

## SECTION 2

# **How and Where to Publish**



## CHAPTER 3

# How to Choose a Journal: Scientific and Practical Considerations

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### Introduction

One of the most important and least understood decisions made in the course of publishing a scientific article is the choice of a journal. The decision influences the audience reached, the context in which work is presented, and the time it takes to achieve formal publication. At best, the right choice of a journal results in the rapid publication of an article that achieves the exposure it deserves. At worst, the wrong choice results in rejection, delay, and even loss of an author's motivation to persist in seeking publication for a potentially valuable scientific contribution. And in some cases the choice of a journal operated by a predatory publisher can embarrass an author when it is learned that the journal does not conduct peer review and will publish anything for a fee.

Journal choice is little understood even by those who have spent decades in the field of addiction research. One reason for this state of affairs is that the field is rapidly changing, with new publication opportunities and formats constantly being added (e.g., electronic journals; e-pub ahead of print; open access; or interactive, supplemented with media options such as audio and video) and more traditional organs of communication (e.g., print journals) adapting to new technology. Another reason for the difficulty in choosing a publication outlet is that, until recently, there was little communication between journal editors and their potential authors. As indicated in Chapter 12, the process by which a journal decides to accept or reject a given article has been mysterious.

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Most journals have carefully preserved the mystery within the “black box” of editorial decision making. With virtually no formal training programs on how to write for and publish in scholarly journals, novices often find that the learning process for them has been left to chance and to the luck of finding an experienced mentor.

This chapter provides guidance on how to choose a journal for a scholarly publication on the subject of addiction, broadly defined as any topic dealing with psychoactive substances as well as behavioral addictions, such as gambling. A basic assumption of this chapter is that the primary purpose of publishing is to communicate findings and ideas to a broader audience than one’s immediate circle. Our focus is on scholarly journals, which have become the primary organ (in addition to conference presentations, posters, books, and abstracts) of the scientific communication system that has evolved over the past century. Our main interest is in the addiction specialty journals, which limit their subject matter to research on psychoactive substances and related addictive behaviors. To the extent that many articles on addiction topics are also published in disciplinary journals devoted to psychology, biology, sociology, medicine, and other relevant professional disciplines, we will also consider how to choose among these journals as well.

### **Growth of Addiction Specialty Journals and Other Publication Sources**

A scientific journal has multiple roles and functions. Journals provide a forum for scientific communication and should certify the scientific value of an individual author’s work. They provide access to reliable knowledge and, at the same time, confer scholarly prestige and facilitate career advancement (see LaFollette, 1992). The number of journals focusing on addiction-related articles since the late 19th century, when addiction publishing first began, accelerated during the 1970s and 1980s, and has continued to grow dramatically since 2007. By the year 2016, there were more than 120 addiction specialty journals operating throughout the world.

A majority of the peer-reviewed addiction journals are published in English, which has emerged as the main language for international scientific communication (Babor, 1993). Details about the member journals of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) are provided in Tables 3.1 and 3.2. The data in these tables are based on the results of a 2015 survey of ISAJE journal editors. The survey results were supplemented by a review of public information sources, such as the journal’s webpage (if available), print copies of the journal, and its instructions to authors.

Table 3.1 lists the titles of the English-language journals along with information about the substances or addictive behaviors they are concerned with (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, licit and illicit drugs, pathological gambling, other behavioral

Journal Name	Substances (1)	Areas of Interest (2)	Issues per Year	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor (3)	Print/ Online	Fees	Open Access (4)	Abstracting & Indexing Services (5)
<i>Addicta: The Turkish Journal on Addictions</i>	A,D,T,O	T,P,Po,CE, H,PM,S	2	25%	-	Both	Free	Full	2
<i>Addiction</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P,G,Po, SE,PE,H,S	12	15%	4.97	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 76
<i>Addiction Science &amp; Clinical Practice</i>	A,D,T	HR,T,Po	N/A	50%	-	Online Only	Processing fee	Full	Scopus; MEDLINE 9
<i>Addictive Behaviors</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P,N,Po, SE,PE,PM,S	12	40%	2.80	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 20
<i>Advances in Dual Diagnosis</i>	A,D	HR,T,P,Po, PE,B,PM,S	4	-	-	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	Scopus 5
<i>African Journal of Drug and Alcohol Studies</i>	A,D,T	HR,T,P,Po,SE, PE,PM,S	2	60%	-	Online Only	Free	Full	PsycINFO; Scopus 9
<i>Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly</i>	A	HR,T,P,Po, SE,PM,S	4	80%	-	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus 11
<i>Alcoholism: Clinical &amp; Experimental Research</i>	A,T,O	A,HR,T,P,N, G,Po,SE,PE, CE,B,PM,S	12 + 1-2 supplements	51%	2.83	Online Only	Page Fee	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 47
<i>American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse</i>	A,D	A,HR,T,P,N, G,Po,PE,B	6	-	1.83	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 21

Journal Name	Substances (1)	Areas of Interest (2)	Issues per Year	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor (3)	Print/ Online	Fees	Open Access (4)	Abstracting & Indexing Services (5)
<i>Canadian Journal of Addiction/Le Journal Canadien d'Addiction</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P, Po,PM,S	3	80%	-	Both	Free	Full	Scopus (in process of applying to PsycINFO, MEDLINE) 9 (3 more in process)
<i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i>	A,T,D	A,HR,T, P,N,GPo, SE,PE,H, B,PM,S	12	-	3.35	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 20
<i>Drug and Alcohol Review</i>	A,T,D	HR,T,P,Po, SE,PE, H,B, PM,S	6	-	2.41	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 34
<i>Drugs: Education, Prevention &amp; Policy</i>	A,T,D	HR,T,P, Po,H, S	6	-	0.76	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus 25
<i>Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology</i>	A,D,T,O	A,HR,T,P, N,G,SE, PE,CE,B, PM	6	56%	2.14	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus; MEDLINE 15
<i>International Gambling Studies</i>	O	A,HR,T,P,N, Po,SE,PE,H, B,PM,S	3	49%	1.23	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus 8

<i>International Journal of Alcohol and Drug Research</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P,Po, SE,PM,S	2-4	89%	-	Online Only	Page Fee	Full	PsycINFO 6
<i>Journal of Addiction Medicine</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P, Po, SE,PE,B, PM,S	6	48%	2.07	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 39
<i>Journal of Addictions Nursing</i>	A,O	HR,T,P, Po,PM,S	4	-	0.48	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 18
<i>Journal of Addictive Diseases</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P,N, G,Po,SE, PE,CE,B, PM,S	4	-	1.78	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; MEDLINE 16
<i>Journal of Behavioral Addictions</i>	O	HR,T,P,N, G,SE,PE, B,PM,S	4	-	2.49	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 11
<i>Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research</i>	A,T,D	A,HR,T, N,G,B,PM	1	90%	-	Online Only	Processing Fee	Full	4
<i>Journal of Gambling Issues</i>	O	HR,T,P, Po,SE,PE, H,B,PM,S	2 (+ 1 supplement)	60%	-	Online Only	Free	Full	PsycINFO; Scopus 10
<i>Journal of Groups in Addiction and Recovery</i>	A,T,D,O	HR,T, PM,S	4	-	-	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus 18

