

# Getting to know Scholarly Journals

Multiple Literacies: Explorations of Reading and Writing  
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Link to these slides: <https://bit.ly/3qzY0tx>

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?

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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](mailto: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

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*Vol. I.*

For *Anno 1665*, and *1666*.

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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?

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- I have an assignment!

# When & Why?

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- 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:

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- 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)
- $\frac{\# \text{ of citations in the current year}}{\# \text{ of items published in the two prior years}}$
- 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.

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Please, reach out to me!

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



# Additional resources to explore

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## 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!