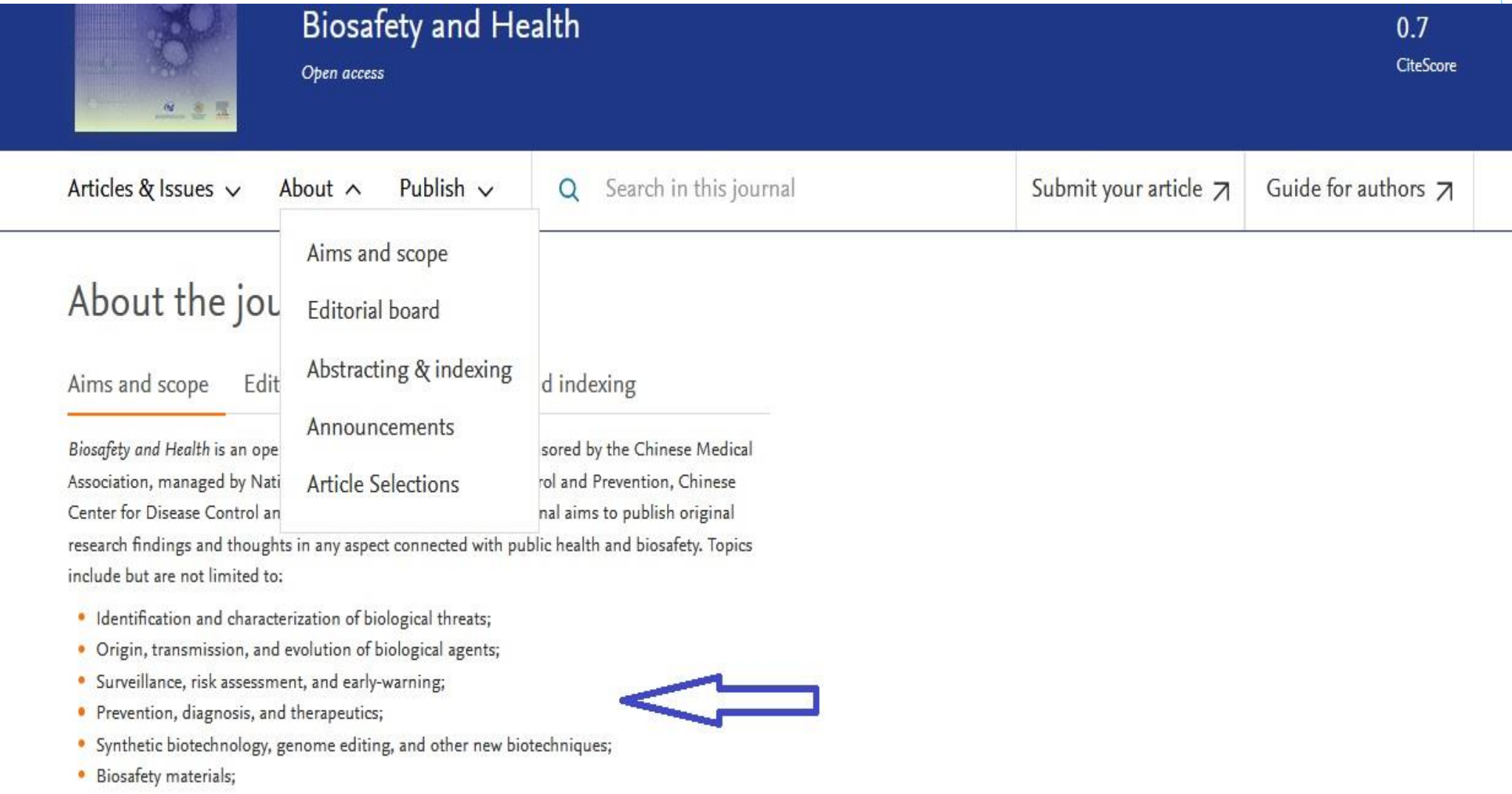
## 1- The topics the journal publishes:

If your research is applied, target a journal that publishes applied science;

If it is clinical, target a clinical journal;

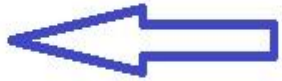
If it is basic research, target a journal that publishes basic research

# Aims and Scope of Biosafety and Health Journal



The screenshot shows the website for the journal "Biosafety and Health". The header is dark blue with the journal title and "Open access" on the left, and a CiteScore of 0.7 on the right. Below the header is a navigation bar with links for "Articles & Issues", "About", "Publish", "Search in this journal", "Submit your article", and "Guide for authors". The "About" dropdown menu is open, showing options: "Aims and scope", "Editorial board", "Abstracting & indexing", "Announcements", and "Article Selections". The "Aims and scope" link is underlined in the main content area. The text describes the journal as an open access journal managed by the National Association of Biotechnology, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and aims to publish original research findings in any aspect connected with public health and biosafety. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Identification and characterization of biological threats;
- Origin, transmission, and evolution of biological agents;
- Surveillance, risk assessment, and early-warning;
- Prevention, diagnosis, and therapeutics;
- Synthetic biotechnology, genome editing, and other new biotechniques;
- Biosafety materials;



## 2- The journal's audience:

Will researchers in related fields be interested in your study?