Journal Name	Substances (1)	Areas of Interest (2)	Issues per Year	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor (3)	Print/ Online	Fees	Open Access (4)	Abstracting & Indexing Services (5)
<i>Journal of Psychoactive Drugs</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,N, Po,SE,PE, H,B,PM,S	5	-	1.78	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus; MEDLINE 14
<i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs</i>	A,D,T	HR,T,P, N,G,Po, SE,PE, B,PM,S	6	-	2.20	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 27
<i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,Po, PE,PM,S	10	-	2.47	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 14
<i>Journal of Substance Use</i>	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P, Po,PM	6	-	0.89	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus 11
<i>Nicotine &amp; Tobacco Research</i>	T	A,HR,T, PN,G, Po,SE,PE, CE,B,PM,S	6	38%	3.81	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 16
<i>Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (Nordisk Alkohol &amp; Narkotikatidskrift)</i>	A,D,T,O	T,P,Po,SE, H,PM,S	6	67%	0.77	Both	Free	Full	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus 36



<i>Psychopharmacology</i>	A,D,T,O	A,HR, TPN,G, PE,B	24	-	3.54	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 35
<i>Substance Abuse</i>	A,D,T	A,HR,T, PPo,SE, PE,CE,H, B,PM,S	4	-	2.58	Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE 13

**Table 3.1:** ISAJE-member journals published in the English language.

- (1) Substances: A = alcohol; D = licit and illicit psychoactive drugs other than alcohol; T = tobacco and other nicotine products; O = other substances and addictive behaviors, including gambling and eating disorders.
- (2) Areas of Interest: A = animal research; HR = human research; T = treatment; P = prevention; N = neuroscience; G = genetics; Po = policy; SE = social epidemiology; PE = psychiatric epidemiology; CE = chronic disease epidemiology; H = history; B= biological mechanisms; PM = psychological mechanisms; S = social factors.
- (3) Thomson Reuters 2015 Impact Factor. From 2016 Release of Journal Citation Reports. Source: 2015 Web of Science Data.
- (4) This column indicates the journal's open access policy. Full = all articles of the journal are made available to the reader for free online; Hybrid 1 = open access only for those individual articles for which the authors or the author's institution or funder pay an open access publishing fee; Hybrid 2 = all articles are open access after an embargo period, usually one year.
- (5) This column lists up to four of the largest abstracting and indexing services, if the journal is included in them (PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE), plus the total number of abstracting and indexing services that are claimed by the journal, including those listed.

Journal Name	Language	Substances (1)	Areas of Interest (2)	Issues per year	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor (3)	Print/ Online	Fees	Open Access	Abstracting/ Indexing Services (4)
<i>Addicta: The Turkish Journal on Addictions</i>	Turkish & English	A,D,T,O	T,P,Po,CE, H,PM,S	2	25%		Both	Free	Full	2
<i>Adiktologie</i>	Articles submission in Czech, Slovak or English	A,D,T,O	A,HR,T,P,N, Po,SE,PE,CE, H,PM,S	4 + 1-2 supplements	85%		Both	Free	Hybrid 2	Scopus 4
<i>Alkoholizm i Narkomania (Alcoholism and Drug Addiction)</i>	Polish & English	A,D,T	A,HR,T,P, G,Po,SE,PE, H,B,PM,S	4	85%		Both	Free	Full	3
<i>Drogues, santé et société</i>	French (English Abstracts)	A,D,T	H,T,P,N,Po, SE,PE,H, PM,S	2	68%		Online Only	Free	Full	PsycINFO 5
<i>Exartisis</i>	Greek (English Abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,PM,S	2	85%		Print Only	Free	No	N/A
<i>Narcologia</i>	Russian	A,D,T,O	HR,T,PPo, SE,PE,H,B, PM,S	12			Print Only	N/A	N/A	N/A

<i>Nordisk Alkohol &amp; Narkotikatiskrift (Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs)</i>	English, Danish, Norwegian, & Swedish	A,D,T,O	T,P,Po,SE, H,PM,S	6	67%	0.77	Both	Free	Full	PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus 36
<i>SUCHT</i>	German (with English abstracts and titles), but some articles in English	A,D,T,O	HR,T,P,Po, SE,PE,H, PM,S	12	80%		Both	Free	Hybrid 1	PsycINFO; Scopus 10
<i>Suchtmedizin (Addiction Medicine)</i>	German (English Summaries)	A,D,T,O	T,P,Po,SE, PE,B,S	6	-		Both	Free	Full	Scopus 2

**Table 3.2:** ISAJE-member journals published in languages other than English.

- (1) Substances: A = alcohol; D = licit and illicit psychoactive drugs other than alcohol; T = tobacco and other nicotine products; O = other substances and addictive behaviors, including gambling and eating disorders.
- (2) Areas of Interest: A = animal research; HR = human research; P = prevention; N = neuroscience; G = genetics; Po = policy; SE = social epidemiology; PE = psychiatric epidemiology; CE = chronic disease epidemiology; H = history; B= biological mechanisms; PM = psychological mechanisms; S = social factors.
- (3) Thomson Reuters 2015 Impact Factor. From 2016 Release of Journal Citation Reports. Source: 2015 Web of Science Data.
- (4) This column lists up to four of the largest abstracting and indexing services, if the journal is included in them (PsycINFO; Web of Science; Scopus; MEDLINE), plus the total number of abstracting and indexing services that are claimed by the journal, including those listed.

addictions); general topical areas covered (e.g., treatment, prevention, epidemiology, biological mechanisms, history); and details about the journals' frequency of publication, acceptance rate, impact factor, and dissemination channels (i.e., abstracting or indexing services). Table 3.2 provides similar information for journals published in languages other than English. These tables were last updated in January 2017; the most current list of ISAJE member journals is available on [www.isaje.net](http://www.isaje.net).

The number of specialized addiction journals is only part of the story of how the addiction field has grown in size and complexity. A significant portion of the addiction literature is also published in scholarly journals that have a more general orientation toward disciplines such as medicine, psychology, biochemistry, sociology, economics, and public health. In an earlier version of this chapter published in the first edition of *Publishing Addiction Science*, we reported that 58% of the alcohol-related articles prior to 2003 were published in general or disciplinary journals and that 42% were published in addiction specialty journals. When the articles were subclassified as either “biomedical” (i.e., dealing with biological or medical topics) or “psychosocial” (i.e., dealing with topics such as treatment, prevention, epidemiology, psychology, or social policy), the addiction specialty journals published a higher percentage of articles on psychosocial topics, whereas disciplinary journals published a greater share of the biomedical articles.

<i>Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research</i>
<i>Drug and Alcohol Dependence</i>
<i>Addictive Behaviors</i>
<i>PLOS One</i>
<i>Neuropsychopharmacology</i>
<i>Addiction</i>
<i>Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs</i>
<i>Substance use and misuse</i>
<i>Psychopharmacology</i>
<i>Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment</i>
<i>Psychology of Addictive Behaviors</i>
<i>Biological Psychiatry</i>
<i>Neuropharmacology</i>
<i>BMC Public Health</i>
<i>Drug and Alcohol Review</i>

**Table 3.3:** Journals publishing the highest annual numbers of articles on alcohol and drug research.

Table 3.3 provides a list of the top 15 of journals publishing articles on alcohol and drug research as identified through a search in Web of Science for articles published in 2014, indexed with any of the following terms: *alcohol*, *alcoholism*, *addiction*, *drug abuse*, *drug addiction*, *substance use*, or *substance abuse*. The table suggests that many disciplinary journals (e. g., *Biological Psychiatry*) also publish significant amounts of addiction research.

