



EDITORIAL

REVIEW ARTICLE



How Journals Are Indexed in Scopus and Whether This Guarantees Their Quality: A Practical Case of the International Journal of Science Annals



Author's Contribution:

- A – Study design;
- B – Data collection;
- C – Statistical analysis;
- D – Data interpretation;
- E – Manuscript preparation;
- F – Literature search;
- G – Funds collection

Melnyk Y. B. ^{1,2} ABDEF 

¹ Kharkiv Regional Public Organization "Culture of Health", Ukraine

² Scientific Research Institute KRPOCH, Ukraine

Received: 04.08.2024; Accepted: 07.09.2024; Published: 25.12.2024

Background and Aim of Study:

Abstract

The present study discusses the necessity and sufficiency of the criteria of the Scopus database for quality assurance of scientific publications, as well as the reviewer's role in the journal evaluation process. The paper analyses the process by which Scopus reviewers evaluate IJSA to ensure the Journal meets the stated criteria for indexing in Scopus.

The aim of the study: to investigate the objectivity of the Scopus journal evaluation – to carry out a comparative analysis of the results of the Scopus reviewer evaluation with the real qualitative and quantitative criteria of a particular journal, and to compare them with the criteria of periodicals already indexed in Scopus.

Material and Methods:

Qualitative and quantitative IJSA analysis methods based on five categories and fourteen selection criteria from Scopus were used. A comparative analysis of scientific periodicals indexed in Scopus has been conducted. We used open databases to study the current state of the research problem: Scopus website, journals websites, journal articles, and social media.

Results:

A case study of a particular journal, IJSA, was used to describe the whole process of preparing, submitting, evaluating, and appealing the evaluation of the Journal in the Scopus database. A journal may indeed meet high criteria for assessing scientific publications, including those declared by Scopus. However, this does not guarantee its indexing in this database because there is a human factor – a Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB) reviewer – who has the power to subjectively evaluate the Journal and reject it on formal grounds or his / her misjudgment.

Conclusions:

The decision of the CSAB reviewer is more significant for the inclusion of a journal in Scopus than the fulfilment of the quality criteria of the evaluated Journal. This is illustrated by the fact that some journals cannot be indexed or are excluded from indexing in Scopus, while other journals of lesser quality have been indexed in this database for many years. Today's main problems in scientific periodicals are discussed (paper mills, predatory journals, citation cartels, buying an author's place in a commissioned paper, changing journal ownership, fraudulent websites, etc.). A number of criteria for assessing the quality of journals need to be reviewed, and a balance must be struck between their necessity and sufficiency. This eliminates any possible (or forced) manipulation of journals to meet Scopus indexing criteria.

Keywords:

Scopus, indexing, evaluation procedure, categories and selection criteria, necessity and sufficiency, journal quality.

Copyright:

© 2024 Melnyk Y. B. Published by Archives of International Journal of Science Annals

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2024.2.3>

Conflict of interests:

The author declares that there is no conflict of interests

Peer review:

Double-blind review

Source of support:

This research did not receive any outside funding or support

Information about the author:

Melnyk Yuriy Borysovych – <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8527-4638>; ijisa.office@gmail.com; Doctor of Philosophy in Pedagogy, Affiliated Associate Professor; Chairman of Board, Kharkiv Regional Public Organization "Culture of Health" (KRPOCH); Director, Scientific Research Institute KRPOCH, Ukraine.



Introduction

Scopus is a bibliographic, scientometric, abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed scientific literature. Scopus was launched by academic publisher Elsevier in 2004 and is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Scopus covers 330 disciplines, has over 100 million records, more than 30 active serial titles, content предоставляется from more than 7,000 publishers, selected by an independent Content Selection and Advisory Board, CSAB (Elsevier, 2024).

Among researchers, Scopus was associated with the high quality of the publications it indexes. The quality of publications is the responsibility of publishers, journal editors, and Scopus reviewers, who check the conformity of published material submitted by publishers for indexing based on stated factors and criteria. Not all journals submitted to Scopus are

considered by reviewers to be worthy of indexing, nor will all journals already in the database be indexed in the future. Scopus removes hundreds of journals from indexing each year.

We can, therefore, conditionally distinguish 2 groups with 5 categories of journals (Figure 1). These are as follows

1. Not indexed in Scopus:

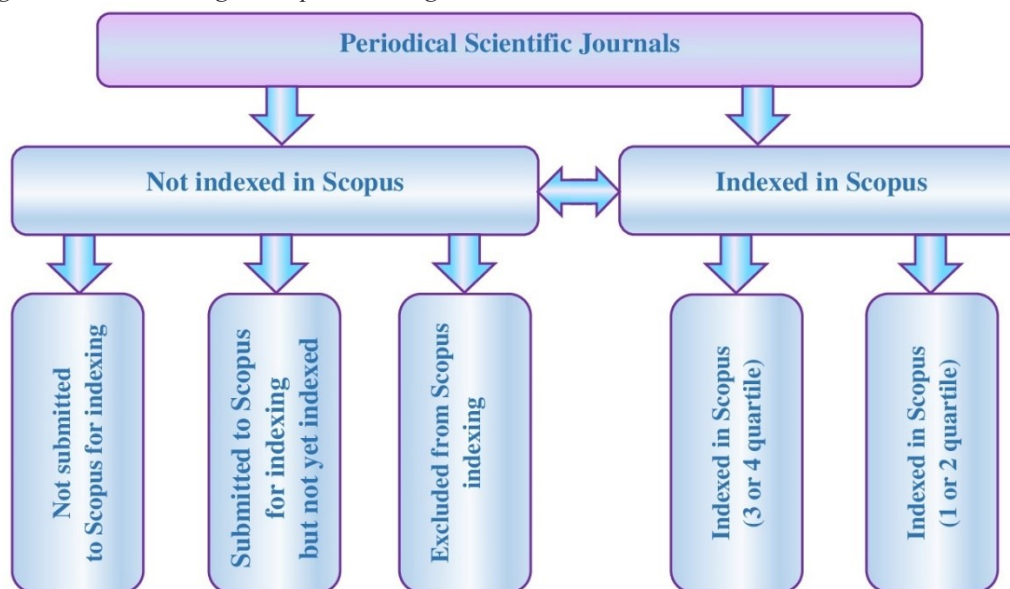
- (a) not submitted to Scopus for indexing;
- (b) submitted to Scopus for indexing but not yet indexed;
- (c) excluded from Scopus indexing.

2. Indexed in Scopus:

- (d) indexed in Scopus (3 or 4 quartile);
- (e) indexed in Scopus (1 or 2 quartile).

Figure 1

Categorising Journals According to Scopus Indexing Criteria



Journals in categories A-B are not indexed in Scopus. They can publish both low-quality and high-quality literature (articles).

Journals in category C are excluded from Scopus based on reviewer judgement for low quality of published literature or other violations.

Journals in categories D-E are indexed in Scopus. They have high-quality published literature.

In the present study, we assume that some journals (categories A-B) may publish articles of high quality and still not be indexed in Scopus, as indexing of the Journal is possible if the publisher applies for Scopus evaluation. Indexing, rejection or exclusion from indexing is determined by an expert (the CSAB reviewer).

In this paper, using the example of a specific journal, the International Journal of Science Annals (IJSA), we examine the whole process of peer review of journal quality in Scopus based on the criteria used by this database.

The aim of the study. To investigate the objectivity of the Scopus journal evaluation - to carry out a comparative analysis of the results of the Scopus reviewer evaluation with the real qualitative and quantitative criteria of a particular journal and to compare them with the criteria of journals already indexed in Scopus and the strategies used by journals to meet the criteria set by Scopus.

Materials and Methods

A qualitative and quantitative analysis of the IJSA indicators was carried out based on 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria declared in Scopus. A comparative analysis of the editions of periodical scientific literature indexed in Scopus was used. To study the current situation of the research problem, we used open databases: articles in scientific journals, journal websites and social networks, and electronic correspondence from the official IJSA email. The resulting data were described narratively, with common themes identified.



Results

The IJSA was registered in 2018. It has been published annually, continuously in English, for 7 years. From the first issue, the Journal began implementing the principles of publishing high-quality scientific journals of international standards (Melnyk & Pypenko, 2021). To this end, the Journal invited scholars from 17 countries and 5 continents in the social and behavioural sciences (education, psychology and medicine) to form the IJSA Editorial Board.

A system for selecting qualified reviewers has been developed, as well as a form with a set of criteria for evaluating manuscripts, which can be used by reviewers and is available on the website for authors to read.

The Journal's website is well structured, with information about the editors, and reviewers, an archive of all issues and information about archiving repositories, details of the peer review process and ethical guidelines, a system for tracking plagiarism in manuscripts, instructions and manuscript templates for authors, and much more that is necessary for the quality publication of a scientific journal (Melnyk, 2018).

The Journal has been implementing the principles of golden open access since its first issue. All texts are free of charge for all users and/or the institutions they represent.

In 2020, the Journal was positively reviewed and included in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) indexing (DOAJ, 2020).

In 2024, the IJSA was re-evaluated and reaffirmed its compliance with the DOAJ's indexing criteria. DOAJ membership has helped to raise the quality of the Journal

to a higher level through the highly qualified recommendations of DOAJ staff and to increase readership through open access.