If so, a journal that covers a broad range of topics may be best.

If only researchers in your field are likely to want to read your study, then a field-specific journal would be best

## 3-The types of articles the journal publishes:

If you are looking to publish a review, case study or a theorem, ensure that your target journal accepts these type of manuscripts.


# Aims and Scope of Biosafety and Health Journal

Aims and scope   Editorial board   Abstracting and indexing

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*Biosafety and Health* is an open access, peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Chinese Medical Association, managed by National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). This journal aims to publish original research findings and thoughts in any aspect connected with public health and biosafety. Topics include but are not limited to:

- Identification and characterization of biological threats;
- Origin, transmission, and evolution of biological agents;
- Surveillance, risk assessment, and early-warning;
- Prevention, diagnosis, and therapeutics;
- Synthetic biotechnology, genome editing, and other new biotechniques;
- Biosafety materials;
- Policies and standards.



Article types published by  
the Journal

*Biosafety and Health* is published bimonthly in English language. Article types include Original Research, Reviews, Perspectives, Correspondence, Case Report, News and Views, Highlights, Comments and policy forum, etc.

# Article types published by *Nature review genetic* Journal

## Aims & Scope

*Nature Reviews Genetics* aims to be the premier source of reviews and commentaries for the scientific communities we serve. We strive to publish articles that are authoritative, accessible and enhanced with clearly understandable figures, tables and other display items. We want to provide an unparalleled service to authors, referees and readers, and we work hard to maximize the usefulness and impact of each article. The journal publishes Research Highlights, Comments, Reviews and Perspectives relevant to geneticists and genomicists, with our [broad scope](#) ensuring that the articles we publish reach the widest possible audience.

*Nature Reviews Genetics* is part of the *Nature Reviews* portfolio of journals. To learn more about *Nature Reviews*, check out [this animation](#) and the [Nature Reviews page](#). You can also find a summary of the editorial input and checks [here](#).

## Publishing model

Articles published in *Nature Reviews* can only be published using the subscription publication route; we do not offer an immediate gold open access (OA) publication option.

*Nature Reviews* only publishes non-primary articles (such as Reviews, News & Views and Comment articles). In contrast to primary articles (that is, research articles), non-primary articles do not include original (previously unpublished) research

## 4- The reputation of the journal:

- There are several factors such as Impact Factor (IF) , CiteScore, SNIP and SJR to measure the reputation of a journal
- A journal's Impact Factor is one measure of its reputation, but not always the most important
- You should consider the prestige of the authors that publish in the journal and whether your research is of a similar level

# Impact Factor (IF)

- ▶ Impact factor (IF): is a measure reflecting the average number of citations to recent articles published in journals, which are indexed in Web Of Science (WOS).
  - ▶ impact factor =  $A/B$ 
    - $A$  = the number of times articles published in two years before the JCR year were cited by indexed journals during the JCR year
    - $B$  = the total number of "citable items" published by that journal in two years before the JCR year.
- Notice: "Citable items" are usually articles, reviews, proceedings, or notes; not editorials or Letters-to-the-Editor.



# An example : Impact Factor (IF) for 2020

- 2020 impact factor =  $A/B$ .
  - $A$  = the number of times articles published in 2019 and 2018 were cited by indexed journals during 2020.
  - $B$  = the total number of "citable items" published by that journal in 2019 and 2018.

# CiteScore

CiteScore measures the ratio of citations per article published in the journal

**A** [Citations received in the papers published  
in four previous years (Y-1, Y-2, Y-3, Y-4)]

CiteScore = 

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**B** [Number of papers published  
in those same years (Y-1, Y-2, Y-3, Y-4)]

**\*-Papers:** articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers

# CiteScore 2020 methodology

CiteScore 2020 counts the citations received in 2017-2020 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in 2017-2020, and divides this by the number of publications published in 2017-2020.



Want to learn more? Visit [Citescore FAQ](#)

CiteScoreTracker 2021 uses the same methodology with citations based on the latest 2021 data.

## Frequency

	CiteScore	CiteScoreTracker
Calculated	Annually	12 times per year
Updates	None	Monthly
4-year publication window		
Publication types		

## Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)

اسکاپوس ، تفاوت میزان استناد دهی در میان علوم مختلف را با وسیله SNIP نرمال می شود

این مقیاس از طریق تقسیم ضریب نفوذ یک مجله به ظرفیت یک مجله در داشتن استنادات محاسبه می شود

SNIP measures a source's contextual citation impact by weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field. It helps you make a direct comparison of sources in different subject fields.