In addition to the expanding array of journals that addiction authors have to choose from, many publishers have increased the standard number of issues released per year, added supplements or special issues, and created new electronic formats for submitting articles. With the increased number and breadth of scholarly journals covering addiction-related research, there has probably never been a greater opportunity to publish on the subject. Nevertheless, the plethora of journals has created new challenges for prospective authors, not the least of which is the proliferation of online, open-access journals, some of which have questionable publishing credentials. Other questions that arise in the rapidly changing publishing environment are the following: What are the relative merits of publishing in disciplinary versus addiction specialty journals? How does an author find the most appropriate journal for a particular article? What are the chances that an article will be accepted by a given journal? Which journals have the greatest impact on the field? How does an author know whether a journal will reach the intended audience for a specific article? What are the costs of publishing in pay-per-page journals?

To assist prospective authors in finding answers to these questions, Box 3.1 describes the kinds of decisions that must be made during the search for an

1. Decide first whether the article is primarily of interest to a national or an international audience.
2. Consider the language of publication.
3. Consider whether to publish in a generic, disciplinary, or addiction specialty journal.
4. Review the journal's content range (type of drug, clinical/basic science, etc.) and general culture.
- 5–6. Evaluate the journal's quality and integrity.
7. Gauge your article's potential exposure by reviewing the journal's indexing and abstracting services, as well as its open-access policy.
8. Evaluate your chances of acceptance.
9. Take into account time to publication and other practical matters.
10. Consider, but don't be fooled by, impact factors.

**Box 3.1:** Ten steps in choosing a journal.

appropriate journal. The following sections expand on this outline, discussing each step in the process. It should be noted that although our review focuses primarily on how to publish a standard article based on original research, the publication of other types of articles (e.g., review articles, theoretical articles, case reports) can also be informed by following these steps.

## Ten Steps in Choosing a Journal

### *1. Decide First Whether the Article is Primarily of Interest to a National or an International Audience*

This is partly a matter of the article's information content and partly a matter of presentation or appeal. If the topic is primarily of local or national interest (e.g., prevalence of substance abuse among Brazilian secondary-school students or an evaluation of a local treatment program) and the presentation is oriented toward professionals in a particular country, then the article should be submitted to a journal capable of reaching that audience, such as one sponsored by a national professional society. If the topic is likely to appeal to scientists or professionals in many countries and the presentation speaks to this broader audience, then an international journal should be considered. Country- or region-specific case studies of international significance and new advancements or findings with potential international follow-up or applications would also suggest the choice of an international journal. In general, the best way to determine the scope and audience of a journal is to visit the journal's website and review its mission statement.

### *2. Consider the Language of Publication*

English has become the main language of scientific communication throughout the world. Nevertheless, significant numbers of scientific articles are published in German, Russian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian, Chinese, and the Scandinavian languages, as indicated by the journals listed in Table 3.2. For most researchers, choosing what language to publish in depends largely on the author's native tongue, the country in which the study was conducted, and the potential audience. Another limiting factor is the availability of an addiction journal that publishes in that language and accepts articles on the author's topic. If one is writing for an international audience, it is wise to choose an English-language journal that can be read by scholars in most countries. Under many circumstances, an article in English will have greater exposure, especially when the journal's articles are included in major abstracting and indexing services (e.g., MEDLINE, Web of Science), most of which operate in the English

language. Some journals demonstrate an intentional internationalism that is expressed in a readiness to publish articles and review books submitted from many different countries.

English-language authors can choose between national, more specialized journals or the bigger international journals, depending on the quality of the article, the importance of the findings, and the audience one wishes to reach (see Step 1). If the article is likely to be of interest to an international audience but is not written in English, the author can consider publishing it in English in addition to his or her native language. Multiple publications in different languages, however, require permission from both of the journal editors involved. In some cases, reporting research findings in more than one language will result in very different publications, because the target audience will require different perspectives and background information. The rules of academic integrity and plagiarism still apply, as described in Chapter 14.

Alternatively, researchers writing in languages other than English should consider publishing in journals that provide English-language abstracts (see Table 3.2), thereby gaining *entré* into some of the world's major abstracting services (see Appendix A to this chapter).

In general, journals published in languages other than English provide a valuable service to national and regional audiences that have a special interest in addiction studies. For example, if an article has special relevance to French-speaking populations, the journal *Alcoologie et Addictologie* (*Alcohol and Addiction Studies*) provides immediate access to that audience not only because of the language it is written in but also because of the network through which the journal is distributed (i.e., the Société Française d'Alcoologie et Addictologie [French Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies]). Articles written in languages other than English also fulfill an important function by maintaining language use and terminology current and relevant to the addiction field in all of these languages. With the fast-paced changes in addiction science, shifts in use of language and terminology inadvertently mirror the trends in research, society, and scholarly communication. Authors and editors play a significant role in shaping the language of addiction science and promoting use of preferred terms such as nonstigmatizing words and phrases in every language.

Overall, non-English-language journals serve as a necessary medium for communication among clinicians, scientists, and policymakers within major linguistic areas of the world. They increase the range of cultural and scientific diversity in the addiction field and, in this way, provide new opportunities for authors and readers. In some countries, for instance Finland and Norway, journals in national languages have been upgraded as publication channels, even if they do not have an impact factor. Authors whose first language is English should not ignore the advantages of publishing in these journals, which often have a higher acceptance rate and, in some cases, are open to submissions written in English. Depending on the topic and scope of the article, some journals

are willing to either translate into the language of publication or publish the article directly in English.

### 3. Consider Whether to Publish in a Generic, Disciplinary, or Addiction Specialty Journal

The third step involves examining whether the results of a study are mainly of interest to other addiction researchers or to a more general readership. It is probably easier to get an addiction article accepted in an addiction specialty journal. Publishing in a non-addiction journal may require authors to write the article in a way that is understandable to those who do not speak the “addiction dialect.”

Some journals, such as *Nature* and *Science*, are multidisciplinary and are oriented toward the general scientific community. Other journals, such as *The Lancet* and the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, publish articles dealing with a specific discipline, such as medicine or public health, respectively. In countries without addiction specialty journals, a journal in psychiatry can, for instance, be an important channel for addiction research.

There are several reasons for considering more broadly oriented generic and disciplinary journals. As noted above, disciplinary journals publish a considerable amount of the scientific literature on substance-related research. These journals are generally published by and oriented toward professional groups associated with the major disciplines contributing to addiction studies (i.e., biology, neuroscience, genetics, psychology, medicine, psychiatry, public health, sociology, and anthropology).

Disciplinary journals are sometimes favored by addiction researchers because they are thought to have greater prestige value within a given discipline than addiction specialty journals. Professional advancement for academic researchers is often based on such subtle considerations. Moreover, some of the most popular disciplinary journals (e.g., *The Lancet*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*) have higher impact factors (discussed below) than addiction specialty journals, which adds to their prestige value.

Nevertheless, the chances of publishing an article on an addiction-related subject are sometimes reduced if a journal does not have reviewers or editors familiar with the topic. If a particular disciplinary journal rarely publishes articles on addiction, it is advisable to contact the editor before submitting an article. In addition, if a disciplinary journal has a large circulation and a high impact factor, authors should make sure that the article is likely to be seen as important before submitting it for review. In the remainder of this chapter, we discuss the merits of publishing in addiction specialty journals, which offer a range of opportunities to prospective authors that are comparable to those available in the disciplinary journals.



#### 4. Review the Journal's Content Range and General Culture

Every journal has a culture of its own, sometimes developed over many years of serving a particular professional society or through the influence of editors who sometimes place their own particular imprint on the journal. The best way to understand that culture is to review several issues of the journal in their entirety, including editorials, letters to the editor, and scientific articles. A visit to the journal's homepage will accomplish the same purpose. Prospective contributors should also read the journal's mission statement, which often describes the focus of the journal, its goals, its preferences, and its audience. Although these statements are sometimes dated and written in general terms, they often provide a broad outline of the journal's traditions, image, priorities, and aspirations.