It should be noted that in 2021, the Journal was favourably reviewed and accepted for membership by the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE), where it is currently a member (COPE, 2021).

Membership in COPE has enabled IJSA editors to obtain the most up-to-date information and to address problematic issues relating to ethical standards in journal publishing.

The Journal implements the best publishing practices and technologies for all published articles, including doi, CrossMark, hyperlinks, QR codes, archiving in different formats (pdf, xml, txt, doaj), etc.

The IJSA is represented in more than 40 international scientometric databases, repositories and search engines: DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, Google Scholar, etc. The IJSA is represented at universities and in more than 150 libraries worldwide: Stanford Libraries, University of California Davis Library (United States); Simon Fraser University (Canada); Maastricht University (Netherlands); V.I. Vernadskiy National Library of Ukraine, etc.

The authors' request for the possibility of having their article indexed in Scopus was the reason for IJSA's submission to Scopus for peer review.

Submitting a journal for evaluation for indexing in Scopus involved filling in a special form freely available on the Scopus website.

The first step was registering on the Scopus website and obtaining a registration number, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2

Suggested title for Scopus and Obtained ID

Scopus

TITLE SUGGESTION

Thank you for your title suggestion

Thank you for your title suggestion. You will receive an automatic email to confirm your title suggestion. If you do not receive an e-mail confirmation, please check your spam filter.

We strive to evaluate new title suggestions as quickly as possible, however, please allow up to several months for the review process to be completed.

In case you have any questions, you can contact us at title suggestion@scopus.com

Kind regards,

The Scopus Team

To read how Elsevier uses, collects and shares personal data, please read the [Elsevier Privacy Policy](#)

The tracking ID for this title suggestion is: A0BB

You can view the status of your suggestion via the page <https://suggestionstep.scopus.com/progressTracker>

Click [here](#) if you want to suggest another title.

If you also want to suggest this title to one of the Engineering Information databases please complete the following form:
<http://www.ei.org/title-suggestion>

If you also want to suggest this title to the EMBASE database please complete the following form:
<http://embase.com/info/title-suggestions>

To read how Elsevier uses, collects and shares personal data, please read the [Elsevier Privacy Policy](#)

All content on this site: Copyright © 2024 Elsevier B.V., its licensors, and contributors. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.

Scopus® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.

Cookies are set by this site. To decline them or learn more, visit our [cookie page](#).



The second step was to complete a six-step form: (1) Agreement, (2) Before completing the form, (3) Contact information, (4) Serial title information, (5) Document upload, (6) Additional information.

Each of these six steps describes some information about the Journal. For example, the first of the six steps requires you to provide information on 16 principles of transparency and best practices in scholarly publishing:

website, journal name, peer review process, ownership and management, governing body, editorial team/contact details, copyright and licensing, author fees, process for identifying and dealing with allegations of research misconduct, publication ethics, publication schedule, access, archiving, revenue streams, advertising, direct marketing. The completion of the first stage of the form is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3
Completion the Evaluation Form (Agreement Stage) for the IJSA

Scopus TITLE SUGGESTION Help F4

Step 1 - Agreement

Thank you for your interest in Scopus.

- Please read our minimum criteria below carefully and be sure that the title you are suggesting for Scopus meets all of them.
- If you are not the publisher of this title, we recommend that you contact the publisher of the title and request that they complete the suggestion form.
- You can save a draft of the suggestion for at any time and return to your application later (click on 'Save draft'). Please note that your application will be saved for 7 days.

To read how Elsevier uses, collects and shares personal data, please read the [Elsevier Privacy Policy](#).

Titles will only be considered for evaluation if they meet the following minimum criteria:

- The title should publish peer reviewed content.
- The title should be published on a regular basis (i.e. have an ISSN confirmed by the ISSN International Centre). To register an ISSN, please [visit this page](#).
- The title should have English language abstracts and article titles.
- The title should have a publication ethics and publication malpractice statement in the English language on its website.

To read how Elsevier uses, collects and shares personal data, please read the [Elsevier Privacy Policy](#).

Agreement

☒ I am aware of the general guidelines that Scopus uses to select titles.

Publication standards

Please check adherence to our Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement requirement.

Please provide the publication ethics and publication malpractice statement for this title:

ⓘ

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing:

- ☒ **Website**
A journal's website, including the text that it contains, shall demonstrate that care has been taken to ensure high ethical and professional standards. It must not contain information that might mislead readers or authors, including any attempt to mimic another journal/publisher's site. An 'Aims & Scope' statement should be included on the website and the readership clearly defined. There should be a statement on what a journal will consider for publication including authorship criteria (e.g., not considering multiple submissions, redundant publications) to be included. ISSNs should be clearly displayed (separate for print and electronic).
- ☒ **Name of journal**
The journal name shall be unique and not be one that is easily confused with another journal or that might mislead potential authors and readers about the journal's origin or association with other journals.
- ☒ **Peer review process**
Journal content must be clearly marked as whether peer reviewed or not. Peer review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers expert in the field who are not part of the journal's editorial staff. This process, as well as any policies related to the journal's peer review procedures, shall be clearly described on the journal website, including the method of peer review used. Journal websites should not guarantee manuscript acceptance or very short peer review times.
- ☒ **Ownership and management**
Information about the ownership and/or management of a journal shall be clearly indicated on the journal's website. Publishers shall not use organizational or journal names that would mislead potential authors and editors about the nature of the journal's owner.
- ☒ **Governing body**
Journals shall have editorial boards or other governing bodies whose members are recognized experts in the subject areas included within the journal's scope. The full names and affiliations of the journal's editorial board or other governing body shall be provided on the journal's website.
- ☒ **Editorial team/contact information**
Journals shall provide the full names and affiliations of the journal's editors on the journal website as well as contact information for the editorial office, including a full address.
- ☒ **Copyright and Licensing**
The policy for copyright shall be clearly stated in the author guidelines and the copyright holder named on all published articles. Likewise, licensing information shall be clearly described in guidelines on the website, and licensing terms shall be indicated on all published articles, both HTML and PDFs. If authors are allowed to publish under a Creative Commons license then any specific license requirements shall be noted. Any policies on posting of final accepted versions or published articles on third party repositories shall be clearly stated.
- ☒ **Author fees**
Any fees or charges that are required for manuscript processing and/or publishing materials in the journal shall be clearly stated in a place that is easy for potential authors to find prior to submitting their manuscripts for review or explained to authors before they begin preparing their manuscript for submission. If no such fees are charged that should also be clearly stated.
- ☒ **Process for identification of and dealing with allegations of research misconduct**
Publishers and editors shall take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred, including plagiarism, citation manipulation, and data falsification/fabrication, among others. In no case shall a journal or its editors encourage such misconduct, or knowingly allow such misconduct to take place. In the event that a journal's publisher or editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct relating to a published article in their journal, the publisher or editor shall follow COPE's guidelines (or equivalent) in dealing with allegations.
- ☒ **Publication Ethics**
A journal shall also have policies on publishing ethics. These should be clearly visible on its website, and should refer to: i) Journal policies on authorship and contributorship; ii) How the journal will handle complaints and appeals; iii) Journal policies on conflicts of interest; iv) Journal policies on data sharing and reproducibility; v) Journal's policy on ethical oversight; vi) Journal's policy on intellectual property; and vii) Journal's options for post-publication discussions and corrections.
- ☒ **Publishing schedule**
The periodicity at which a journal publishes shall be clearly indicated.
- ☒ **Access**
The way(s) in which the journal and individual articles are available to readers and whether there are associated subscription or pay per view fees shall be stated.
- ☒ **Archiving**
A journal's plan for electronic backup and preservation of access to the journal content (for example, access to main articles via CLOCKSS or PubMed Central) in the event a journal is no longer published shall be clearly indicated.
- ☒ **Revenue sources**
Business models or revenue sources (e.g., author fees, subscriptions, advertising, reprints, institutional support, and organizational support) shall be clearly stated or otherwise evident on the journal's website. Publishing fees or waiver status should not influence editorial decision making.
- ☒ **Advertising**
Journals shall state their advertising policy if relevant, including what types of adverts will be considered, who makes decisions regarding accepting adverts and whether they are linked to content or reader behaviour (online only) or are displayed at random. Advertisements should not be related in any way to editorial decision making and shall be kept separate from the published content.
- ☒ **Direct marketing**
Any direct marketing activities, including solicitation of manuscripts that are conducted on behalf of the journal, shall be appropriate, well targeted, and unobtrusive. Information provided about the publisher or journal is expected to be truthful and not misleading for readers or authors.

[check all / unchecked all]

☒ I hereby confirm adherence to all 16 Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing.

To read how Elsevier uses, collects and shares personal data, please read the [Elsevier Privacy Policy](#)
All content on this site: Copyright © 2024 Elsevier B.V., its licensors, and contributors. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies.
Scopus® is a registered trademark of Elsevier B.V.
Cookies are set by this site. To decline them or learn more, visit our [cookie page](#).

After completing the form at each stage, we completed the submission of the Journal for evaluation.

