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Getting to Know Scholarly Journals

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Getting to know Scholarly Journals

Multiple Literacies: Explorations of Reading and Writing
Rebecca Welzenbach, Research Impact Librarian
September 1, 2020
Link to these slides: https://bit.ly/3gzY0tx
Link to full text of this session: https://bit.ly/2DisrXC

Use the U-M VPN:

https://its.umich.edu/enterprise/wifi-networks/vpn

What's a research impact librarian?

I empower scholars to create the conditions under which they can establish:

- A strong public identity
- An account of their contributions to the scholarly enterprise
- A persuasive body of evidence for the impact of their work

Email me at rwelzenb@umich.edu
In more normal times, you'd find me in my office in Hatcher 260A,

For today:

- What's special about scholarly journals (and why should you care)?
- When & why would you want to identify a particular journal, or compare one to another?
- Lenses for evaluating journals
- What next?

What's special about scholarly journals?

PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS:
GIVING SOME
ACCOMPT
OF THE PRESENT
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours
OF THE
INGENIOUS
IN MANY
CONSIDERABLE PARTS
OF THE
WORLD

Vol I.
For Anno 1665, and 1666.

In the SAVOY,
Printed by T. N. for John Martyn at the Bell, a little with-
out Temple-Bar, and James Allestry in Duck-Lane,
Printers to the Royal Society.

- Current model has roots in the 17th century
- Continuing, public record of scholarly exchange
- Peer review
- Growing network of citations
- 10's of thousands of journals actively publishing today

When & why would you want to find, select, or compare journals?

When & Why?

- I have an assignment!

When & Why?

- I have an assignment!
- I found an article I'm interested in & want to evaluate its source.
- I want to keep up with trends in my field. Should I be subscribing to/reading this?
- I need to identify the best possible venue to publish my work.
- I am looking for a variety of readings for a class I'm teaching.
- I am applying for promotion / tenure / a job / a fellowship / a grant / a postdoc and I need to contextualize my work for others who don't know it.

When you know *why*, you can get to *what*:

- Validity
- Reliability
- Rigor
- Exclusivity
- Peer review process
- Timeliness
- Innovation

- Scope & content
- Diversity & representation
- Prestige
- Accessibility/availability
- Copyright practices
- Affiliation with individuals or organizations I trust
- ...etc.

Lenses for evaluating journals

Bibliometric

- Example: Journal Impact Factor (JIF)
- # of citations in the current year / # of items published in the two prior years
- Intended to guide library collections decisions; now often misused as a proxy for quality
- Explore the JIF (and other metrics): Journal Citation Reports
- San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment

Editorial

- Editor-in-Chief and Editorial board
- Scope & Content
- Peer review process
- Acceptance rate
- Learn more: [Platform for Responsible Editorial Policies](#)

Affiliations and Visibility

- Associated with a society, conference, or organization?
- Example: PMLA website
- Abstracting & Indexing: Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory

Publisher Policies & Practices

- Society, Academic, Commercial, Library?
- Copyright policies, Author agreement, deposit rights
- Sherpa Romeo directory of publisher policies
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) Guidelines
- U-M Copyright Office Author's Addenda

This seems like a lot to think about.

I agree. Let's talk more later.

Please, reach out to me!

- Rebecca Welzenbach (rwelzenb@umich.edu)
- [Book an appointment online](#)

Additional resources to explore

Library Research Guides:

- [Research Impact Assessment (Health Sciences)](#)
- [Research Impact Challenge Guide](#) (esp. Days 6-10)
- [Scholarly Publishing](#)

Other:

- [Starting (and Sustaining!) a Journal](#)
- [Metrics Toolkit](#)
- Karin Wulf on The Scholarly Kitchen Blog: "[If we don't know what citations mean, what does it mean when we count them?](#)"

Thank you!