In Tables 3.1 and 3.2, the first column describes the major substances (and addictive behaviors) that each journal considers part of its purview. Some journals (e.g., *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*) are interested in one particular substance, whereas others are quite generic (e.g., *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*). The topical areas covered by a journal are also an important consideration. Some specialize in treatment research, others in biological effects or mechanisms, and still others in prevention or policy. The less a particular article meets a journal's content areas, the more likely it is to be rejected. Even when an article is considered to be scientifically sound and relevant to the addiction field, it may be dismissed by a journal editor because it does not meet with the journal's current priorities and stated mission. It is therefore important for authors to narrow their choice of journals to those whose history and current contents have demonstrated an interest in (or at least an openness to) the topic, substance, and scope of the article being submitted. When in doubt, it is always advisable for authors to talk with colleagues and communicate with journal editors. By asking someone with experience in publishing for advice, younger or less experienced authors can obtain firsthand information about the priorities and preferences of particular journal editors.

#### 5-6. Evaluate the Journal's Quality and Integrity

Until recently, scientific journals were usually managed by publishing companies and professional societies, which vouched for the quality and integrity of the journal. The most important criterion for quality and integrity is the peer-review process, as overseen by a qualified journal editor and the journal's editorial board. A troubling development in scientific publishing is the proliferation of publishing companies that operate online journals of questionable quality and integrity. Twenty-nine journals in the addiction field operate in open-access formats. One third of them are members of ISAJE, which evaluates their

quality and integrity as a condition of membership. Of the remaining journals, several have been evaluated by Thomson Reuters and are listed in the Web of Science. Others are listed in Scopus, PsycINFO, and MEDLINE, which are indexing and abstracting services that have standards that must be met before a journal's articles are listed. And then there are a few online open-access journals that fail to fulfill the minimal criteria for a responsible scientific journal.

Conventional non-open-access journals cover publishing costs through subscriptions and single-article purchases. Some non-open-access journals provide open access after an embargo period of 6–12 months or longer. Some allow authors to post their manuscripts, before final copyediting, on their own or their institution's website. Some allow no open access (see Tables 3.1 and 3.2 for information about the journals that are members of ISAJE).

Open-access journals use a funding model that does not charge readers or their institutions for access. They allow users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of their articles at no cost to the user. Open-access thus provides unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed scholarly research without the need for a journal subscription or use of a university library. A few open-access journals have financial resources, for instance state support, that make it possible to provide open access without any costs for the author (platinum open access). Most open-access journals operate using a business model in which they charge authors fees to publish their articles (gold open access), but some journals waive these charges. Some unscrupulous entrepreneurs have discovered that this financial base offers an opportunity to make money by providing a publication channel without any quality control. It seems that the majority of new open-access journals levy page charges or processing fees as part of a business model in which a publishing company manages scores, sometimes hundreds, of online journals.

The term *predatory publisher* was coined by Jeffrey Beall, a University of Colorado librarian (Beall, 2012). The term refers to some of the open-access publishing companies that engage in questionable practices with regard to journal management, marketing activities, peer review, and page fees. Efforts to test the quality of the review process conducted by these journals have not been encouraging. One researcher (Davis, 2009) submitted an article with nonsense text and fictitious authors, who were listed as being affiliated with the nonexistent "Center for Research in Applied Phrenology." The author received a letter from the editor of *The Open Information Science Journal* stating that the article had been "accepted for publication after peer-reviewing process" (quoted in Davis, 2009). A publication fee of \$800 was requested, to be sent to an address in the United Arab Emirates.

In another case (Bohannon, 2013), a science writer submitted a faked and fabricated cancer article to 305 online journals. The fictitious authors of the article received 157 acceptance letters and 98 rejections. Would the results have been the same had these fake articles been submitted to traditional, subscription-based journals? One would hope that fraud and mediocrity would not be rewarded as

easily, but there is some evidence to suggest that the scientific enterprise is not being protected by the traditional academic publishers either.

Until it stopped operating in 2016, Beall's list of predatory publishers was the main resource for authors to verify the quality of publishers and individual journals. It has also started an entire movement of "journal watching," a grass-roots movement to maintain the integrity of scholarly communication. Information on new and potentially questionable journals is voluntarily submitted as "hat tips" to the website by scholars, authors, and librarians, who report incidents of inappropriate or unethical practices.

Box 3.2 summarizes the characteristics of journals associated with predatory publishers. As indicated in the box, several tactics are used by these journals to take advantage of the situation in which publication in peer-reviewed journals is considered one of the highest distinctions for peer recognition, academic advancement, and personal accomplishment. These include flattering authors with invitations to contribute articles to be included in special issues and the promise of rapid publication in a peer-reviewed journal. Many scientists have received email invitations to serve on editorial boards by these publishers.

1. Rapid acceptance of articles with little or no peer review or quality control
2. Journal names or website styles that resemble those of more established journals
3. Use of poor English grammar and syntax in the journal's website and email communications
4. No issue or only single issue has been published before
5. Aggressive email marketing that urges academics to submit articles or serve on editorial board, sent to you "because of your eminence in the field"
6. Journal editors who have no academic standing or minimal scientific credentials in the topical area of the journal, or the editor cannot be identified at all
7. Article fees not apparent at the time of submission
8. Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission
9. No ethical guidelines, or guidelines that apply to the entire range of journals the publisher operates
10. Misleading information about the location of the publishing operation

**Box 3.2:** Characteristics of journals associated with predatory publishers (adapted from Beall, 2012, 2013).

Prospective board members, regardless of their experience or qualifications, are told that if they decide to publish in the journal, they will receive a discounted fee based on the manuscripts they secure from other authors for the journal. In addition to publishing journals, some predatory publishers host conferences, including the publication of the proceedings, for a fee. The latest development is the appearance of the predatory impact factor, an arbitrary number computed by for-profit publishers for a fee (see later section on impact factor).

In the preparation of this chapter, the authors identified several problems with the approximately 20 journals having addiction-related names that are affiliated with predatory publishers and other non-ISAJE, open-access, online, for-profit publishers. Most did not respond to an editors' survey we conducted. Almost half ( $n = 9$ ) had no identifiable editor. Some were found to falsely list indexing/abstracting services. Many listed Google as one of their indexing/abstracting services.

What are the risks of publishing in these journals? The first risk is that your article may not reach its intended audience because these journals are poorly indexed and may not be permanently stored or archived. Many of them simply cease to exist after a few issues. A second risk is that your contribution to the publisher's profit margin may help to perpetuate journals that engage in questionable publishing practices, including the publication of fabricated articles accepted with minimal or nonexistent peer review. A third risk is that when an article published in a questionable journal is listed in a person's curriculum vitae, it may ultimately cause embarrassment to that individual, or there could be worse consequences. As these problems become more apparent in the future, the quality of journals will be evaluated more rigorously by those charged with protecting scientific integrity, as well as university committees charged with hiring, appointments, promotions, and tenure decisions. Publishing in or being listed on the editorial boards of low-quality or unverifiable journals may be a disadvantage in that these publications could count against hiring, promotion, or tenure because they represent such poor scientific quality.

