GETTING PUBLISHED IN HIGH IMPACT JOURNALS

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Background

- The custom: Many Nigerian academics have been patronising offline journals from time immemorial. It could be some Nigerian universities do not require publications in high-impact online/electronic journals for staff promotion.
- Sadly, some of our colleagues do avoid publishing in high-impact journals. This habit is detrimental not only to the international recognition of the researchers but also to the visibility of the university in a global context.

Based on this premise, we shall address the following questions:

1. What are the awful sides of offline publications?
2. What are the benefits of publishing in high-impact journals?
3. How to identify peer-reviewed high-impact journals/publishers?
4. How to prepare manuscripts and publish in high-impact journals free of charge?

Reflections on Journal Article Publications

The future is online

- Few people will debate the fact that the future of article publications is online. The era of printed journals is expiring.
- The benefit of wide audience coverage is top-notch in online publications.
- Access to a transparent/qualitative peer-reviewed process gives online journals an edge over offline ones.
- The ability to automate citation counts is another crucial point that must be mentioned.
- Proper monitoring of article/author impacts are appealing property of online journals.
- If I may recommend, every researcher should ponder on these benefits.

Free publications

- Unknown to some people, article publication in many peer-reviewed high-impact journals is free of charge. Yes, I mean you do not need to pay a dime for publication.
- There is neither a submission/processing fee nor publication fee in several online journals.
- You will only pay if you want your article to be open access, i.e., permanently free download to every reader of the article. If you do not want it to be open access, then many journals will not charge a dime for the publication of your article.
- How about you channel your energy to publications in online journals instead of paying your hard-earned salary to publish your articles in offline journals?

Visibility

- It is pathetic that some senior academics are not visible online despite their decades of research experience and contribution to knowledge.
- They successfully marred (unknowingly) their visibility by choosing offline journals to communicate their research findings.
- As a result, they diminish their international reputation and attract low global rankings to their departments and universities.
- No one, out there, will be interested in what you publish in offline journals because it is unrealistic to keep track of an article that is not available online.
- As young scholars, we must wake up, avoid their mistakes, and strive to communicate our research findings through the internet.

Visibility

You can open and maintain:

- A Google Scholar account (https://scholar.google.com/). It is a free account that only requires your Gmail address and/or your university email address.
- A ResearchGate account (https://www.researchgate.net/). It is a free account that requires any of your email addresses. ResearchGate also creates a forum for communication with other researchers around the world.
- An ORCID account (https://orcid.org/). You can connect with researchers and communicate your research with a unique ORCID number. Some journals now make ORCID numbers mandatory for article submission.
- A Web of Science Researcher ID account (https://www.researcherid.com/). You can connect with researchers and communicate your research with a unique ID. You can share your verified reviews online.

Disconnect from international research community

- It is extremely difficult to connect with researchers from outside your locality/country if your research is published in offline journals.
- You will miss the evaluation of your manuscript by international researchers.
- I am afraid that you will be ignorant of new methods, theories, and the latest dimensions of research in your field.
- Little wonder some of our postgraduate programmes are run within a self-dung ditch. Such that external examiners are rarely invited from abroad.
- It is high time we broke the box. Perhaps, we can think outside of it, my dear colleagues.

The world is a moving train

- The academic research world is ever-increasing and fast changing with changes around the world.
- If we refuse to change or are sluggish in adapting to these changes, I am afraid the world does not care.
- The popular Nokia-Android story is a lesson for everyone.
- Do engage in good research and ensure you publish your articles in online journals.

Some remarks on the reflections

- There are several hurdles Nigerian academics go through in service delivery. Some of these hurdles could stem from
    - Poor salary structures
    - Lack of adequate funding
    - Enormous workload
    - Poor conditions of service
    - Lack of motivation to work diligently, etc.
- It is prudent to communicate the findings of the little research you struggle to conduct through worthwhile channels.

Identifying High-Impact Journals and Publishers

Some yard sticks

- Journal metrics (JIP, SJR, SNIP, h5 – index, h – index)
- Journal ranking
- Journal indexing
- Editorial boards
- Review process
- Publishers

Journal metrics

Journal impact factors: According to Thomson Reuters:

> The Journal Impact Factor is the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past two years have been cited in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) year. The Impact Factor is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the two previous years. An Impact Factor of 1.0 means that, on average, the articles published one or two years ago have been cited one time.