## SJR (SCImago Journal Rank)

- در SJR نه تنها تعداد استنادات به یک ژورنال در نظر گرفته می شود، بلکه به استنادات توسط ژورنال ها بسته به اهمیت یا پرستژ آنها وزن داده می شود.
- عبارت دیگر استناداتی که توسط ژورنال هایی با اهمیت یا پرستژ بالاتر به مقاله داده می شود دارای ارزش بیشتر می باشد.

SJR is weighted by the prestige of a journal Subject field, quality, and reputation of the journal have a direct effect on the value of a citation.

## 5- What are your personal requirements:

Does the journal usually publish articles quickly; is the "time to publication" important for you?

You might want a quick publication:

If you think your results are valuable to the community and warrant quick dissemination,

or you might need a publication quickly for career/employment purposes.

Some journals have fewer submitted papers than others and may be able to publish accepted articles more quickly

Some popular journals have a fast-track route to publication for papers warranting rapid publication



► If you want a quicker publication, then some regional and national journals are better and right choice because:

1- They don't have as many submitted publications waiting to be reviewed as international journals do

2- If the journal editor thinks your paper is a good match for the journal, your work might enter peer review more quickly than at international journals

3- If accepted, it could enter the publication queue more quickly.

# A systematic approach to choosing the right journal

- ▶ Work through the four-step approach below, answering the questions listed for each factor to help you decide the right journal for your particular paper
  - ▶ Note that the first two steps are specific to you, and not to the journal
- if you're not clear what you want publication to achieve, you're not yet ready to choose among journals.



# Step 1. State your message

## What's your take-home message?

- ▶ Your take-home message is your key message that you want your readers to remember about your research.

It is the focus of your paper's arguments and claims. It should be no more than 3 sentences long.

- ▶ Your take-home message will help you determine who your ideal audience will be, and thus which journal is best to reach this audience.
- ▶ Whether you're about to start writing your paper (this is the ideal situation) or you've already written it, you might want to write out your take-home message and keep it visible as you work through the following steps.

## Step 2. Decide your specific publication goals

### ▶ Which audience do you want to reach?

Check your take-home message and write down who would really benefit from knowing your research findings

In other words, write down who your ideal audience is

### ▶ Which audience would benefit from reading your work?

A general audience? (i.e., those reading a transdisciplinary journal, such as Science or Nature)

A more specialist, multidisciplinary audience? (e.g., New England Journal of Medicine and Journal of the American Chemical Society)

A single discipline audience? (e.g., Virology)

A highly specialized audience in a subfield of a single discipline? (e.g., Monthly Hepatitis)?

► Would an international, regional, or national audience be the fit?

An international audience is not always the best target for your message

Maybe a regional or domestic audience would find your message more valuable, especially when geographical or cultural factors are involved in the research.

- ▶ **Language: Do you need translation to reach a key audience?**

Do you need language support to write a paper in English?  
Can you get that support, and do you have funds available to pay if you can't get it free of charge?

- ▶ Related to the next question about access: If your target audience includes authors from less affluent countries, open access publishing can be a good option because it will be free for readers to access your work.
- ▶ Open access publications can reach wider audiences

# Do you want open or closed access to your published paper?

## Open access (OA) journals:

Scholarly journals that are available online to the reader "without financial, legal, or technical barriers"

OA journals are divided into two type:

### 1- No-fee OA journals:

These journals are subsidized and are financed by an academic institution like universities, laboratories, research centers, libraries, hospitals, museums, learned societies

## 2- Fee- based OA journals:

these journals are financed by payment of Article Processing Charges (APC) by submitting authors

- ▶ Does your funding body (if you have one) stipulate open access publications?
- ▶ Do you have enough research funds to pay the APC (Article processing charge) if you want open access?
- ▶ Does the audience you want to reach tend to read closed or open access?

There are several types of OA journals including:

- **Full open access journals** with all content open access
- **Hybrid open access journals** where only some of the content is open access
- **Delayed open access journals** where the content is made open access after a delay (e.g. 12 or 24 months).


# Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

[www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)



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REPRESENTED

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JOURNALS  
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**17,341**  
JOURNALS

**7,022,898**  
ARTICLE RECORDS





## Do you need quick publication?

- ▶ Does the journal fast-track submissions for original articles?
- ▶ If the journal you prefer doesn't accept fast-track original articles, does it accept short/brief communications? Would it be a good choice to write up your research as a short/brief communication?
- ▶ Does the journal's website give the average time from manuscript receipt to first decision (reject or enter peer review), time until final decision, and then time to publication?