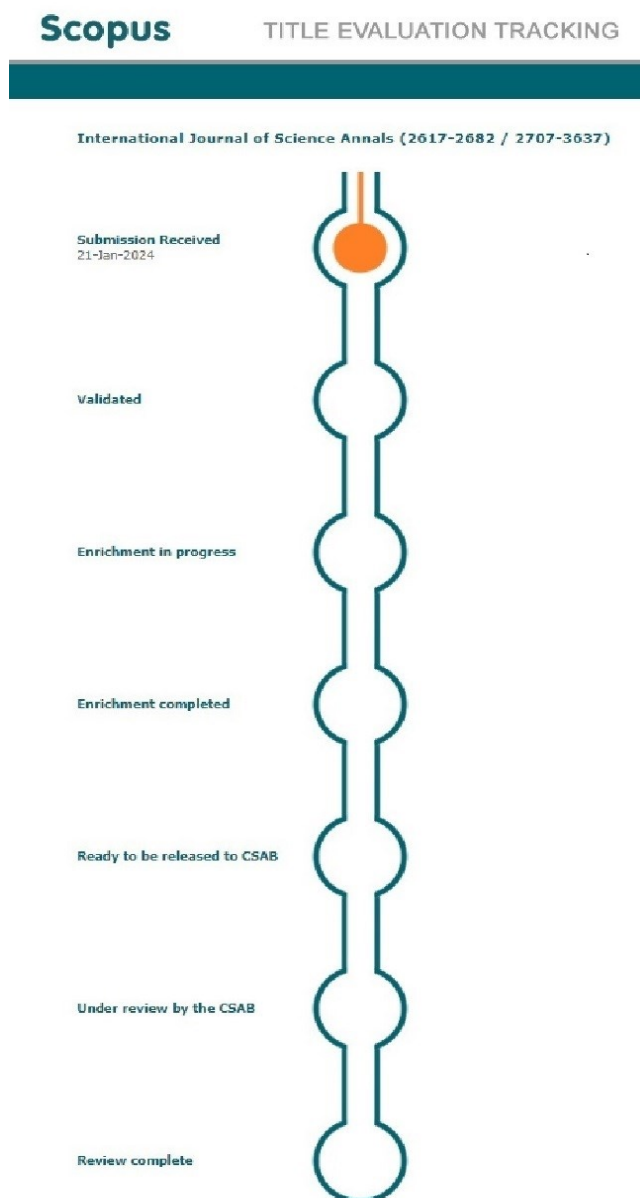
This is confirmed by the receipt of a message in the official Journal email with information about the

registration and start of the IJSA evaluation procedure in Scopus.

On 21 January 2024, we were able to access a graphical representation of the IJSA evaluation tracking image in Scopus (Figure 4).



Figure 4
Confirmation of Journal Submission and Start of Evaluation Process

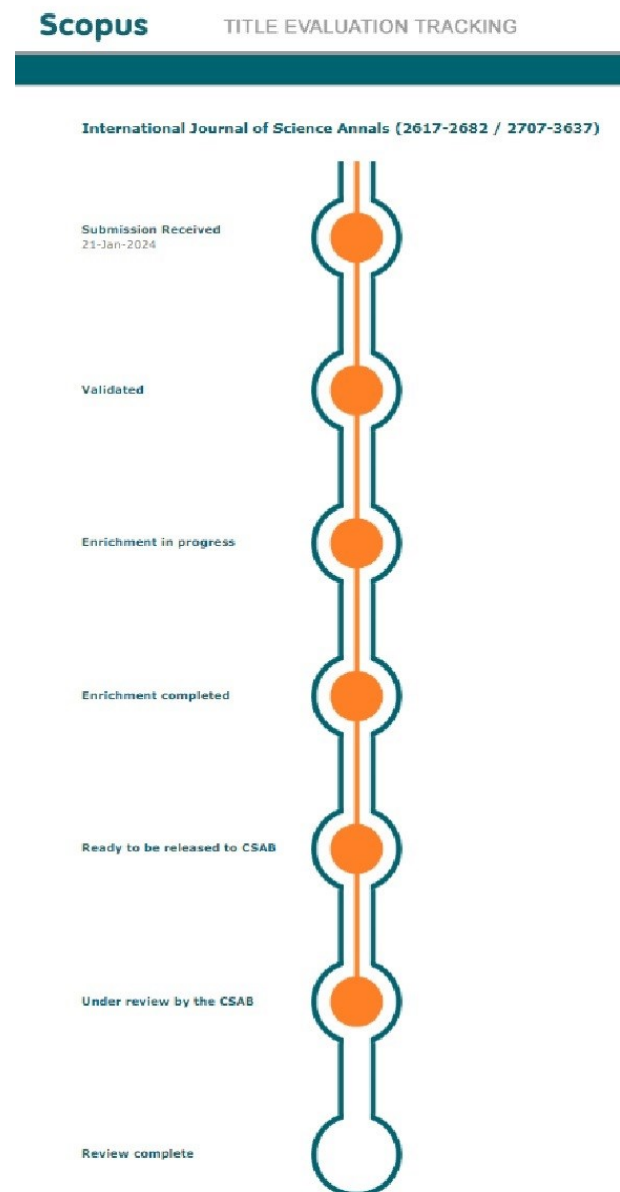


The evaluation of the Journal by the CSAB reviewer, according to the Scopus official website, implied the examination of the Journal for compliance with the 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria:

- (1) Journal policy (convincing editorial policy, type of peer review, diversity in geographical distribution of editors, diversity in geographical distribution of authors);
- (2) Content (academic contribution to the field, clarity of abstracts, quality of and conformity to the stated aims and scope of the Journal, readability of articles);
- (3) Journal standing (citedness of journal articles in Scopus, editor standing);
- (4) Publishing regularity (no delays or interruptions in the publication schedule);

(5) Online availability (full journal content available online, English language journal home page available, quality of journal home page).
 The evaluation was carried out over 76 days, and it could be monitored periodically through the IJSA evaluation tracking image in Scopus (Figure 5).

Figure 5
Tracking the Evaluation Process



We received a negative answer on 6 April 2024 after 76 days of waiting. In our opinion, it was wrong and unfounded (Figure 6).

The CSAB reviewer's explicit disregard of the facts of IJSA's compliance with the criteria set out in Scopus was the reason for the appeal against this assessment. On 17 April 2024, we filed a written notice of our intention to appeal the CSAB reviewer's decision, stating the reasons for our disagreement.



Figure 6

Notification of Completion of Journal Evaluation in Scopus

The review of your title for Scopus is complete



From Scopus Title Evaluation Team on 2024-04-05 23:52

 Details  Headers  Звичайний текст

Title: International Journal of Science Annals

ISSN / E-ISSN: 2617-2682 / 2707-3637

Publisher: KRPOCH

Dear Yuriy B. Melnyk,

The title mentioned above has been evaluated for inclusion in Scopus by the Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). The review of this title is now complete and the CSAB has advised to not accept the title for Scopus inclusion at the present time. For your information, the reviewer comments are copied below:

- + In general, the content of the articles is consistent with the scope and aims of the journal.
- + The abstracts are in keeping with Scopus English Language requirements.
- The geographical reach of authorship and/or content is too limited.
- There are a few good, informative articles, but also many articles that make little contribution to the field.
- The journal does not publish enough good articles each year to warrant inclusion in Scopus.
- Low citations in good journals indexed in Scopus
- Many good international journals already cover this subject area.
- poor quality of the references

For future resubmission, the journal needs to increase substantially its international scope in terms of authorship and academic impact.

You may consider publishing more papers by high impact authors from outside your existing countries or sources of authorship. It will also help if published papers cover a broader range of research topics and issues that may speak directly to an international audience.

If in the future these comments are addressed, you may decide to submit a new application at any time after the following date: April 2027.

At that time, you will be required to upload a cover letter detailing how the above comments have been addressed. A full review will be conducted upon resubmission and having addressed all the abovementioned concerns will therefore not guarantee acceptance.

Finally, we strongly advise you to read through our FAQ:

Helping to improve the Scopus submission & success process for editors and publishers.

Practical information for journal editors can be found in our [Role of an editor FAQ](#).

Yours sincerely,

Scopus Title Evaluation Support

titlesuggestion@scopus.com

We dissented because we were convinced that there were procedural and substantive errors in the review process:

1) The CSAB reviewer subjectively selected some criteria (8 out of 14) and provided misleading information about them during the IJSA assessment procedure.

2) The CSAB reviewer did not follow the assessment procedure for IJSA: the correct criteria were not considered, the assessment was not carried out properly, and the reviewer's opinion does not correspond to the facts, the embargo imposed was not justified.

In order to justify the failure to follow the assessment procedure and to address this issue thoroughly, completely and reasonably, we first considered the CSAB reviewers' assessment with our comments and evidence. Then, we analysed the IJSA scores based on 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria, as defined by the official Scopus assessment procedure.

On 7 May 2024, we had to reapply to Scopus, what is the status of the review of our appeal? Only on 9 May

2024 we received the official template for the Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form. We were then allowed to lodge a formal appeal following the prescribed procedure.

On 12 May 2024, we completed the Title Evaluation Appeal and submitted it to the Scopus email by the deadline.

On 24 June 2024, I asked the Scopus team for an update on my case.

On 12 July 2024, I received a reply asking me to reduce the word count to 300 words.

On 16 July 2024, we complied with these requirements and submitted an updated Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal with reasons for our disagreement evaluation of the Journal (Appendix A).

The Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal was accompanied by an annex (Appeal Against the Assessment of the IJSA, Appendix B) consisting of two sections: 1. The assessment by the reviewers of the CSAB with our comments and evidence. 2. Analysis of IJSA indicators based on 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria (with our comments and evidence).