What can be done to protect authors from being exploited and embarrassed by publishing in a journal that does not operate competently, ethically, and scientifically? In the addiction field, quality control is provided by ISAJE, an organization that insists that its 33 member journals subscribe to a set of core principles covering appropriate peer review, conflict of interest policies, editorial management, and transparency (Farmington Consensus, 1997). As shown in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, ISAJE has several online open access journals that are fully compliant with the Farmington Consensus. Another precaution is to find out whether the journal receives any significant citations by checking Web of Science or the Journal Citation Reports before submitting to an open-access journal. Ulrich's Periodicals Directory, now available online in most academic libraries (on a subscription basis), has been a trusted resource to find information about scholarly journals, magazines, and newsletters since 1932. The most

effective precaution is not to submit an article to an open-access journal published by an organization that meets the criteria listed in Box 3.2, sponsorship by a learned society, email or telephone access to an editor who is qualified to manage manuscripts, evidence that there is a rigorous peer-review process, and the existence of a verifiable Thomson Reuters impact factor are other ways to determine whether a journal is reputable.

Finally, the reputation and scientific standing of a journal can be checked by verifying that the journal is indexed in one or more of the key indexing and abstracting services that disseminate information only about journals that meet minimal criteria for quality and integrity (e.g., MEDLINE, PsycINFO, Scopus, Web of Science). This is discussed in the following section.

### *7. Gauge Your Article's Potential Exposure by Reviewing the Journal's Indexing and Abstracting Services, as Well as its Open-Access Policy*

One of the most important goals of scientific publication is to reach one or more specific audiences, such as the scientific community, clinical practitioners, or policymakers. A journal's ability to provide exposure to these audiences is determined by its circulation (print and electronic) and its dissemination capabilities, determined by access to abstracting and indexing services.

Print circulation refers to the number of copies printed for the journal's subscribers as well as those who receive free copies. Scholarly journals have two major types of subscribers: members of professional organizations and academic libraries. In addition, there are smaller numbers of personal and nonacademic institutional subscribers. Before the advent of the Internet, the number of journal copies in circulation was a good indicator of a journal's exposure. Today, figures describing the number of visits to homepages or the number of downloads may be better measures of how extensively and frequently a journal is read.

In addition to traditional circulation data, article-level alternative metrics beyond page visits and download counts provide evidence of the immediate impact of the article (i.e., readership, as reflected in scholarly social media; Weller, 2015). A new field of measuring scholarly performance, called *altmetrics*, compiles data on the publication's appearance in the various social media outlets, such as shares or mentions on Facebook and Twitter, or in blogs, as well as in mainstream media (Piwowar, 2013; Priem et al., 2012). As evidence of immediate exposure, the citation analysis computed by altmetrics is said to be a good indicator of an article's success when compared with traditional bibliometrics, such as citation counts (Ortega, 2015). A few journals, such as *Addiction*, already indicate these metrics on their sites at the article level, often symbolized with the so-called altmetric donut, with each color representing a different type of alternative metric.

If an article is relevant to the members of a particular learned society (e.g., the British Society for the Study of Addiction to Alcohol or Other Drugs), professional group (e.g., the Canadian Medical Association), or scientific organization (e.g., the Research Society on Alcoholism), then it may make sense to submit the manuscript to a journal that is sponsored by that organization. Many of the journals listed in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 are sponsored by professional organizations or learned societies that provide free subscriptions or reduced rates to their members. For example, *Alcoologie et Addictologie* (*Alcohol and Addiction Studies*) is sponsored by the Société Française d'Alcoologie [French Society of Alcohol Studies], which distributes free copies of the journal to its 1,400 members. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* is published by the American Psychological Association, which makes the journal available to members of the Society of Addiction Psychology (American Psychological Association, Division 50) at a reduced subscription rate. See Chapter 2, Table 2.2 for a complete list.

In addition to targeting organizational subscribers, exposure is also affected by the number of library subscriptions. Libraries, especially university libraries, guarantee exposure to students and scholars, thereby providing direct access to perhaps the most important audience for any scientific communication. Currently, a single subscription from a large university library might mean exposure to as many as several thousand potential readers, because journal subscriptions are based on full-time equivalents (a calculation of faculty, staff, and students). The world of library and information science has changed rapidly in the past decade, with electronic subscriptions replacing or supplementing print copies available on the library shelf. Library subscriptions remain an important conduit for a publication to reach a broader audience than the members of a particular learned society, but now subscriptions are mainly electronic and discoverability and access have become key components of exposure. University libraries and other large information sources have begun to pool resources to increase electronic availability of full-text journals. This also means that the same journal can be available from various content providers on various platforms in various subscription packages. Tools provided by modern technology to describe, organize, and access information include versions of the library catalog, the database of the content provider, and the full text of the article from the journal optimized for mobile devices. The result is an increased discoverability, more exposure, and potentially larger impact. Access to individual articles is no longer limited to content subscribed to by the library. As a result of consortia and interlibrary-loan agreements, those affiliated with an institution of higher education can have full-text articles delivered on their desktop, free of charge, as fast as the next day after placing a request. Unaffiliated readers can also benefit from the better discoverability provided by proprietary and subscription databases, as well as from the new access options for a fee, such as previewing or renting an article instead of purchasing it.

Beyond the journal's print circulation and subscriber base, an article's exposure is now determined primarily by the electronic databases that index the

published literature by author, topic, and bibliographic reference and provide abstracts of articles for potential readers in search of particular types of information. Abstracting and indexing services provide detailed information about the content of scientific journal articles and eBooks by adding metadata and abstracts, which are invaluable for those without immediate access to the full text of the article. Proprietary databases use a controlled vocabulary by establishing preferred terms for each word or concept, such as Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) in MEDLINE. Added to the individual articles by a trained indexer as a subject heading or descriptor, these keywords ensure that the main ideas of the articles will become transparent and are appropriately conveyed. As a result, the article will be discoverable and retrievable via a search conducted in the database. Users can locate relevant articles, chapters, or books in the databases enhanced with abstracting and indexing services at a higher rate of precision by searching the metadata, keywords, and the abstract than they can by using a free search engine, such as Google Scholar, which searches the full text of articles, resulting in higher recall and lower precision. Those affiliated with an institution that has access to the service as well as a subscription to the particular journal can download the full text with the help of an article-linker application. If it is an open-access publication, they can immediately use the full text. Otherwise, they are usually shown information from the publisher on how to access the text. More than 100 companies and institutions currently offer abstracting and indexing services, but many may not cover subject areas related to addiction. At present, no single service or database is available to cover the entire addiction literature, as is the case, for example, for the psychology literature (PsycINFO). To the extent that most of the information summarized in this paragraph applies to the English-language literature, the reader is referred to Chapter 4 ("Beyond the Anglo-American World") for information and advice related to publishing in other languages.

Appendix A lists some of the main abstracting and indexing services used by the addiction specialty journals listed in Tables 3.1 and 3.2. These organizations provide a variety of important services that dramatically increase the potential exposure of a scholarly communication. Although some of these databases used to be available in both print and electronic versions, electronic databases have now become the information source of choice for those who are searching for topical information via the Internet. They are comprehensive and rapid, and at least some of the information is often inexpensive or free. These services differ widely in their subject matter, coverage of the literature, document types included, service features, and content provider. The major databases (e.g., MEDLINE, Scopus, Web of Science, PsycINFO) are available through libraries that pay a subscription fee and are highly selective in choosing the journals that they list in their index. They permit searches of the current and past literature according to author, title, and keywords, often providing the author's abstract for review. Other abstracting and indexing services (e.g., Sociological Abstracts) are selective and scholarly but tend to reach a smaller distribution



network. Still other services (e.g., Google Scholar) are more general in nature and may not provide the best access to the audience an author is trying to reach.

