

Indexing of Journal: Advantages and Challenges

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Abstract:

Journals are an excellent means to convey research findings, latest discoveries and developments, and future research prospects to the public. Articles published in peer reviewed academic journals are approved by experts in the field and are therefore reliable resources that can be referred to by researchers, policy makers, and the general public. Journals often consider submitting an application to be listed in a journal index, as this provides credibility and is considered as a sign of the journal's quality. Indexes have specific requirements for inclusion, and these can vary significantly. Indexing is the process by which journals are listed with searchable databases that compile (often subject-specific) data to be accessed by academics and researchers. Most institutions have access to these databases on a subscription basis, or use them as reference tools to create their own internal databases, so they are essential in getting content to potential readers. Currently, there are many online indexing sites such as – MEDLINE, PubMed Central, Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), and Scopus, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journal, UGC-Care List etc. Though these indexing bodies are promoting quality work but many of them are too expensive. Indexing has many advantages as well as drawbacks but it can be said that advantages have an upper hand.

Introduction:

A journal is a scholarly publication containing articles written by researchers, professors and other experts. Unlike newspapers and magazines, journals are intended for an academic or technical audience, not general readers. Journals may focus on a specific discipline or field of study. Now a day there are many multi-disciplinary Journals which publish research work of different field and disciplines.

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Journals offer a wide collection of scholarly articles that can be used for understanding the progress of knowledge in a research field and for developing ideas for further research. Thus, academic journals enable communication between

scholars, form the basis for the development of further ideas, and track emerging ideas in the field of science. Moreover, getting published in reputable journals increases the visibility and credibility of the researchers and furthers career opportunities.

Educational Journals are very important in making sure that teachers are well-aware of the newest trends, discoveries, innovations and updated knowledge of the subject that they are teaching. While educators impart knowledge to their students inside the classrooms, most often than not, the knowledge that they are imparting becomes obsolete through the years.

Seasoned teachers who are not updated with current discoveries are unaware that the things they are teaching their students are no longer accepted. This becomes one of the reasons students start to question the credibility of the educational system. While educators believe that learning should not stop inside the classrooms, it always turns out that they never really practice what they preach. Since change is constant, making sure that, as educator,

you are adept with every little change should be your primary concern.

In order to make sure that educators are credible, thereby making sure that education will be perceived credible as well, a lot of concerned organizations and individuals started to form publications in different subject matter that aims to help teachers do better with their field. While most of these journals are normally-peer reviewed, being mostly based from renowned organizations, the people who manage these journals are deemed credible in their field. If one wants to know what are the major academic journals, there are countless web based journals that are accessible to be viewed by the public.

When journals are started, registering for an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) is one of the first steps. An ISSN is a persistent identifier for each title and can be obtained free of charge from the ISSN International Centre. Using ISSNs offers a reliable way to distinguish one journal from another as well as identifying the publishing organization.

After covering this basic requirement, journals often consider submitting an application to be listed in a journal index, as this provides credibility and is considered as a sign of the journal's quality. Indexes have specific requirements for inclusion, and these can vary significantly.

Indexing of Journal:

Indexing is the process by which journals are listed with searchable databases that compile (often subject-specific) data to be accessed by academics and researchers. Most institutions have access to these databases on a subscription basis, or use them as reference tools to create their own internal databases, so they are essential in getting content to potential readers. There are two types of indexation:

1. Full text (FT):

Access to the entire text is granted through the database, usually on a subscription basis (as with, for example, JSTOR and EBSCO). There are also FT open access (OA) databases that any OA journals are welcome to apply to.

2. Abstract-only:

The metadata for a journal is compiled and accessible through the database. A link is provided to access the article (if the searcher has a subscription already)/purchase the article (if they do not). The metadata they display includes journal titles, article titles, abstracts, authors, date of publication, volume and issue numbers, page numbers, subject areas, keywords, DOI, etc.

Indexing is a database of journals having a good track record of maintaining the ethical concerns as well as the quality of publications. Indexed journals are considered to be higher in terms of quality when compared with any non-indexed journal. They have better visibility thus helping quality papers being submitted to the journal. The authority and reputation of the journal also get improved. All these factors further increase the impact factor of the journal. An indexed journal is one that is indexed in various databases, depending on the scope of that journal. A citation index is a bibliographic database, allowing the user to easily search the manuscripts that cite the earlier published articles. Currently, there are many online bibliographic sites such as – MEDLINE, PubMed Central, Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), and Scopus, Web of Science, Directory of Open Access Journal, UGC-Care List etc.

In order to be indexed, a journal usually applies to the selected database, providing relevant documents and evidence. Each index will have different criteria, but they will generally check that the journal meets basic scholarly publishing standards. These may include checking that the journal has a clear scope, provides information on peer review, copyright and ethics, has a clear editorial board page with names and titles, issues Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) and publishes article-level metadata. It is free to apply for indexing, but there may be costs associated with complying with the index criteria, such as the generation of XML files.

If the journal meets all the criteria, it will be indexed and become available to the users of that database. If the journal does not meet the criteria required for indexing, changes may need to be introduced to make sure that it becomes eligible.

Journals that are rejected can typically reapply for inclusion at different time intervals, depending on the rules of each individual index.

Advantages of Indexing of Journal:

The more platforms a journal is visible on, the greater the opportunity it has to build a solid reputation in its field. The benefits include:

- helping to make a journal as accessible – to as wide an audience – as possible (thus increasing citations).
- improving the journal's reputation as a reliable source of information in its field
- increasing a journal's subscriptions and submission rate
- conforming to some institutions and governmental schemes' requirements for researchers' work to be published in well-indexed journals (for example, scholars from some institutions must publish within journals indexed with Scopus)
- providing ranking measurements, known as metrics, to give an idea of how successful the journal is in its field
- improving journal's chance of getting indexed with more prestigious databases in the future
- increasing journal's visibility and impact in areas like governmental policy and academic curricula. ProQuest's Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA), for example, is intended as a database for political researchers and government officials.
- Improving citations and affecting the impact factor of the Journal.
- With the growth of fully open access journals and online-only journals, recognizing "predatory" journals and their publishers has become difficult. Indexing a journal in one or more well-known databases is a good sign the journal is credible.

Challenges in Indexing of Journal:

Selecting an indexed journal is an important part of the publication journey. Indexing a Journal is also important. But there are many challenges in Indexing of Journal and identifying a reliable indexing body. Some challenges are mentioned below:

Many journals don't accept medical case reports because they don't have high citation rates.

Prices are expensive to access these databases.

Articles/Research Papers that are longer are more often cited.

Most of the journals that are not much available to the reader will never be able to achieve a higher impact factor, no matter how good the quality might be.

The journals that are not in English language, face language barriers.

The challenge for journals is that being indexed relies upon a thorough adherence to editorial standards and best practices for which no shortcut exists and no publisher can overcome.

Conclusion:

Thus it can be concluded that in the era of online and open access Journal getting indexed in any reputed indexing body is almost one of the basic requirement. There are numerous indexing bodies around the world, out of which many have got an edge. Many bodies who grants fund for research work insist on getting the papers of researchers published in certain indexing bodies. Though these indexing bodies are promoting quality work but many of them are too expensive. Indexing has many advantages as well as drawbacks but it can be said that advantages have an upper hand.

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