Scopus uses the following criteria to evaluate journals:

I. Journal Policy

1. Convincing editorial policy
2. Type of peer review
3. Diversity in geographical distribution of editors
4. Diversity in geographical distribution of authors

II. Content

5. Academic contribution to the field
6. Clarity of abstracts
7. Quality and consistency with the stated aims and scope of the journal

III. Journal Standing

9. Citedness of journal articles in Scopus

10. Editor standing

IV. Publishing Regularity

11. No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule

V. Online Availability

12. Full journal content available online
13. English language journal home page available
14. Quality of journal home page

Two weeks later, on 28 July 2024, we received the decision on our appeal (Figure 7).

Figure 7

Notice of the Results of the Appeal Against the Evaluation of the Journal in Scopus

The review of your title for Scopus is complete



From Scopus Title Evaluation Team on 2024-07-28 05:40

Details Headers Звичайний текст

Title: International Journal of Science Annals

ISSN / E-ISSN: 2617-2682 / 2707-3637

Publisher: KRPOCH

Dear Yuriy B. Melnyk,

The title mentioned above has been evaluated for inclusion in Scopus by the Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). The review of this title is now complete and the CSAB has advised to not accept the title for Scopus inclusion at the present time. For your information, the reviewer comments are copied below:

After appeal re-evaluation the decision reached was :

The geographical reach of authorship and/or content is too limited/in

- There are a few good, informative articles, but also many articles that make little contribution to the field.
- The journal does not publish enough good articles each year to warrant inclusion in Scopus.

If in the future these comments are addressed, you may decide to submit a new application at any time after the following date: March 2027.

At that time, you will be required to upload a cover letter detailing how the above comments have been addressed. A full review will be conducted upon resubmission and having addressed all the abovementioned concerns will therefore not guarantee acceptance.

Finally, we strongly advise you to read through our FAQ:

Helping to improve the [Scopus submission & success process](#) for editors and publishers.

Practical information for journal editors can be found in our [Role of an editor FAQ](#).

Yours sincerely,

Scopus Title Evaluation Support

titlesuggestion@scopus.com

It should be noted the formal nature of the review of the assessment procedure and the subsequent appeal, which is reduced to the use of the keyboard functions “Ctrl+C” and “Ctrl+V” by the reviewer. This method is not complicated to detect by the presence of the exact phrases (remarks) with similar symbols and typing errors in our Journal's evaluation and appeal letters (Figures 6, 7). This is confirmed by the fact that the number of comments has decreased (2 out of 6 remaining), and the embargo period for re-evaluation of the Journal has been reduced (by several months) without any justification or acknowledgement of the reviewer's error in the first evaluation. This situation is disappointing and undermines confidence in the objectivity of the Scopus review to make an informed and fair decision on whether a journal can be indexed.

Therefore, the lack of qualitative and quantitative indicators for some Scopus criteria allows the reviewer

evaluating the Journal to refuse indexing. Publishers are unaware of each criterion's value (weight) in the total score, which influences the decision to index the Journal. Otherwise, how else can we explain the refusal to index the IJSA that meets 12 specific criteria and, according to the reviewer, does not meet 2 “fuzzy” criteria?! Especially when these two criteria are also met by the IJSA, which we have described in detail in the Appendix to the Evaluation Appeal. A comparison of the performance on these criteria for IJSA and some journals indexed in Scopus for many years shows that these criteria are insignificant, as these journals completely ignore them. We will look at this next.

The question of the necessity and sufficiency of the Scopus criteria for the final evaluation of a journal for indexing in this database remains unresolved.

We believe that particular attention should be paid to striking a balance between the necessity and sufficiency



of the criteria and that the outcome of journal inclusion should not depend on the decision of a single reviewer but should be based on the sum of scores on a scale where the criteria are strictly regulated and have their own qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Discussion

The above comments about IJSA are actually problematic for many scholarly journals, including those indexed by Scopus. Especially when these problems are related to issues of international author expansion and/or high citation requirements for articles published in the Journal in the same Scopus database.

The important question in this situation is how journals will address these issues to meet the Scopus criteria. Unfortunately, not all journals can address these issues within the ethical guidelines of scholarly publishing.

In fact, these Scopus requirements for journals have caused several problems. To a lesser extent, these problems depend on internal factors and can be influenced by the Journal. To a greater extent, these problems are influenced by external factors such as the visibility of the Journal in the international information space, its presence in bibliographic and abstract databases of scientific literature, and especially its indexing in Scopus.

In addition, these problems have been exacerbated by the need for scientists to meet the criteria for academic success, which requires them not only to have publications indexed in Scopus but also to be cited in that database. An analogy can be found in determining the quartile of a journal - it depends on the ratio of the number of articles in it to their citations.

It made the situation worse. Journals began to select candidates for authorship more rigorously, based on indicators of the author's published works with a high citation index in Scopus. Such an author provides the Journal with some immunity, protecting it from downgrading and possibly contributing to a higher quartile. A paradox has arisen in which an author with no articles indexed in Scopus has virtually no chance of being published for the same reason. In this way, both the author and the journals have become hostages to citation. We believe this artificially created citation index problem has given rise to "citation cartels" that engage in citation manipulation by adding irrelevant citations.

Secchi (2023), who has been studying this phenomenon for several decades in various disciplines, points out that it represents a tacit or explicit agreement between authors to cite each other more often than they would in a more "sincere" approach to science. In principle, this could be seen as collusion, which could distort scientific progress by influencing the scientist's attention.

We believe that this situation is extremely negative, especially for young scientists. First, young researchers may focus on the artificially created authority of a highly cited publication. Second, young researchers may not be able to internalise the basic principle of scientific citation: the only measure of citation for an author should be the academic duty to argue the facts in the manuscript, not journal metrics or reviewer requirements.

Analysis of the websites of scholarly journals, literature publications and social media provides comprehensive information on the methods used by journals and individual scholars to address these issues.

Let us now look at some examples of how journals meet the criteria for indexing in Scopus to broaden the international composition of authors in their Journal.

It is not uncommon for editorial offices to search for potential authors for their journals on social networks such as LinkedIn and Facebook (Figure 8), which, in principle, corresponds to the norms of advertising. However, there is also the less ethical practice of scientists receiving intrusive multiple emails in their mailboxes inviting them to publish a manuscript in a particular journal. A characteristic feature of these emails is that the sender (publisher or Journal) argues in favour of giving the prospective author a favourable chance to publish his or her future manuscript, as well as a reference to his or her previously published work, which is supposedly highly valued by the sender.

Figure 8

Example of Promotion of a Scopus-Indexed Journal on the Social Network Facebook



This may seem flattering at first, but after receiving similar emails repeatedly, a pattern begins to emerge (Keogh, 2020):

- often use flattering language to describe you and your work;
- grammatical or spelling mistakes in the emails;
- promising quick publication, referring to the "next issue";
- offering a substantial discount for publication;
- mentioning the indexing of the Journal in Google Scholar or ResearchGate shows how prestigious this is and adds credibility to your research.

Authors should be cautious when receiving such emails. There is a high probability that they will fall prey to "paper mills".

Please note that the sender is essentially admitting that the email address received (yours) was taken from another publisher's site. We believe that such actions should be categorised as having the characteristics of a "predatory log".

The term "predatory journal" was coined by Beall (2017), a scholarly communications librarian.

In our view, one of the most serious breaches by such journals should be the practice of creating a clone of another journal's website or using the content of another journal to create one's own website. This practice of



predatory journals has sometimes reached the point of absurdity, as it is possible to find information on the websites of these journals that do not even correspond to their potential. Their websites are primitive, have grammatical and spelling errors, pages contain contradictory information, hyperlinks are missing or incorrect, etc.

Even more egregious is buying an author's place in a commissioned article. On the same social media platforms, you can see posts offering a list of article topics and the cost per space in that article. For ethical reasons, we will not illustrate these contributions or name the journals indexed in Scopus. We assume that this is the work of intermediaries unknown to the editors of these journals.

Let us consider the characteristics that, in our opinion, should be considered by the editorial offices of journals that accept such manuscripts with multinational authorship for publication.

Such a manuscript is usually submitted to the Journal by the same corresponding author. A number of the following indicators characterise it:

- Relevance to the research topic (COVID-19 pandemic, war, refugees, etc.);
 - The type of manuscript is in most cases a review article (no empirical component required);
 - The authors often have different affiliations and/or live in different countries;
 - The authors have not previously published together;
 - The authors have no previous publications on the topic.
- This problem is much more serious than it seems at first glance. The information in such a "commissioned article" is likely to be equally custom or fictitious and unrelated to reality.

In the context of the above, it is appropriate to consider an example of a manuscript entitled Ukraine – Russia crisis and its impacts on the mental health of Ukrainian young people during the COVID-19 pandemic (Chaaya et al., 2022). In this article, the authors from universities in Rwanda, Lebanon, India, Turkey, Sudan, the USA, UK, have insufficient knowledge of the information about the organisation of psychological help in Ukraine and the demand for these services in Ukrainian society, erroneously claim: "Often, mental health is overlooked in Ukraine due to the social stigma and taboos, yet more during the state of war and pandemics" (Chaaya et al., 2022).