Many of the journals operated by predatory publishers are indexed or listed only in services databases such as the Directory of Open Access Journals or are only crawled by Google and Google Scholar. DOAJ is a reference tool, based on the fact that a journal is available free on the web. Google and Google Scholar are search engines that aggregate information from the internet and are not abstracting and indexing services.

From the author's perspective, a journal's ability to provide a listing of its journal articles and abstracts to these secondary information sources greatly increases an article's exposure to scholars and students throughout the world. The greater the number of quality indexing and abstracting services a journal belongs to (as indicated in Tables 3.1 and 3.2), the more likely it is that an article will reach its intended audience. Although many of the non-English-language journals indicate minimal coverage in abstracting and indexing databases, this situation is changing rapidly, and most of these journals now provide English abstracts and keywords, an important first step in reaching an international audience.

### 8. Evaluate Your Chances of Acceptance

A major consideration in the choice of a journal is the likelihood of acceptance. Journals vary tremendously in the criteria they use to select articles for publication and in the competition a given article will encounter in relation to other authors seeking to claim the same journal space. Some journals have high acceptance rates and are often looking for articles to publish. Other journals have a surfeit of submissions, making it necessary for editors to reject articles that would nevertheless be worthy of publication in less competitive journals. A journal's acceptance rate provides a rough estimate of an author's chances of eventual acceptance, but the rates listed in Tables 3.1 and 3.2 are subject to a number of limitations. First, some journals do not know or choose not to reveal their acceptance rate. In the ISAJE member journal survey conducted for the preparation of this chapter, we asked journal editors to tell us the proportion of articles accepted that were eligible for peer review (regardless of whether the articles were sent out for review or were returned un-reviewed).

It should be noted that several journals (e.g., *Alcohol Research: Current Reviews*, *Addiction Science & Clinical Practice*) operate primarily by commissioning authors to write articles on a topic or theme, which accounts for their high acceptance rates. Beyond a journal's acceptance rate, an author's chances of acceptance depend on many other considerations, some of them scientific, some stylistic, others administrative.

Stylistic factors include the quality of the writing and the way in which the data are presented. If the article is poorly written or not well organized,



reviewers may see this as a limitation, and editors may be reluctant to take the time to work with authors to bring the article up to the journal's standards. Administrative factors include the length of the article, the amount of revision required, and the appropriateness of the topic to the journal's mission. If an article is too long, it reduces the amount of space available for equally worthy articles that are written more concisely by competing authors. If the article is not appropriate to the journal's current priorities or mission statement, it might be rejected even before it is sent out for peer review. Finally, the number of articles published by a journal could affect chances of acceptance. Journals that are published monthly or weekly need to accept more articles than journals that publish less frequently. But journals that publish more frequently also tend to be more competitive. See Chapter 12 for further discussion of factors influencing the acceptance or rejection of manuscripts.

### *9. Take into Account Time to Publication and Other Practical Matters*

There are several other factors that should be taken into account in selecting a journal. One is the lag time to publication. Some journals take longer than others to process their manuscripts. However, most journals do not reveal how long it takes to arrive at a decision; and even when this information is available, it should be noted that the average time is affected by the number of manuscripts that are rejected before being sent out for peer review. Another factor is the time between the acceptance of a revised manuscript and its final publication. This will depend in part on the number of issues published by the journal per year, the number of accepted manuscripts, and the efficiency of the publisher. In general, journals that publish more frequently are likely to have a shorter lag time to publication. The best way to obtain information about the review process is to consult the journal's instructions to authors or the journal's website. It is best not to rely on hearsay, anecdote, or the journal's reputation.

### *10. Consider, but Don't Be Fooled by, Impact Factors*

The Journal Impact Factor is an attempt to provide an objective measure of how often a scientific journal's published work is cited. Such a measure has also been used to judge the quality of an author's work, to the extent that publishing in a high-impact journal may reflect the quality of a particular article. The impact of a journal on a field of study is thus based on the assumption that the more a journal's articles are cited, the more influence it has on the field. In 1964, the Institute of Scientific Information began publishing the Science Citation Index. By the early 1990s, 3,200 journals belonged to the core or citation journals of Science Citation Index (Seglen, 1998).

Impact factor was originally developed to objectively compare the quality of journals listed in a particular database (i.e., Journal Citation Reports [now of Thomson Reuters]), which provides tools for ranking, evaluating, categorizing, and comparing journals; Garfield, 1994). Devised by Eugene Garfield, the founder of the Institute for Scientific Information, impact factors are calculated annually based on the data of the previous years. The impact factor of a journal is the average number of citations received per article published in that journal during the two preceding years. Impact factor is widely used to compare journals in a particular field, and, as such, its use has generated a lot of debate concerning its validity as a measure of a journal's importance as well as a reflection of the quality of an author's work (for more on the history and use of impact factor, see Garfield, 1994).

Increasingly, the data used to calculate impact factors have been used as a shortcut to compare and rank individual articles, researchers, and research groups. Impact factor has been criticized almost from its inception (Seglen, 1998; Stenius, 2003), partly because its databank covers only a small share of the world's scientific journals. Different research fields have different coverage in the database. The database has a clear preference for English-language journals (particularly those based in the United States). National or regional journals in other languages are not well represented (Seglen, 1998), as indicated by only one of the journals listed in Table 3.2 having an impact factor. All journals from a field that is underrepresented will receive lower impact factors. In addition, citation frequencies and patterns vary among different research fields. Thus, it is not acceptable to compare impact factors for journals from different fields. A journal representing a field that typically favors large numbers of references will automatically get a higher impact factor, especially if the field is quickly developing. Research fields that get references from related disciplines get higher impact factors. This explains why journals focusing on basic science have higher values. The humanities are in a particularly unfavorable position. Disciplines in which national or regional research, or publications in local languages, are important also tend to get low impact factors (Rousseau, 2002).

As a measure of impact, with its two-year time frame, impact factor is more appropriate for quickly developing research fields, such as molecular medicine. Applied, clinical, or social sciences do not fare as well with the two-year window (Andersen, 1998; Luukkonen, 1994). Non-English-language journals or bilingual journals (for instance Japanese-English), even if included in Science Citation Index, will on average receive a lower impact factor. The recently introduced five-year impact factor is supposed to provide a more balanced picture of the performance of journals.

Finally, it is important to note that a citation is not necessarily an indication of research quality. Every researcher knows that there are numerous reasons (apart from its quality) for citing a scientific publication. Authors may cite or quote for polemical reasons, to flatter their readers, or to promote their own research (or that of their friends, colleagues, or patrons). West and McIlwaine

(2002) studied 79 articles published in *Addiction* between 1995 and 1998 and found no correlation between citation frequency (up to the year 2000) and an independent quality rating. Interestingly, West and McIlwaine also found that articles from the developing world received fewer citations than the quality ranking would have led them to expect. (See Chapter 10 for further discussion of citation procedures).

As a response to the narrowly defined yet widely influential impact factor, a new metric called Eigenfactor was created in 2007 to rank journals in a more comprehensive way. Eigenfactor ([eigenfactor.org](http://eigenfactor.org)), also available from Thomson Reuters along with impact factor, expands the timeframe to five years and takes into account the influence level of the citing journals in its algorithm.

Similarly, a nonproprietary application, SCImago Journal Rank (SJR; [scimagojr.com](http://scimagojr.com)) attempts to rank journals with its SJR indicator based on the popular Google PageRank algorithm, which also takes into account the quality of journal citations in addition to quantity (Moed, 2006). Another metric, Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP), factors the amount of potential citing sources based on the size of the field in order to normalize the numbers for direct comparison (Moed, 2010). These recent statistics indicate that no single statistic can definitively rank journals in a comprehensive way.