The idea is that journals with high IF publish articles that are cited more often than journals with lower IF.

5-Year Impact Factor

> The 5-year Impact Factor is the average number of times articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year. It is calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the five previous years.

The most reputable journals published their ISI impact factors (i.e. JIF with article source in Web of Science).

Journal metrics

SCImago Journal Rank (SJR)/CiteScore

SJR:

> The SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) Indicator is based on weighted citations in Year X to papers published in the previous 3 years. Citations are weighted by the prestige of the citing journal, so that a citation from a top journal will have more impact than a citation from a low-ranked journal.

SNIP:

> The Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) measures average citations in Year X to papers published in the previous 3 years. Citations are weighted by the citation potential of the journal's subject category, thereby making the metric more comparable across different disciplines.

Both SJR and SNIP are calculated using Scopus as the only source of the published articles.

Journal metrics

Google Scholar metric

h5 – index

The main Google Scholar journal metric is the H5 index and is based on articles published in the last 5 complete calendar years. This is similar to the h-Index but also includes the top-cited h articles (h-core) and the median of the citation counts (h-median).

h – index

The h-index attempts to measure the productivity and citation impact of the published body of work of an author. The h-index indicates the number of papers, h, that have been cited at least h times (e.g. an h-index of 15 means that 15 papers have been cited at least 15 times each.) Note: Due to variations in citation coverage between databases, each source may determine a different value of the h-index for each author.

Uses of journal metrics

Journal metrics (JIP, SJR, SNIP, h5 – index, h – index) are used by:

- Authors to decide where to submit manuscripts for publication.
- Authors to monitor academic growth
- Libraries to make collection development decisions
- Academic departments to assess academic productivity, reward, and to make decisions on promotion and tenure.

Journal ranking

- Journals are ranked based on some of the metrics discussed in previous slides.
- The most popular journal ranking is published by SCImago every year.
- The SCImago journal ranking uses information in the Scopus database (Elsevier B.V.).
- The journals are then ranked according to SJR scores and they are grouped into Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4 with Q1 being the best quartile in subject categories.
- The only limitation of the SJR is that only journals that are indexed in Scopus appear on their list.

Journal indexing

- Journal indexes (also called bibliographic indexes or bibliographic databases) are lists of journals, organized by discipline, subject, or type of publication.