We note that these statements do not correspond to the actual circumstances and give a false picture of the real situation of psychological assistance in Ukraine during martial law. We are well aware of the real circumstances, as the author team has been practising Ukrainian psychologists, researchers and authors of numerous original articles on the state of mental health of young people for more than 20 years, including during the Russian-Ukrainian war (Mykhaylyshyn et al., 2024; Pypenko et al., 2023; Stadnik et al., 2022; 2023).

In order to assess the objectivity of the CSAB reviewer's refusal to include IJSA in Scopus because "*the geographical reach of authorship and/or content is too limited*", let us examine this aspect of the problem in

more detail. To do this, we will analyse several recent issues of journals indexed in Scopus, focusing on the international composition of authors in these journals.

Let us start with a journal called "The Journal of Social Policy Studies / Zhurnal Issledovaniy Sotsialnoy Politiki" (National Research University, Higher School of Economics, 2016). This Journal caught our attention both because of the lack of geographical diversity of the authors and because of one of the issues it addresses. Let us, however, first outline the general characteristics of this Journal before looking at the content of a particular issue. This Journal has been indexed in Scopus since 2016 and has a CiteScore of Q3. Vol. 22 No. 2 (2024) of this Journal is represented by 10 articles and 2 reviews, of which 11 are in Russian; all 25 authors published in this issue are exclusively affiliated with Russian institutions.

It should be noted that we did not set out to analyse the quality of the articles in this Journal or in any other journal. Scopus reviewers and experts should do this. However, we note how cynical an article by a Moscow graduate student on the problems of Syrian migrants looks in this Russian Journal. According to Dibo (2024), "...this protracted conflict has caused varying levels of violence and instability within Syria, forcing many people to seek refuge abroad...".

The substitution of "conflict" for "war" is characteristic of Russian propaganda and censorship. How acceptable this is for a scientific journal indexed in Scopus is a matter for reviewers to decide. Let us just recall that the Russian military (personnel of the air group with diplomatic status), on Russian planes, with Russian bombs and missiles, bombed Syrian cities, as a result of which millions of Syrians became refugees.

This is a situation that I personally experienced when Russia launched a war against Ukraine, calling it a "special military operation" and firing ballistic missiles at Ukrainian cities with civilian populations. One such Russian missile with a cluster warhead exploded in a residential area of the city where I live, damaging civilians and their property, including our publishing house. This is evidenced by the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have fled our city, and by the shrapnel from that rocket that still protrudes from my laptop screen.

Next, consider the example of another journal, Baltic Region (Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, 2018), which has been indexed in Scopus since 2018 and has the following quartiles: SJR Q1 (Cultural Studies) / CiteScore Q1 (History, Cultural Studies). Volume 16, No. 1 (2024) of this Journal contains only 8 articles, all in Russian, and all 14 authors published in this issue are from Russia.

The Journal entitled Monitoring Obshchestvennogo Mneniya: Ekonomicheskie i Sotsialnye Peremeny (Monitoring of Public Opinion: Economic and Social Changes Journal) has been indexed in Scopus since 2016 (Public Opinion Research Center, VCIOM, 2016). The Journal has an SJR of Q1, according to its website. Issue 1 (2024) of this Journal contains only 12 articles, 11 of which are in Russian; all 24 authors published in this issue are from Russia.



The next Journal, *Economy of Regions*, has been indexed in Scopus since 2013. The Journal is ranked Q2 in Economics, Econometrics and Finance by SJR, CiteScore and SNIP Scopus (Institute of Economics, the Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences, 2013). Volume 20, Issue 1 (2024) of this Journal is represented by 16 articles in Russian, all 29 authors published in this issue are from Russia.

Another journal in this field, *Ekonomicheskaya Politika / Economic Policy*, has been indexed in Scopus since 2013 (Editorial Board of the Journal *Economic Policy*, 2013). The Journal has Q3 (SJR), Q2 (CiteScore). Volume 19, No. 2 (2024) of this Journal contains only 4 articles printed in Russian, all 8 authors published in this issue are from Russia. The next issue (No. 3, 2024) of this Journal already contains 5 articles, also in Russian, and all 9 authors are from Russia. The next issue (No. 4, 2024) of this Journal is also represented by 5 articles, which are also in Russian, and all 12 authors are from Russia.

It is easy to assume that other issues of these journals have a preponderance of articles in Russian and are not characterised by a wide geographical diversity of authors. It follows that the question of the geographical diversity of authors and the scientific value of these Russian-language journals to the international scientific community is obviously rhetorical.

In considering this issue, attention should be drawn to the diversity of authors in the IJSA's geographical distribution. At the time of Scopus evaluation, the Journal had published articles by 90 authors from 21 countries. In addition, each author has a personal page on the IJSA website with papers published in the Journal. It remains unclear why this information was ignored or deemed irrelevant.

Thus, while some journals cannot be indexed in Scopus or are excluded because of an insufficient (in the reviewer's opinion) international composition of authors, other lower-quality journals have been in this database for many years, have a high quartile and are not affected by the problem of 'geography of authors', and the CSAB reviewers do not see this as a problem.

The analysis of periodical scientific literature shows that there are serious problems for journals to achieve indexing in Scopus and for those already indexed in Scopus.

Malvić et al. (2022) discuss the difficulties small journals face in meeting the stringent criteria of Scopus, such as citation metrics and publication frequency. These challenges can hinder the dissemination of valuable research, especially from emerging scholars and niche disciplines.

When considering the problems of small journals, it is appropriate to start with Donovan (2013). More than a decade ago, the author suggested that in the age of ratings, "small journals" could exist in print and electronically on the web to maximise the benefits (grades, ratings) for the authors' parent institution. Donovan's disappointing conclusion was that journals of this calibre could only serve the local community by filling a gap in some regional publications.

We only partially agree with this author's position on the need for small journals that can be regionally focused and/or serve the university's interests. However, this does not mean these journals are less relevant or of lower quality (Figure 1) if they are not indexed in Scopus. Moreover, we believe that small journals are necessary because they create healthy competition, and it is in such journals that the work of young researchers, who in most cases do not have the opportunity to submit their own research to a Scopus-indexed journal, can be published.

Today, many universities and scientific institutions are autonomous and have their own publishing houses and journals; they often organise their own projects, conferences and competitions, including those at the international level.

To illustrate this model, consider the example of IJSA, which was founded by Kharkiv Regional Public Organisation "Culture of Health" (KRPOCH). KRPOCH has structural subdivisions, including the KRPOCH Scientific Research Institute and KRPOCH Publishing.

The activity of the Institute and the Publishing House extends far beyond the local community, as for more than 10 years, it has been organising the annual International Conferences "Current Issues of Education and Science", "Psychological and Pedagogical Problems of Modern Specialist Formation", as well as the International Competitions "Mental Health in the Digital Society", "Blockchain in the Digital Society", which are aimed at supporting (organisationally and financially) young scientists.

The next issue we feel the need to highlight is the availability of "predatory journals". In his study, Demir (2018) collected data from nearly 25,000 articles and identified a significant number of predatory journals that are indexed, highlighting the need for rigorous review processes.

Singh (2021) states that "Scopus hosts papers from more than 300 potentially 'predatory' journals that have questionable publishing practices". More than 160,000 articles were published in them over 3 years, representing almost 3% of the research indexed in Scopus over this period. The presence of such articles in indexed databases contaminates the scientific literature and provides misleading information about research.

Grudniewicz et al. (2019) describe a case of dubious ideas being disseminated through publications in predatory journals. The authors proposed a consensus definition of predatory publishing to help identify and combat such practices.

Kakamad et al. (2024) consider the problem that predatory journals pose to the scientific community by blurring the line between legitimate and questionable publishing practices. The authors examine the positive and negative characteristics of the three main lists (Beall's, Cabells, and Kscien's lists) that keep track of predatory journals. This group of scholars stresses the need to refine these lists by creating a separate list supported by clear evidence, such as accepting a forged manuscript (established in a shell operation).

Macháček and Srholec (2021) examined differences between countries in the propensity of scientists to



publish in such journals. The study argues that countries with large research sectors at the middle level of economic development, particularly in Asia and North Africa, are most vulnerable to predatory publishing.

O'Rorke et al. (2024) point out that predatory publishers and journals typically use an open-access model with little or no peer review.

The role of publishers in perpetuating these problems cannot be overlooked. Teixeira da Silva and Al-Khatib (2018) criticised some publishers for putting profit ahead of scientific integrity. One of the weakest areas for abuse of trust in the submission and publication system is the peer review process, which leads to the proliferation of low-quality journals in databases.

The commercialisation of academic publications can certainly have negative consequences. Rodrigues et al. (2020) argue that commercial publishers clearly exercise control over the journal field. They are in the business of registering new names according to the interests of their companies, which do not necessarily coincide with the interests of the scientific community or society at large. Therefore, the next issue that deserves attention is an extreme form of commercialisation – purchasing a journal that is known or already indexed in authoritative databases. This is becoming an increasingly common practice. After a change of ownership, such a journal becomes primarily profit-oriented, and the quality of the publications becomes a less important or even irrelevant factor.