Although altmetrics and scholarly social media are promising alternatives to measure scientific impact both at the level of an article or the author (Ward et al., 2015), they are not treated as equivalents in most fields of science, in which impact factor predominates. However, there is a widely accepted indicator of an individual's scholarly performance, the *h*-index, which is also based on citations. Introduced by Hirsch (2005), this performance indicator computes a scholar's top-cited articles rather than considering the total citation count. The main problem with this metric is, as with impact factor, the number is computed within a particular database only and, as such, will be only as accurate as the data input. As an example, an author with 250 total publications will be underrepresented in Scopus if only 75 of these articles are listed under the author's name due to the coverage of the database. On the other hand, with its duplicates and erroneous author attributions, Google Scholar Citations can display an inflated number closer to 400. The discrepancies will lead to an embarrassing *h*-index in the first case and a falsely high one in the second, with a difference of as many as 20 points. Either way, it is beyond the author's reach to correct them.

In conclusion, impact factors should be treated with caution. Until the deficiencies in the system have been corrected and its limitations are better understood, however, impact factor remains a relatively crude index of the value of a particular journal. According to Jones (1999), authors should not be preoccupied with the impact factor of a journal. Rather, they should give more consideration to the speed and efficiency of the editorial handling of their manuscripts, the selectiveness of its abstracting and indexing services, and the quality and timeliness of the peer review.

## Conclusion

Journals differ in the quality of articles they publish, the exposure they provide to an author's work, and their subject matter. Once an author or a group of authors has a clear idea of the results of a particular study or project, it is often valuable to conduct a preliminary review of the journals most likely to publish an article on that subject. As indicated in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, there are many peer-reviewed addiction specialty journals to choose from, as well as hundreds of disciplinary and multidisciplinary journals. The careful selection of a journal, when one takes into account both scientific and practical considerations, is clearly worth the effort. Not only is the process likely to save valuable time for authors, peer reviewers, and journal editors, but it also will increase the likelihood that an article will contribute as much to science as it does to the author's curriculum vitae.

Please visit the website of the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE) at [www.isaje.net](http://www.isaje.net) to access supplementary materials related to this chapter. Materials include additional reading, exercises, examples, PowerPoint presentations, videos, and e-learning lessons.

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### **Appendix A: An Inventory of Abstracting and Indexing Services and Databases Relevant to the Scientific Literature on Addiction**

Subscription databases are available through the author's institutional subscription. Please contact your local library for information on how to access them.

#### *Chinese Databases*

According to the China National Knowledge Infrastructure, large numbers of publications may be missed when not searching Chinese databases. These databases index 2,500 journals largely not familiar to MEDLINE users. Free access, search features, record selection, ease of downloading, and cost of subscription varies considerably between databases. At a minimum, Chinese biomedical databases should be searched when performing systematic reviews. (See Xia et al. (2008); Cohen et al. (2015))

#### *CSA Sociological Abstracts (Subscription)*

CSA Sociological Abstracts provides an index and abstracts of journal articles from the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences. Major subject areas include evaluation research, family and social welfare, health law, substance abuse, and addiction. Its database is drawn from more than 2,000 serials publications, including a variety of sources such as journal articles, conference papers, books, dissertations, and conference papers, plus citations to important book reviews related to the social sciences. A backfile that begins in 1952 adds to the coverage with records published by the then print version of Sociological Abstracts. Because 40% of the provided content is published outside of North America, the database also provides a global perspective. The database is updated monthly with approximately 30,000 records added per year.

### *Current Contents (subscription)*

Current Contents, a current awareness database developed at the Institute for Scientific Information, now part of Thomson Reuters, provides access to bibliographic research information from articles, editorials, meeting abstracts, and other sources from more than 8,000 scholarly journals, with separate editions for clinical medicine, life sciences, and social and behavioral sciences. Internet access is provided through Current Contents Connect. Updated daily, it provides access to complete tables of contents, abstracts, and bibliographic information from the most recently published journals and books. CC Connect offers cover-to-cover indexing that provides access to all the valuable information available in journals — not just articles.

### *Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) (Open Access):*

*<https://doaj.org/>*

DOAJ is an online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open-access, peer-reviewed journals. Launched at Lund University, Sweden, in 2003, DOAJ is a membership organization, with membership intended to prove a commitment to quality, peer-reviewed open access. The aim of the DOAJ is to promote increased usage and impact of open-access scientific and scholarly journals by increasing their visibility and ease of use. Including more than 10,000 journals from 134 countries, it covers over 2 million articles, of which more than 6,000 are searchable at the article level. Subjects listed include broad areas such as medicine, health sciences, psychiatry, public health, and social sciences, indexing them with top-level Library of Congress Subject categories only. Keyword search is available for the full text of the article, with high recall and low precision. The directory claims to be comprehensive and cover all open-access academic journals that use an appropriate quality-control system. DOAJ is independent and is not connected to, or owned by, any other organization or business. To be included, a journal must exercise peer review with an editor and an editorial board or editorial review carried out by at least two reviewers. The DOAJ Seal of Approval for Open Access Journals is a mark of certification awarded by DOAJ to journals that achieve a high level of openness, adhere to best practices, and have high publishing standards.

### *DrugWise: <http://www.drugwise.org.uk/>*

Launched in 2016 as a continuation of DrugScope, DrugWise is a new drug information service located in the United Kingdom. The full range

of DrugScope archival materials is complemented with updates and new reports on drugs, alcohol, and tobacco (including e-cigarettes). In addition to drug information, such as the DrugSearch Encyclopedia and Drug-Wise reports, a new function, called I-Know, serves as an international knowledge hub. I-Know brings together international and internationally-relevant national reports and reviews covering the range of substances. The plan is to build up a library of information, policy and practice material over time.

*Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Database: <http://fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/search/basic/index.aspx>*

The FASD Database collects information on thousands of FASD-related resources, including audiotapes, books, CD-ROMs, newsletter, magazine, newspaper, and journal articles, pamphlets and booklets, posters, videos, slide shows, and Web-based materials. It includes a quick-search function activated by typing in a keyword and selecting a media type and an advanced search option for more specific searches.

*EMBASE (Elsevier) (Subscription)*

Embase is a comprehensive index of the world's literature on human medicine and related disciplines. Each record is classified and indexed using terms and synonyms that assist the process of searching for specific subjects. Subject coverage includes AIDS, drug dependence, psychiatry, and public health. EMBASE provides access to articles from more than 2,900 journals from 110 countries.

*CORK Database (Open Access): [www.projectcork.org](http://www.projectcork.org)*

Project Cork was founded at Dartmouth Medical School in 1977 through a grant from Operation Cork. The project also resulted in CORK, a searchable bibliographic database of the substance abuse literature and the emerging area of behavioral addictions. Its goal is to provide immediate access to authoritative information and materials on substance abuse and to assist health and human service professionals, educators and their students as well as those in public policy. The CORK database contains 120,500 items including journal articles, books, book chapters, conference proceedings, and special reports on substance abuse, indexed by more than 400 terms. The database was updated quarterly until 2015.