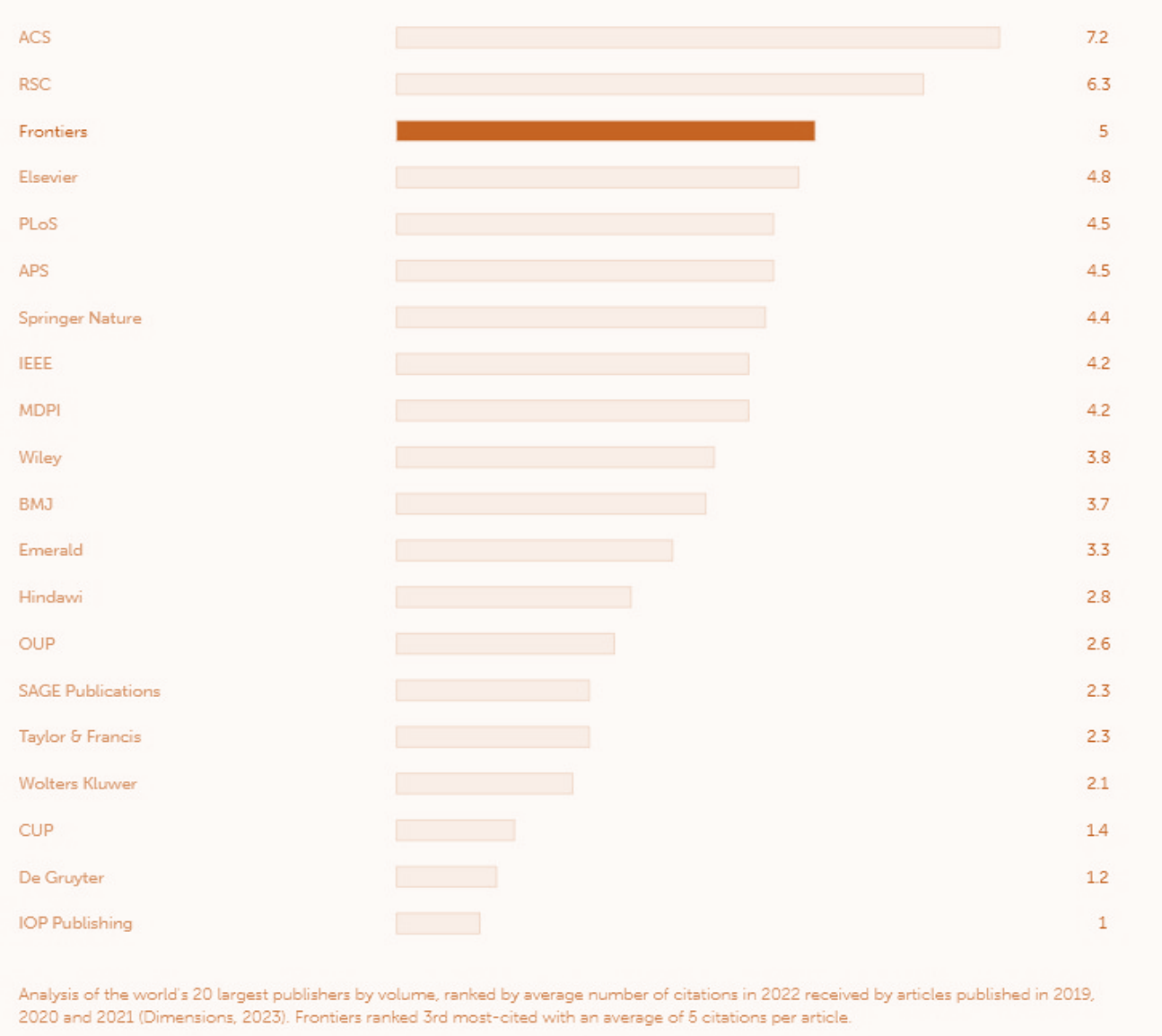
- Journals included in an index are considered of higher quality than journals that are not. This is because journals have to go through a vetting process to be included, or indexed, in reputable bibliographic databases.

- Once a journal is indexed by a database, it is immediately made available to all users of that database. Some databases index titles, some index full articles while others index only the abstract and/or references.

- Some of the reputable bibliographic databases are Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, CAS, EBSCO, ERIC, MathSciNet, ProQuest, PubMed, PsycINFO, Science Citation Index, and Scopus.

Editorial boards, Review process, and Publishers

- The quality of journal editorial members is an indicator of good journals.
- The quality of the peer-reviewed process is an indicator of good journals.
- The trustworthiness of publishers is another factor to consider for high-impact journals.



Preparing Manuscripts for High-Impact Journals

Some useful tips

- Engage in research, be meticulous, and be rigorous about it.
- Be aggressive in writing.
- Collaboration is key
- Be open to new developments in your field. The usual way may not be the way.
- Beat your fear and try those high-rank journals in your field.

Some useful tips

- Study the journal's scope, aims, and objectives, and prepare your manuscript, accordingly.
- Be selective in your choice of journals (ranking, review speed, open access).
- Avoid narrow/restrictive titles. For instance,
  - Impact of social constructivism instructional strategy on performance in algebraic processes among secondary school students in Sokoto State, Nigeria.
  - Impact of a social constructivist instructional strategy on performance in algebra with a focus on secondary school students.
- Make a logical and convincing case for your research.

Some useful tips

- Be up to date in your theoretical foundations and literature search. Google Scholar is a good database. You can also adopt a snowball approach.
- Your methodology should match your theory and be appropriate to address your research purpose.
- Your analysis should be rigorous and reflect the state-of-the-art in your field.
- Interpret and discuss your findings in light of theory, evidence, and literature.
- Do not compile references manually. It is archaic and ineffective. Instead, compile your references using tools like Endnote, Mendeley, Zotero, etc.

Some useful tips

- Expect a rejection at the first round of the review process. Remember, no matter how good you are there is a reviewer 2 (brutal and nasty).
- Do not take any review report personally. See it as an opportunity to improve your manuscript.
- Move on quickly whenever your manuscript is rejected.
- Do not relent and remember that

  Success = talent + luck

  Great success = a little more talent + a lot of luck (Kahneman).