A typical case of change of ownership of the Journal *Experimental & Clinical Cardiology*, which had been published for 17 years by a respected Canadian publisher, was widely publicised. The Journal, which had an impact factor of JCR (0.7), was reportedly bought by investors from Switzerland, but their bank accounts are in Turks and Caicos. The new investor changed the business model to open access and APC funding and quickly increased the number of articles from 63 in 2013 to over 1,000 in 2014. “And for \$1,200 they'll print anything - even a garbled mix of fake cardiology, Latin grammar and missing graphs submitted by the Citizen” (Spears, 2014). As the example shows, these problems have been around for many years, but there has been no real mechanism to solve or at least reduce the growth rate of predatory publishers and journals.

It should be noted that this problem has become increasingly relevant in recent years and no longer concerns only “small journals”, but also large publishers and journals with a long history.

However, a critical issue is the inclusion of predatory journals in authoritative databases, including Scopus, which needs to be brought to the attention of reviewers and administrators of these databases.

The emergence of “paper mills”, which produce fraudulent research papers for a fee by creating fake manuscripts and offering authorship slots to academic clients, with subsequent indexing of these articles in Scopus, has further complicated the situation.

Parker et al. (2024) claim that many thousands of fake paper mill manuscripts have been successfully published in peer-reviewed journals. The authors discuss what is

known about the activities of “paper mills” and how publishers, independent organisations and individuals can work to prevent and detect their activities. Research readers can also play an important role in discovering the mill and informing their peers.

As noted above, citation manipulation is another common concern. Joshi and Pandey (2024) point out that citation bias, excessive self-citation and forced citation are standard techniques used to artificially inflate the impact of scientific articles, undermining the integrity of academic research.

It should be remembered that these techniques distort academic data and mislead researchers. This manipulation not only affects the performance of the Journal but also jeopardises the overall reliability of citation-based assessments.

In the last two years, there has been an increase in the number of cases of illegal authorship related to the use of text generated by artificial intelligence (AI), large language model (LLM) or ChatGPT.

Kendall and Teixeira da Silva (2024) focus on the fact that authorship abuse of articles created using large language models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT is rising in academic science. This group of scholars suggests that society faces unavoidable risks associated with AI technologies, which could contribute to strengthening a predatory publishing “industry”. The discovery of AI-generated text is, therefore, becoming a new responsibility for editors, journals and publishers.

Melnyk and Pypenko (2023) believe that apart from the negative aspects of using AI technologies in publishing, there are also positive aspects of using chatbots, which may soon greatly simplify the process of preparing scientific publications. However, the authors' use of chatbots should be strictly regulated and transparent to the public. The authors propose a method to indicate the involvement of AI and the role of chatbots in scientific publishing through a specially designed basic logo.

With the intensive development of digital technologies, another major problem has arisen – the existence of fraudulent websites that “hack” or clone official journal websites.

The researchers point out that Scopus indexes articles from legitimate and cloned journals. This results in articles with different titles being published on overlapping pages in the same issues of the Journal.

Abalkina (2021) describes a method for identifying hijacked journal domains based on an analysis of clone journal archives. This method is based on the argument that fraudulent publishers recycle identical papers to create a fictitious archive.

Shahri et al. (2018) propose a method to detect captured logs using a classification algorithm.

We believe that authors are also responsible for using unethical practices. Mertkan et al. (2021), investigating the reasons why authors choose to publish in predatory journals, identified the following problems: on the one hand, there is pressure on the author to publish the work (“publish or perish”), on the other hand, there is a limited opportunity to publish the work in legitimate journals. This may be particularly important for junior researchers,



who face a “points” system where the number of publications may be more important than quality. In the present study, we do not examine authors' motives for publishing in predatory journals. Probably, it is trivial ignorance or, in their opinion, a simple and easy way to increase their academic ranking. It should be noted that these authors should be aware that such a publication may have serious consequences for their image as researchers and scientists. Therefore, before submitting a manuscript to a publisher or Journal, authors should consider the risks of publishing in a journal with a dubious reputation. An effective way to protect yourself from this type of publication is to pay attention to the ethical standards of the Journal in which you choose to publish.

We fully agree with Chandra and Dasgupta (2024), Kharumnuid and Singh Deo (2022), Tomlinson (2024), who suggest that education in this area should focus on raising young scientists' awareness of the problem, promoting responsible publishing practices, and the implications of engaging with predatory journals for their academic careers.

We believe that one of the most important criteria for assessing the quality of journals is their adherence to the COPE ethical principles. This compliance should not be a mere declaration of such information on journal websites, as is often seen even on “predatory journals” websites. This should be supported by factual evidence of the editorial team's work in this area.

For example, in addition to double-blind peer review of manuscripts, editorial and technical checks for the use of artificial intelligence, etc., IJSA has created a system of triple-checking of the work for possible illegal borrowing of text. Such a check involves all those involved in the publication process (authors, reviewers, editors), as well as the possibility for readers to complain if they find plagiarised text or other people's ideas in the manuscript. When non-standard situations arise, IJSA editors can provide feedback or discuss the problem in the COPE forum.

The second important quality criterion of journals is the possibility of free and unrestricted access to the text of the articles, which makes it possible to cite and use the information obtained correctly. In our experience, the best evaluation of journals in this respect is carried out by DOAJ, which evaluates and maintains journals that adhere strictly to the principles of open access and ethical standards. Indexing a journal in DOAJ is not only prestigious but also practical and helpful for all stakeholders. For example, IJSA includes lists from over 150 libraries worldwide through indexing in DOAJ.

An important criterion for a journal's quality is its indexing in the COPE and DOAJ databases. This gives authors confidence that their manuscripts will be ethically reviewed and their rights protected and that the manuscripts will be open and widely available to the global scientific community.

However, most authors continue to focus exclusively on journals indexed in Scopus. This is a consequence of the need to comply with the criteria for academic success. Such authors fail to appreciate the enormous contribution

that organisations such as COPE and DOAJ make to developing scholarly journals, academic science and society as a whole.

Conclusions

IJSA's experience building an international team of editors and qualified reviewers to prepare and publish articles over 7 years is a good example of its efforts to publish high-quality periodical literature. Authors prefer to publish their manuscripts in indexed journals. This ensures that their ideas are disseminated in the scientific community, contributes to the recognition of their qualifications and enhances the prestige of their academic work.

One of the most respected bibliographic and abstract databases of peer-reviewed scientific literature is Scopus. It is driven by the need of the scientific community to have publications indexed in it to meet the criteria of academic and scientific success.

If specific requirements are met, a publisher can submit a journal for evaluation in Scopus by filling out a special form. The Journal should then be checked for compliance with specific criteria and evaluated by a reviewer. Even if the publisher believes that the Journal fully meets the stated criteria, there is still a possibility that the Scopus reviewer will refuse to index the Journal based on his/her own opinion.

We believe that the objective evaluation of journals for inclusion in scientometric databases, including Scopus, should be based on strictly regulated criteria of qualitative and quantitative indicators and that the outcome of inclusion should not depend on the decision of a single reviewer.

The current procedure for evaluating journals in Scopus and the experience of peer review give us reason to argue that it is necessary to revise the evaluation criteria: to justify the necessity and sufficiency of each of the criteria. This is particularly true for the criteria of geography of authorship and citation of publications by their own database (Scopus). The only metric of citation for authors should be the academic duty to argue the facts presented in the manuscript, not journal metrics or reviewer requirements. Otherwise, the problems of the emergence of “paper mills” and “citation cartels” to manipulate citations and add irrelevant references will not only not be solved but will also be exacerbated by the other problems mentioned above.

In addition, some Scopus criteria require the specification of quantitative indicators. This would remove the subjectivity of the examiner's judgement. The appeal process should not be formalised, and the final decision should be reasoned based on the facts and clear and convincing. This will encourage publishers and journal editors to improve the publishing process and create real prospects for journal indexing in Scopus.

We, therefore, believe that there is a case for reviewing a number of the criteria used to evaluate journals in Scopus in order to strike a balance between their necessity and sufficiency and the possible technologisation of this process to reduce the role of the subjectivity of the human factor in reviewer judgement.



Acknowledgments

I thank the two anonymous reviewers who supported this manuscript, recommended it for publication and motivated me to persevere. I would also like to thank my family, wife and young son for allowing me to work through this difficult time.

Ethical Approval

The views expressed in this paper are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Kharkiv Regional Public Organization "Culture of Health" (KRPOCH) or its affiliates, the editors and the reviewers.

Funding Source

This research did not receive any outside funding or support.