*Google Scholar (Open Access): [scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)*

Google Scholar provides access to the scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including articles, theses, books, abstracts, and court opinions. Crawling millions of pages of the public and invisible web, it indexes full text of the scholarly literature, gathering information from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities, and other websites. Individual authors can be listed in Google Scholar by simply uploading their articles to a website. The main advantage of Google Scholar is the convenience of searching all scholarly publications on one platform. It allows the user to find related articles. It is currently the fastest way to locate a known item and to retrieve the full text (for either open-access items or titles that one's library subscribes to). Authors can create a publicly accessible author profile in Google Scholar Citation to showcase their work and track citations to their publications ([scholar.google.com/citations](http://scholar.google.com/citations)). The main disadvantage of this service derives from the lack of a controlled vocabulary (i.e., instead of index terms describing the articles, as it is customary in the proprietary databases such as MEDLINE or PsycINFO, the search is performed in the full text of the publication, resulting in many irrelevant hits.)

*International Alcohol Information Database (IAID): [www.icap.org](http://www.icap.org)*

Launched in 2014, the International Alcohol Information Database is a publicly accessible bibliographic resource created to provide an easily searchable database of published research on alcohol. It covers multiple disciplines, including biomedical, sociobehavioral, prevention, treatment, policy, and regulatory research fields. Citations are compiled from more than 3,550 peer-reviewed journals from around the world, and the included research is available in 30 languages and from more than 150 countries. The continually updated database has approximately 50,000 citations from peer-reviewed research journals dating back to 2003, accessible through simple or advanced search options. The advanced search allows users to refine their results through title, author, journal, or publication date, as well as through an extensive list of keywords, the countries covered in the research, or the original publication language. There is no cost to search, register, or access the database's content. The database is supported by funding from the International Alliance for Responsible Drinking, a consortium of beer, wine, and spirits producers.

*MEDLINE (Subscription), PubMed, PubMed Central*

**MEDLINE** (Medical Literature, Analysis, and Retrieval System Online) is the U.S. National Library of Medicine's journal citation database. MEDLINE

is widely known as the major source for bibliographic and abstract coverage of biomedical literature, covering the topics of medicine, nursing, dentistry, as well as other areas, such as allied health, biological and physical sciences, humanities, and information science as they relate to medicine and health care, communication disorders, population biology, and reproductive biology. Started in the 1960s, MEDLINE now provides more than 22 million references and includes citations from more than 5,600 scholarly journals published in the United States and other countries. The Literature Selection Technical Review Committee reviews and recommends journals for MEDLINE considering the quality of the scientific content, including originality and the importance of the content for the MEDLINE global audience, using the guidelines found on the National Library of Medicine Fact Sheet MEDLINE Journal Selection (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/jsel.html>). Although MEDLINE is restricted to institutional subscribers, such as libraries, the content of the database can be searched free of charge via PubMed (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) and PubMed Central (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc>). MEDLINE is the largest subset of PubMed, with the added value of using the National Library of Medicine controlled vocabulary—Medical Subject Headings (MeSH)—to index the citations in MEDLINE. MEDLINE is updated daily.

**PubMed** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed>) has been available since 1996. It offers more than 25 million references, including the MEDLINE database and additional types of records, such as in-process citations, citations to articles that are out of scope, epub ahead-of-print citations, citations to author manuscripts of articles published by National Institutes of Health–funded researchers, and citations for the majority of books available on the National Center for Biotechnology Information Bookshelf. Both MEDLINE and other PubMed records may include links to full-text articles, depending on open-access and subscription-based availability.

**PubMed Central** (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc>) was launched in 2000 as a free repository of full-text biomedical and life-sciences journal articles. It serves as a collection for scholarly literature deposited by either participating publishers or authors who submitted their manuscripts in compliance with the National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy and similar policies. Some PubMed Central journals are also indexed in MEDLINE. There are reciprocal links between the full text in PubMed Central and corresponding citations in PubMed.

### *PsycINFO (Subscription)*

PsycINFO is the electronic version of Psychological Abstracts, which was published by the American Psychological Association monthly for 80 years and ceased in 2006. With nearly 4 million bibliographic records focusing on the scholarly literature in the behavioral sciences and mental health, the PsycINFO database provides a unique resource for locating scholarly literature for addiction

researchers. It contains bibliographic records and abstracts of English-language articles from journals originating in more than 50 countries, all professionally indexed by American Psychological Association experts. PsycINFO is available through library subscriptions and to individual members of the American Psychological Association. Nearly 2,500 journal titles (99% of which are peer reviewed) are covered in the database. Articles are selected based on their relevance in psychology and related fields, such as psychiatry, management, business, education, social science, neuroscience, law, medicine, and social work. The database also covers books and book chapters, 3% and 8% of PsycINFO records, respectively. Its global perspective is proven by indexing publications from more than 50 countries, journals from 29 languages, and non-English-language titles in Roman alphabets since 1978. Easy discoverability and high precision during literature searches are ensured by 22 major categories and 135 subcategories in the classification system and by the controlled vocabulary describing the articles, with more than 8,400 terms and cross-references. Online access to a Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms is included. PsycINFO is updated weekly.

### *Scopus (Elsevier) (Subscription)*

Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, covering scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings. It provides a comprehensive overview of the world's research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts, and the humanities. Scopus features tools to track, analyze, and visualize research. It is oriented toward researchers, teachers, and students. Scopus claims that it has twice as many titles and more than 50% more publishers listed than any other abstracting and indexing database. It contains more than 50 million records with coverage strongest in the physical sciences (7,200+ titles) and health sciences (6,800+ titles), followed by the life sciences (4,300+ titles), and finally the social sciences and humanities (5,300+ titles). More than 25,000 titles (including open-access journals) from around the world are covered in Scopus. Quick searches by document, author, or affiliation are available, but there is also an advanced search option. Scopus offers several methods of analysis, such as the Journal Analyzer, which compares the citation metrics of different journals using SCImago Journal Rank and other metrics. Authors can benefit from the citation overview function, which includes the *h*-index, computed from the author's publications listed in Scopus. It is updated daily.

### *Web of Science (Thomson Reuters) (Subscription)*

Thomson Reuters provides paid subscribers with comprehensive coverage of the world's most important journals. Web of Science covers more than 12,000

international and regional journals in the natural sciences, social sciences, the arts, and humanities. Three citation indexes contain the references cited by the authors of the articles: Arts & Humanities Citation Index (from 1975 to the present), the Science Citation Index Expanded (from 1900 to the present), and the Social Sciences Citation Index (from 1900 to the present). The database provides bibliographic records, searchable abstracts, and cited references. Many factors are taken into account when evaluating journals for coverage in Web of Science, ranging from the qualitative to the quantitative. The journal's basic publishing standards, its editorial content, the international diversity of its authorship, and the citation data associated with it are all considered. Thomson Reuters also determines if an electronic journal follows international editorial conventions, which are intended to optimize retrievability of source articles. These conventions include informative journal titles, fully descriptive article titles, and author abstracts, complete bibliographic information for all cited references, and full address information for every author. Thomson Reuters editors look for international diversity among the journal's contributing authors, editors, and editorial advisory board members. For more information, see: <http://wokinfo.com/essays/journal-selection-process/>. Coverage is strongest in the sciences (8,000+ journals), followed by social sciences (almost 3,000 journals), and arts and humanities (approximately 1,600 journals). For impact factor information about specific journals, users are directed to the index Journal Citation Reports.

### *For more Information*

The Substance Abuse Librarians and Information Specialists website offers a more comprehensive collection of abstracting and indexing services and other related databases ([salis.org/resources](http://salis.org/resources)). Maintained by Barbara Weiner of Hazelden–Betty Ford, the lists are monitored by the group and updated frequently both for U.S. and international services.

United States: <http://www.hazelden.org/web/public/usdatabaselibrary.page>

International: [http://www.hazelden.org/web/public/lib\\_cdandaddictions.page](http://www.hazelden.org/web/public/lib_cdandaddictions.page)