

# The role of the journal in research dissemination

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## International Survey of Authors

This research explores the factors influencing authors when choosing an academic journal for publication of their work. For more information please visit [oamj.org](http://oamj.org).

The survey should take no more than 5 minutes of your time. We would like to know your views relating to the **article and journal indicated in your invitation email**.

All data will be treated confidentially, and no individuals will be identified in the analysis and reporting of the survey results. You may withdraw from the study at any time by closing the browser window without submitting your responses, or, after submission by contacting [lisu@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:lisu@lboro.ac.uk).

Please submit your response by **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.

If you have any questions about this survey please contact LISU ([lisu@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:lisu@lboro.ac.uk)).

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### 1. First of all we need your consent

Please tick here to confirm you agree to take part

Now thinking about the paper specified in your invitation email, which of the subject areas below best describe(s) the disciplinary scope of the paper? *Please select one or more subject areas. If you cannot find appropriate area(s), please click 'Other' and give details.*

#### a. Medical Sciences (select all that apply)

|                               |                            |                         |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Clinical medicine             | Clinical dentistry         | Anatomy & physiology    |
| Nursing & paramedical studies | Health & community studies | Pharmacy & pharmacology |
| Other                         |                            |                         |

i. If you selected Other, please specify:

b. Life Sciences (select all that apply)

|                    |                                   |  |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Biosciences        | Psychology & behavioural sciences | Earth, marine & environmental sciences |
| Veterinary science | Agriculture & forestry            | Other                                  |

i. If you selected Other, please specify:

c. Physical Sciences and Mathematics (select all that apply)

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Chemistry   | Physics                                       | Mathematics                                 |
| General engineering   | Chemical engineering                          | Mineral, metallurgy & materials engineering |
| Civil engineering   | Electrical, electronic & computer engineering | Mechanical, aero & production engineering   |
| Information technology & systems sciences & computer software engineering | Other   |   |

i. If you selected Other, please specify:

d. **Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts** (select all that apply)

|  |                                     |                               |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Architecture, built environment & planning | Catering & hospitality management   | Business & management studies |
| Economics                                  | Geography                           | Social studies                |
| Media studies                              | Humanities & language based studies | History                       |
| Archaeology                                | Modern languages                    | Design & creative arts        |
| Education & Sports                         | Other                               |                               |

i. If you selected Other, please specify:

Your choice of journal

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

2. Thinking about the article and journal identified in the email invitation, please rate the importance of the following factors relating to *quality and reputation* in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|                                 | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Quality of the journal          |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Impact factor of the journal    |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Reputation of the publisher     |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Editor and / or editorial board |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

3. Please rate the importance of the following *social and institutional factors* in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|  | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| External / institutional evaluation of your research |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Recommendation of colleagues                         |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Previous experience of this journal                  |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

4. Please rate the importance of the following *journal features* in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|                                       | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Speed of review & publication process |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Review criteria of the journal        |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| High quality peer reviews             |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| The fact the journal is Open Access   |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Cost of                               |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| publication   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Journal's policy regarding the publication of research data |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5. How would you describe the subject scope of this journal?

|             |                  |            |
|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Very broad  | Broad            | Don't know |
| Specialised | Very specialised |            |

a. How important was this scope in your decision to submit this paper to this journal?

|                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Not at all important | Slightly important  | Moderately important      |
| Very important       | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember |
| Not applicable       |                     |                           |

6. Had you previously submitted the same article elsewhere?

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

a. If yes, was (re)submission of the article to *this* journal made at the suggestion of the editor or publisher of the previous journal?

|     |    |                           |
|-----|----|---------------------------|
| Yes | No | Don't know/can't remember |
|-----|----|---------------------------|

7. If you would like to add any comments about your decision to submit this paper to this journal, please use this space

## Your experience of the publication process

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

8. Thinking about the article and journal identified in the email invitation, please rate each stage of the publication process of this paper

|  | Very poor | Poor | Average/ neutral | Good | Excellent | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|--|-----------|------|------------------|------|-----------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Pre-submission contact with the editor/editorial staff     |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Ease of online submission                                  |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of peer review                                       |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Quality of peer review                                     |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of acceptance following submission of revisions      |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of publication following acceptance                  |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Ease of preparing supplementary research data and material |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Quality of the proofing and presentation of the article    |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Process for signing license agreement                      |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |
| Process for paying article processing or other charges     |           |      |                  |      |           |                           |                |

9. What was the fee for publication (APC or article processing charge)?:

|                                   |                                      |                              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Full cost (APC)                   | Partial cost (partial waiver of APC) | No cost (full waiver of APC) |
| No cost (Journal does not charge) | Don't know/can't remember            |                              |

10. If you would like to add any comments about your experience of the publication process, please use this space

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

11. When you submitted the paper identified in the email invitation, were you aware which of the following peer review criteria were considered by this journal?

|  | Journal considers this | Journal does not consider this | Don't know |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Novelty/originality of the research            |                        |                                |            |
| Relevance/interest of the subject matter       |                        |                                |            |
| Importance/significance of the research        |                        |                                |            |
| Scientific/technical soundness of the research |                        |                                |            |
| Clarity of argument and expression             |                        |                                |            |

12. How likely would you be to submit future manuscripts to the same journal?

|                 |                   |        |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Very likely     | Quite likely      | Unsure |
| Not very likely | Not at all likely |        |

13. How likely would you be to recommend this journal to colleagues?

|                 |                   |        |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------|
| Very likely     | Quite likely      | Unsure |
| Not very likely | Not at all likely |        |

14. If you would like to comment on the reasons for your answers to Q12/13, please use this space:

Finally, please tell us about yourself

15. Which of the following best describes your institution/organisation? *(please select one)*

|                       |                            |                    |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| University or college | Hospital or medical school | Research Institute |
| Government            | Industrial/commercial      | Other              |

a. If you selected Other, please specify:

16. In which country is your institution/organisation based?

17. For how long have you been conducting research?

|                    |             |                    |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Fewer than 3 years | 3-5 years   | 6-9 years          |
| 10-14 years        | 15-24 years | 25 years or longer |
| Not applicable     |             |                    |



18. Approximately how many articles did you publish in 2016?

|       |              |      |
|-------|--------------|------|
| 0     | 1-5          | 6-10 |
| 11-20 | More than 20 |      |

Clinical medicine

Nursing & paramedical  
studies

Other

Clinical dentistry

Health & community  
studies

Anatomy & physiology

Pharmacy &  
pharmacology

*i.* If you selected Other, please specify:

*b.* **Life Sciences** *(select all that apply)*

Biosciences

Psychology &  
behavioural sciences

Earth, marine &  
environmental  
sciences

Veterinary science

Agriculture & forestry

Other

*i.* If you selected Other, please specify:

*c.* **Physical Sciences and Mathematics** *(select all that apply)*

Chemistry

General engineering

Civil engineering

Information technology  
& systems sciences &  
computer software  
engineering

Physics

Chemical engineering

Electrical, electronic &  
computer engineering

Other

Mathematics

Mineral, metallurgy &  
materials engineering

Mechanical, aero &  
production engineering

*i.* If you selected Other, please specify:

**d. Social Sciences, Humanities & Arts** (select all that apply)

Architecture, built environment & planning

Economics

Media studies

Archaeology

Education & Sports

Catering & hospitality management

Geography

Humanities & language based studies

Modern languages

Other

Business & management studies

Social studies

History

Design & creative arts

**i.** If you selected Other, please specify:

## Your choice of journal

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

- 2.** Thinking about the article and journal identified in the email invitation, please rate the importance of the following factors relating to **quality and reputation** in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|                                 | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Quality of the journal          |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Impact factor of the journal    |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Reputation of the publisher     |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Editor and / or editorial board |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

3. Please rate the importance of the following *social and institutional factors* in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|  | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| External / institutional evaluation of your research |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Recommendation of colleagues                         |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Previous experience of this journal                  |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

4. Please rate the importance of the following *journal features* in your decision to submit this paper to this journal:

|   | Not at all important | Slightly important | Moderately important | Very important | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Speed of review & publication process   |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| Review criteria of the journal          |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| High quality peer reviews               |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |
| The fact the journal is not Open Access |                      |                    |                      |                |                     |                           |                |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| The fact that I can publish in this journal without charge  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Journal's policy regarding the publication of research data |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**5. How would you describe the subject scope of this journal?**

|             |                  |            |
|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Very broad  | Broad            | Don't know |
| Specialised | Very specialised |            |

**a. How important was this scope in your decision to submit this paper to this journal?**

|                      |                     |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Not at all important | Slightly important  | Moderately important      |
| Very important       | Extremely important | Don't know/can't remember |
| Not applicable       |                     |                           |

**6. Had you previously submitted the same article elsewhere?**

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | No |
|-----|----|

**a. If yes, was (re)submission of the article to *this* journal made at the suggestion of the editor or publisher of the previous journal?**

|     |    |                           |
|-----|----|---------------------------|
| Yes | No | Don't know/can't remember |
|-----|----|---------------------------|

7. If you would like to add any comments about your decision to submit this paper to this journal, please use this space

## Your experience of the publication process

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8. Thinking about the article and journal identified in the email invitation, please rate each stage of the publication process of this paper

|  | Very poor | Poor | Average/neutral | Good | Excellent | Don't know/can't remember | Not applicable |
|--|-----------|------|-----------------|------|-----------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Pre-submission contact with the editor/editorial staff     |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Ease of online submission                                  |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of peer review                                       |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Quality of peer review                                     |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of acceptance following submission of revisions      |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Speed of publication following acceptance                  |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Ease of preparing supplementary research data and material |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Quality of the proofing and presentation of the article    |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
| Process for signing license agreement                      |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |
|  |           |      |                 |      |           |                           |                |

Process for paying article processing or other charges

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**9. Was a fee (APC) paid to make your article immediately open access?**

|                |    |                           |
|----------------|----|---------------------------|
| Yes            | No | Don't know/can't remember |
| Not applicable |    |                           |

**10. If you would like to add any comments about your experience of the publication process, please use this space**

|  |
|--|
|  |
|--|

This part of the survey uses a table of questions, [view as separate questions instead?](#)

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|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
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| Relevance/interest of the subject matter       |                        |                                |            |
| Importance/significance of the research        |                        |                                |            |
| Scientific/technical soundness of the research |                        |                                |            |
| Clarity of argument and expression             |                        |                                |            |

**12. How likely would you be to submit future manuscripts to the same journal?**

|             |              |        |
|-------------|--------------|--------|
| Very likely | Quite likely | Unsure |
|-------------|--------------|--------|

Not very likely

Not at all likely

**13. How likely would you be to recommend this journal to colleagues?**

Very likely

Quite likely

Unsure

Not very likely

Not at all likely

**14. If you would like to comment on the reasons for your answers to Q12/13, please use this space:**

**Finally, please tell us about yourself**

**15. Which of the following best describes your institution/organisation? *(please select one)***

University or college

Hospital or medical  
school

Research Institute

Government

Industrial/commercial

Other

**a.** If you selected Other, please specify:

**16. In which country is your institution/organisation based?**

**17. For how long have you been conducting research?**



Fewer than 3 years

3-5 years

6-9 years

10-14 years

15-24 years

25 years or longer

Not applicable

**18. Approximately how many articles did you publish in 2016?**

0

1-5

6-10

11-20

More than 20