Or can you see from scanning published papers what the average times might be from "Received", "Accepted", and "Published" dates, which indicate the time taken for peer review and publication

- ▶ How many issues does the journal publish each year? Does the journal publish regularly, when planned? Does it publish continuously online?

# Current Opinion in Virology Journal

## Editorial Overview

Section Editors write a short overview at the beginning of the section to introduce the reviews and to draw the reader's attention to any particularly interesting developments.

Please see our [Guide for Authors](#) for information on article submission. If you require any further information or help, please visit our [Support Center](#)

[Hide full aims & scope](#)

① CiteScore 7

10.6 

① Impact Factor

7.09 

① Top Readership


US

CN

GB

① Review Time

9.7 weeks



The average number of weeks it takes for an article to go through the editorial review process for this journal, including standard and desk rejects. From manuscript submission to the final editorial decision.

Activate Window  
Go to Settings to activate

## Step 3. Make a list of potential target journals: Check journal's scope, setup, reputation, and impact

Now that your message, target audience, and publication goals are clear, you need to check whether your shortlisted journals can help you achieve these goals

1- Make a list of potential target journals:

You can use Master Journal list ( Web of Sciences ;WOS) or other online databases such as scopus or ScienceDirect to making the list

2- Visit and read the websites for these journals

Every journal should have a page that provides instructions for authors, including information on many of the factors listed above.

3- Eliminate the Journals on your list that are not a match for your manuscript based on the factors listed above

4-Among the remaining journals, it is likely that one or more will stand out as a very good candidate

# Does your paper meet the journal's requirements?

- ▶ Does your paper meet the journal's aims and scope?  
Check this aspect first on the journal's website.

If your research doesn't fall under the journal's stated aims and scope, you'll be wasting time submitting your paper.

- ▶ Does the journal publish the article type that you want to write? Can your paper meet the word, citation, and figure/ table limits in the guidelines for authors?
- ▶ Can you meet the ethical requirements of the journal (regarding authorship, consent, ethics committee approval, data availability, etc.)?

# What type of peer review system is used?

The main types of peer review are:

- 1- Blind review (single blind):** The authors' names are disclosed to the reviewers, but the reviewers' names are not disclosed to the authors
- 2- Double-blind review:** The authors' and reviewers' names are not disclosed to each other.
- 3-Open review:** The authors' and reviewers' names are disclosed to each other.

In some cases, the reviews and author responses may be published alongside the paper.

The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side and bottom of the slide, creating a modern, dynamic feel.

▶ Does the journal offer the type of peer review you are comfortable with and is common in your research field?

▶ Does the average time taken for peer review (from receipt to acceptance) seem reasonable to you

It is too fast (suggesting that peer review is not sufficiently rigorous) and not too long (suggesting you will have a long wait until your work is available to readers)?

▶ Are there usually 2 or more reviewers?

# The peer review process of Current Opinion in Virology Journal



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## Peer review

This journal operates a single anonymized review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of one independent expert reviewer to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. Editors are not involved in decisions about papers which they have written themselves or have been written by family members or colleagues or which relate to products or services in which the editor has an interest. Any such submission is subject to all of the journal's usual procedures, with peer review handled independently of the relevant editor and their research groups. [More information on types of peer review.](#)

# What is the journal's impact?

- ▶ Do you need to consider the journal's impact factor?
- ▶ The impact factor of a journal is not a perfect metric and has many critics, but it is likely to remain in use for the foreseeable future.
- ▶ In fact, some highly specialized, reputable journals have a low impact factor precisely because there are not many researchers working and publishing in the field, so citations to its published papers are naturally fewer.
- ▶ Many journals with a high impact factor have a high rejection rate because of the fierce competition to publish in them.
- ▶ Unless you need a high impact factor publication for a particular reason, then impact factor does not need to be a high-priority consideration.



## Step 4. Decide which journal best meets your requirements

- ▶ Now it's time to weigh up your answers to the questions above to rank your shortlisted journals and choose the journal that best meets your publication needs.
- ▶ If you have time, quickly scan the last few issues of each journal (and any supplement issues) to see whether papers similar to yours have been published recently, which might mean yours would not be considered novel enough for that journal.
- ▶ However, in the opposite vein, your findings might connect well with a recently published paper and you could include discussion of this in your paper.
- ▶ If you happen to get rejected by your first choice of journal, you'll have your shortlist ready for a quick submission to the next most suitable journal.

# Some Journal finders From International Publishers and Databases

1- Match Manuscript from Web Of Science Group:

2- Journal Finder from Elsevier publisher:

<https://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

3- Journal Suggester from Springer publisher:

<https://journalsuggester.springer.com>

4- Journal Finder Beta from Wiley Publisher:

<https://journalfinder.wiley.com>