References

- Abalkina, A. (2021). Detecting a network of hijacked journals by its archive. *Scientometrics*, 126, 7123–7148. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-021-04056-0>
- Beall, J. (2017). What I learned from predatory publishers. *Biochemia Medica*, 27(2), 273–278. <https://doi.org/10.11613/BM.2017.029>
- Chaaya, C., Thambi, V. D., Sabuncu, Ö., Abedi, R., Osman, A. O. A., Uwishema, O., & Onyeaka, H. (2022). Ukraine – russia crisis and its impacts on the mental health of Ukrainian young people during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Annals of Medicine & Surgery*, 79, Article 104033. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amsu.2022.104033>
- Chandra, A., & Dasgupta, S. (2024). Predatory journals: What the researchers and authors should know. *The American Journal of Medicine*, 137(6), 470–472. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amjmed.2024.02.015>
- COPE. (2021, February). *COPE Member and guest area: International Journal of Science Annals*. <https://members.publicationethics.org/members/international-journal-science-annals>
- Demir, S. B. (2018). Predatory journals: Who publishes in them and why? *Journal of Informetrics*, 12(4), 1296–1311. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joi.2018.10.008>
- Dibo, S. (2024). Forced migration and integration challenges of Syrian refugees in Germany: A literature review. *The Journal of Social Policy Studies*, 22(2), 339–348. <https://doi.org/10.17323/727-0634-2024-22-2-339-348>
- DOAJ. (2020, March 20). *International Journal of Science Annals*. <https://doaj.org/toc/2707-3637>
- Donovan, S. K. (2013). Death of a small journal? *Journal of Scholarly Publishing*, 44(3), 289–293. <https://doi.org/10.3138/jsp.44.3.007>
- Editorial Board of the Journal Economic Policy. (2013). *Ekonomicheskaya Politika [Economic policy]*. <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100825345>
- Elsevier. (2024). *Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board*. <https://www.elsevier.com/products/scopus/content-selection-and-advisory-board>
- Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K. D., Bryson, G. L., Cukier, S., Allen, K., Arden, C., Balcom, L., Barros, T., Berger, M., Ciro, J. B., Cugusi, L., Donaldson, M. R., Egger, M., Graham, I. D., Hodgkinson, M., Khan, K. M., Mabizela, M., Manca, A., Milzow, K., ... Lalu, M. M. (2019). Predatory journals: no definition, no defence. *Nature*, 576(7786), 210–212. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y>
- Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. (2018). *Baltic region*. <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100874350>
- Institute of Economics, the Ural Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences. (2013). *Economy of regions*. <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21101137841>
- Joshi, P. B., & Pandey, M. (2024). Deception through manipulated citations and references as a growing problem in scientific publishing. In Joshi, P.B., Churi, P.P., & Pandey, M. (Eds.), *Scientific Publishing Ecosystem* (pp. 285–306). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-4060-4_17
- Kakamad, F. H., Abdalla, B. A., Abdullah, H. O., Omar, S. S., Mohammed, S. H., Ahmed, S. M., ... Najar, K. A. (2024). Lists of predatory journals and publishers: A review for future refinement. *European Science Editing, European Science Editing*, 50, Article e118119. <https://doi.org/10.3897/ese.2024.e118119>
- Kendall, G., & Teixeira da Silva, J. A. (2024). Risks of abuse of large language models, like ChatGPT, in scientific publishing: Authorship, predatory publishing, and paper mills. *Learned Publishing*, 37(1), 55–62. <https://doi.org/10.1002/leap.1578>
- Keogh, A. (2020). Beware predatory journals. *British Dental Journal*, 228(5), 317. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-020-1374-4>
- Kharumnuid, S. A., & Singh Deo, P. (2022). Researchers' perceptions and awareness of predatory publishing: A survey. *Accountability in Research*, 31(5), 479–496. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08989621.2022.2145470>
- Macháček, V., & Srholec, M. (2021). Predatory publishing in Scopus: Evidence on cross-country differences. *Scientometrics*, 126(3), 1897–1921. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-020-03852-4>
- Malvić, T., Andreić, Ž., Barudžija, U., Bedeković, G., Hrncević, L., Ivšinović, J., Korman, T., Kovač, Z., Pavlić, K., & Pašić, B. (2022). Citation rate challenges for a small journal indexed in Scopus and WoS – Case study from Central Europe (Croatia), editorial view. *Publications*, 10(3), 32. <https://doi.org/10.3390/publications10030032>
- Melnyk, Yu. B. (2018). *Academic journal website model [Preprint]*. SRI KRPOCH. <https://doi.org/10.26697/Preprint.Melnyk.1.2018>
- Melnyk, Yu. B., & Pypenko, I. S. (2021). Dilemma: Quality or quantity in scientific periodical publishing. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 4(2), 5–7. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2021.2.1>



- Melnyk, Yu. B., & Pypenko, I. S. (2023). The legitimacy of artificial intelligence and the role of ChatBots in scientific publications. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 6(1), 5–10. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2023.1.1>
- Mertkan, S., Onurkan, A. G., & Suphi, N. (2021). Profile of authors publishing in ‘predatory’ journals and causal factors behind their decision: A systematic review, *Research Evaluation*, 30(4), 470–483, <https://doi.org/10.1093/reseval/rvab032>
- Mykhaylyshyn, U. B., Stadnik, A. V., Melnyk, Yu. B., Vveinhardt, J., Oliveira, M. S., & Pypenko, I. S. (2024). Psychological stress among university students in wartime: A longitudinal study. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 7(1), 27–40. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2024.1.6>
- National Research University, Higher School of Economics. (2016). *Zhurnal issledovaniy sotsial'noi politiki [The journal of social policy studies]*. <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/11600153627>
- O'Rorke, R., White, C. & Bhujel, N. (2024). The rise of predatory publishing and journals. *British Dental Journal*, 237, 699–700. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41415-024-8006-3>
- Parker, L., Boughton, S., Bero, L., & Byrne, J. A. (2024). Paper mill challenges: past, present, and future. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 176, Article 111549. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111549>
- Public Opinion Research Center, VCIOM. (2016). *Monitoring obshchestvennogo mneniya: ekonomicheskie i sotsialnye peremeny [Monitoring of public opinion: Economic and social changes journal]*. <https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100818507>
- Pypenko, I. S., Stadnik, A. V., Melnyk, Yu. B., & Mykhaylyshyn, U. B. (2023). The impact of the war in Ukraine on the psychological well-being of students. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 6(2), 20–31. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2023.2.2>
- Rodrigues, R. S., Abadal, E., & De Araújo, B. K. H. (2020). Open access publishers: The new players. *PLoS One*, 15(6), Article e0233432. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0233432>
- Secchi, D. (2023). A simple model of citation cartels: When self-interest strikes science. In F. Squazzoni (Ed.), *Springer Proceedings in Complexity. Advances in Social Simulation* (pp. 23–32). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-34920-1_3
- Shahri, M. A., Jazi, M. D., Borchardt, G., & Dadkhah, M. (2018). Detecting hijacked journals by using classification algorithms. *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 24, 655–668. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-017-9914-2>
- Singh, C. D. (2021, February 8). *Hundreds of “predatory” journals indexed on leading scholarly database*. Nature. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-00239-0>
- Spears, T. (2014, August 27). *Respectable medical journal turns to dark side*. Ottawa Citizen. <http://ottawacitizen.com/technology/science/respected-medical-journal-turns-to-dark-side>
- Stadnik, A. V., Melnyk, Yu. B., Babak, S. A., Vashchenko, I. V., & Krut, P. P. (2022). Psychological distress among students and cadets of universities in the war conditions. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 5(1-2), 20–29. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2022.1-2.0>
- Stadnik, A. V., Melnyk, Yu. B., Mykhaylyshyn, U. B., & de Matos, M. G. (2023). Peculiarities of the psychological well-being and social adaptation of young students and cadets in wartime conditions. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 6(1), 22–30. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2023.1.7>
- Teixeira da Silva, J. A., & Al-Khatib, A. (2018). Should authors be requested to suggest peer reviewers? *Science and Engineering Ethics*, 24(1), 275–285. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11948-016-9842-6>
- Tomlinson, O. W. (2024). Predatory publishing in medical education: A rapid scoping review. *BMC Medical Education*, 24, Article 33. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-024-05024-x>



Appendix A



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

Dear Publisher,

Before you submit the Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form, please make sure that you take notice of the conditions of the Scopus Appeal Procedure (see 1.). After that, please fill in the Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form (see 2.) and return it to titlesuggestion@scopus.com.

Yours sincerely,
The Scopus Title Evaluation Team

1. Scopus Appeal Procedure (source: [see here, page 13](#))

By returning the form I confirm to have read and understood the terms and conditions of the Scopus Appeal Procedure

2. Please provide us with the title details:

Serial title: International Journal of Science Annals

ISSN/E-ISSN: 2617-2682 / 2707-3637

Publisher: KRPOCH

Publisher country: Ukraine

Subject area:

Primary field: Social Sciences

Primary field sub-fields: Health (social science)

Main field 1: Psychology

Main field 1 sub-fields: Psychology (miscellaneous)

Main field 2: Education

Main field 2 sub-fields: Education

Date rejection letter received: 06-04-2024

Embargo period: April 2027

CSAB comments (please copy from rejection letter):

The title mentioned above has been evaluated for inclusion in Scopus by the Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). The review of this title is now complete and the CSAB has advised to not accept the title for Scopus inclusion at the present time. For your information, the reviewer comments are copied below:

+ In general, the content of the articles is consistent with the scope and aims of the journal.

+ The abstracts are in keeping with Scopus English Language requirements.

- The geographical reach of authorship and/or content is too limited\r\n

- There are a few good, informative articles, but also many articles that make little contribution to the field.

- The journal does not publish enough good articles each year to warrant inclusion in Scopus.

- Low citations in good journals indexed in Scopus

- Many good international journals already cover this subject area.\r\n

- poor quality of the references



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

3. Make sure to strictly follow the information from section 1.B. Please explain which significant factual errors have been found. Please do not exceed the maximum of 300 words.

We as the publisher do not agree as we are convinced procedural errors have been made along the review process.

1a) significant factual errors – CSAB reviewers subjectively selected some criteria (8 out of 14) and provided misleading information about them during IJSA assessment procedure.

1b) the evidence is detailed in Section 1 Appendix.

