The Wheat from the Chaff: Locating High Quality OA Resources

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The challenge

Promoting open access journals to our faculty while addressing concerns about the quality of these journals.
Evaluating print publications

- Publisher reputation
- Editor reputation
- Peer review process conforms to discipline
- Submission guidelines
- Quality of published papers
- Impact factor
What’s New with OA?

- Business models - authors may be charged, rather than subscribers
- Predatory publishers
  - Opportunity for publishers to charge authors, but not provide quality
  - Authors and institutions have an interest in producing quality publications
  - Vanity presses
A Question

Faculty member comes to you and asks:

“I am considering publishing in an open access journal, but I’m concerned that some aren’t very good. How do I find a reputable, quality OA journal in my field?”
Directory of Open Access Journals is a good place to start to find OA journals in a discipline.

- Search by Subject, Country, License, and Publication Charges
027.7: Zeitschrift für Bibliothekskultur

ISSN/EISSN: 22960597
Subject: Library and Information Science
Country: Switzerland
Language: German, English
Start year: 2013
Publication fee: No --- Further Information
License: [CC BY] SPARC Europe

Abstract | Keywords | Issues | SHARE
June 2013, DOAJ announces both new criteria and a seal, and asks for comments.

- Criteria is basic criteria for an OA journal.
- Seal focuses more on degree of openness than quality of content.
DOAJ Criteria

- DOAJ considering new criteria:
  - Provide basic info (title, ISSN, etc.)
  - Be registered with SHERPA/RoMEO
  - Have an editorial board with identifiable members
  - Publish at least 5 articles per year
  - Allow use and reuse of articles at specified levels
DOAJ Seal of Approval

- DOAJ Seal criteria include:
  - Provide machine readable copyright info
  - Provide DOIs at the article level
  - Provide metadata to DOAJ at article level
  - Have digital archiving/preservation arrangement
  - Allow use and reuse of articles at specified levels
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SPARC Europe
DOAJ Criteria and Seal

- Is the DOAJ criteria comparable with how we have traditionally evaluated print?

- Let’s look at other criteria that we can apply to OA journals . . .
OASPA

- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
  - Member organization for OA publishers
  - Members must meet criteria as OA publishers and are expected to follow Code of Conduct
Code of Conduct

Members of OASPA are expected to adhere to the Professional Code of Conduct adopted by the Board:

- Members should not indulge in any practices or activities that could bring the Association or open access publishing into disrepute;
- Company contact information shall be clearly visible on the website;
- All articles or books shall be subjected to some form of peer-based review process. This process and policies related to peer review shall be clearly outlined on the journal or publisher website;
- Journals shall have editorial boards or other governing bodies whose members are recognized experts in the field(s) that constitute the scope of the journal;
- Any fees or charges related to publishing materials in the journal or for publishing books shall be clearly stated and be easy to find for potential authors;
- Any direct marketing activities publishers engage in shall be appropriate and unobtrusive;
- An organization’s journal or book licensing policy (including policy on re-use and redistribution) shall be clearly stated and visible on the website;
- Instructions to authors shall be available and easily located from the journal homepage;
- The member’s website demonstrates that care has been taken to ensure high standards of presentation;
- Misconduct may be reported to the Board of Directors.

In some cases we might contact editorial board members and/or authors during the membership application review process to determine whether content and editorial practices are rigorous.

This Code of Conduct is regularly reviewed and revised by the OASPA Board, to ensure consistent high standards in OA publishing.
OASPA Code of Conduct

- Members of OASPA are expected to:
  - Not bring disrepute to OASPA or OA publishing
  - Have contact info clearly visible
  - Have peer review process
  - Have editorial board with experts in field
  - Authors fees are stated and easy to find
  - Direct marketing as appropriate
  - Instructions for authors is available
  - Website demonstrates following high standards
COPE

- Committee on Publication Ethics
  - Member organization for publishers (not just OA publishers)
  - Members are expected to:
    - follow the Code of Conduct for Journal Publishers and
    - encourage their editors to follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors
Publishers who are Committee on Publication Ethics members and who support COPE membership for journal editors should:

- Follow this code, and encourage the editors they work with to follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors (http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf)
- Ensure the editors and journals they work with are aware of what their membership of COPE provides and entails
- Provide reasonable practical support to editors so that they can follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors (http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf)

Publishers should:

- Define the relationship between publisher, editor and other parties in a contract
- Respect privacy (for example, for research participants, for authors, for peer reviewers)
- Protect intellectual property and copyright
- Foster editorial independence
COPE – Journal Publishers

- Code of Conduct for Journal Publishers:
  - Define relationship between publisher, editor and others in contracts
  - Respect privacy (ex. research participants)
  - Protect intellectual property
  - Foster editorial independence
COPE – Journal Editors

- Publishers should work with editors to:
  - Set policies for editorial independence, research ethics, authorship, transparency, peer review, appeals and complaints
  - Communicate journal policies
  - Maintain integrity of academic record
  - Publish corrections, clarifications and retractions
Publisher Associations

What if publisher isn’t a member of either OASPA or COPE?
Beall’s List of Predatory Publishers

- List of questionable, scholarly open-access publishers compiled by Jeffrey Beall at Auraria Library in Denver

- Site includes a list by journal title
LIST OF PUBLISHERS

Beall’s List:

Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers

This is a list of questionable, scholarly open-access publishers. We recommend that scholars read the available reviews, assessments and descriptions provided here, and then decide for themselves whether they want to submit articles, serve as editors or on editorial boards. The criteria for determining predatory publishers are here.

We hope that tenure and promotion committees can also decide for themselves how importantly or not to rate articles published in these journals in the context of their own institutional standards and/or...
Beall’s Criteria

Beall analyses five areas:

- Follow ethical standards like OASPA, COPE
- Editor and Staff
- Business management
- Integrity
- Other/Basic quality
  - No copyediting, publishing previously published papers, etc.
Beall’s List

- Publishers/journals on the list are worthy of additional investigation, but best to make your own judgments
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How do you answer?
Links

- DOAJ - http://www.doaj.org/