2a) significant factual errors – CSAB reviewers did not follow the assessment procedure for IJSA: the correct criteria were not considered, the assessment was not carried out properly, and the reviewers' opinions do not correspond to the facts, the embargo imposed (April 2027) was not justified.

2b) the evidence and analysis of compliance rates based on 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria is detailed in Section 2 Appendix.

3a) significant factual errors – CSAB reviewers did not consider the following criteria:

+IJSA has a convincing editorial policy

+The type of review is clearly stated

+IJSA Editorial Board includes authoritative 30 scientists from 17 countries, 5 continents

+IJSA has a sufficiently diverse geographical distribution of authors

+IJSA consistently publishes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic and professional audience

+All IJSA articles have clearly structured abstracts

+IJSA has clear objectives and scope/policy for the Journal

+IJSA has good readability

+IJSA is scientifically significant

+IJSA has a stable publication schedule with no delays in publication

+The full content of the IJSA is available online in various forms

+IJSA has its own website with an accessible home page in English

+IJSA home page has clearly structured elements

3b) the evidence with links is in Section 2 Appendix.

In order to address this issue fully, completely and fairly,

1) we respond to CSAB reviewers' comments by providing evidence of their erroneous decision;

2) we analysis of Journal compliance rates based on Scopus quantitative&qualitative selection criteria (Appendix).



Appendix B



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

Appendix

APPEAL AGAINST THE ASSESSMENT
of the International Journal of Science Annals,
ISSN / E-ISSN: 2617-2682 / 2707-3637,
for inclusion in Scopus

On 6 April 2024, KRPOCH Publishing was informed that the assessment of the International Journal of Science Annals (IJSA) for inclusion in Scopus had been completed.

KRPOCH Publishing submits this Appeal in accordance with the procedures and deadlines established for submission to Scopus.

Please accept this Appeal on the grounds of non-compliance with the assessment procedure and misrepresentation by the reviewers of the Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB).

JUSTIFICATION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

In order to justify the failure to follow the assessment procedure and to address this issue fully, completely and fairly, we first consider the CSAB reviewers' assessment with our comments and evidence (1), and then analyze the IJSA scores based on 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria (2), as defined by the official Scopus assessment procedure.

SECTION 1

The assessment by the reviewers of the CSAB with our comments and evidence

Positive assessment:

- + In general, the content of the articles is consistent with the scope and aims of the journal.
- + The abstracts are in keeping with Scopus English Language requirements.

Negative assessment (with our comments):

1.1a) The significant factual error is as follows

- The geographical reach of authorship and/or content is too limited

1.1b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

This statement does not correspond to the actual facts. During the evaluation period (January-March 2024), the Journal published 61 papers with 90 authors from 21 countries (Ukraine – 30, India – 19, Indonesia – 13, Portugal – 5, South Africa – 3, Italy – 2, Lithuania – 2, Bulgaria – 2, Egypt – 2, US – 1, Germany – 1, Australia – 1, Argentina – 1, Malaysia – 1, Philippines – 1, Taiwan – 1, Tunisia – 1, Belarus – 1, Kazakhstan – 1, Georgia – 1, Turkey – 1). The content of IJSA has statistically significant indicators of the geographical coverage of authors for an international scientific journal.

The IJSA is based on international collaboration and has a large readership: more than 170,000 from 165 countries <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/index.php/en/statistics/readers>.

The Journal's website has highly visible pages with statistical data: <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/index.php/en/statistics/publications>, <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/index.php/en/statistics/authors>, that could allow the CSAB reviewers to make an objective specific assessment of this Journal indicator, rather than using general phrases that distort fact.

1.2a) The significant factual error is as follows

- There are a few good, informative articles, but also many articles that make little contribution to the field

1.2b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

We agree with the first part of this statement about having good journal articles, perhaps original research, which is what the IJSA prefers. However, we strongly disagree with the general negative assessment of "many articles".



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

Each manuscript submitted for publication in IJSA is carefully reviewed by two or more highly qualified peer reviewers in the field of the study <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.reviewers>. Manuscripts are then approved by the IJSA Scientific Editors <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2.1>.

Therefore, the reviewer's statement "there are ... also many articles that make little contribution to the field" should be considered subjective and erroneous. Otherwise, it calls into question the authority and competence of the work of the IJSA Reviewers and Scientific Editors.

Please note that all our reviewers are PhDs and that our Scientific Editors have high scientific indicators, including publications in Scopus journals.

An example is a recent paper https://culturehealth.org/ijisa_archive/ijisa.2024.1.1.pdf published in the Journal on 27 February 2024 by our Scientific Editor - Diego de Leo, who has more than 530 papers and over 107,000 citations in Scopus.

1.3a) The significant factual error is as follows

- The journal does not publish enough good articles each year to warrant inclusion in Scopus

1.3b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

Regarding the quality of the articles, we disagree with the assessment of the CSAB reviewers. The issue of quality and quantity of articles is a key issue for many scientific journals. We have an extremely negative view of paper mills. Therefore, our editorial policy is to select quality manuscripts with particular care. The IJSA is the Member of the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) https://is.gd/COPE_IJSA. In 2023, the Editorial Office received 119 manuscripts, of which 14 were published and 105 were rejected. The rejection rate for manuscripts was 88%.

We also disagree with the CSAB reviewers' assessment of the number of "sufficient" articles. Highly cited journals in Scopus with no more than 7 articles per issue can serve as an example. In IJSA over the last 3 years, the average number of articles per issue has been 7.14, with original research dominating.

As we are responsible for selecting good articles and publishing them in IJSA in sufficient numbers, we ensure quality reviewing and editing. We therefore believe that the assessment of the CSAB reviewers is unbiased. We believe that the quality of publications should outweigh their quantity in the evaluation process of the CSAB reviewers. The IJSA is paying particular attention to this issue. This is evidenced by an Editorial in our Journal entitled "Dilemma: Quality or Quantity in Scientific Periodical Publishing" <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2021.2.1>

1.4a) The significant factual error is as follows

- Low citations in good journals indexed in Scopus

1.4b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

The IJSA has a consistently high citation rate in scientific journals throughout the years of publication. This is confirmed by indicators in scientific databases https://is.gd/Google_IJSA. The IJSA is well cited in Scopus indexed journals. These citation rates of the Journal are acceptable for its inclusion in Scopus.

If we calculate the CiteScore based on the number of citations over a 4-year period (2018-2021), the CiteScore 2022 value for the IJSA would be $25/40=0.63$. The Journal with this CiteScore could well be in the fourth quartile. IJSA citations in Scopus-indexed journals decreased in 2023. This is due to the fact that the IJSA is not represented in Scopus and to incorrect citations of the IJSA in Scopus-indexed journals, which is confirmed by many examples. But this is a problem with the editorial quality of articles in other journals. The IJSA has no such problems. Each article in the IJSA is provided with information on how to cite it. The online version has a handy copy of how to cite an article in the following standards: APA, Harvard, and Vancouver (e.g. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2023.2.3>).

The IJSA recommends and advises authors to cite reputable journals already indexed by Scopus in their manuscripts.

Since the citation of a journal in Scopus is a direct result of its inclusion in this database, the inclusion of IJSA in Scopus can have a positive impact not only on the citations of IJSA, but also on the citations of other good journals.



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

1.5a) The significant factual error is as follows

- Many good international journals already cover this subject area

1.5b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

In the registration area of our journal (Ukraine) there are not enough international journals covering this subject area. In addition, our journal offers free publication in IJSA to authors from low-income countries, as well as to young scholars from different countries who are winners of international competitions. Other good international journals do not offer this in a practical way.

As a representative of KRPOCH Publishing, which is a member of the international publishing associations PILA and others, as well as COPE, I would like to point out to the Scopus Appeals Officer that if there is a limit, monopoly or restriction on the number of journals in a particular field for inclusion in Scopus, this information, with justification, should be available on the official Scopus website. As we found no such information on the website, this means that the CSAB reviewer's statement is for information only and not a rejection criterion.

1.6a) The significant factual error is as follows

- Poor quality of the references

1.6b) The evidence of why this is an error is as follows

We totally disagree with this assessment. We believe this is a misrepresentation of the facts by the CSAB reviewers.

The IJSA reference list follows APA style (APA 7th edition). The IJSA Technical Editor personally checks each source cited by authors in each article accepted for publication for compliance with the Journal's requirements, as well as the relevance and working status of each reference.

Please note that each article published in IJSA has active hyperlinks in pdf format in the reference list, and a reference list with working hyperlinks is available on the metadata/preview page of each article.

In addition, all references are submitted to the Crossref open network in a separate list. The CSAB reviewers could have easily checked on Crossref's website, but did not <https://www.crossref.org/members/prep/11240>

We can therefore conclude that the CSAB reviewers:

- 1) made an evaluation of IJSA based on less than 8 of the 14 mandatory criteria for evaluating journals in Scopus;
- 2) biased our submission by misrepresenting the facts and failing to note that there are many positive aspects of the IJSA publication, as required by the Scopus evaluation criteria.

Among them are the following:

- convincing editorial policy;
- organizing the peer review process;
- diversity in geographical distribution of editors;
- quality of the journal;
- readability of articles;
- clarity of abstracts;
- quality of journal home page etc.

This fact may indicate the low qualification of the reviewers who evaluated our Journal or a biased negative attitude towards the IJSA evaluation.

As the Journal evaluation for Scopus has 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria it can be confidently stated that the CSAB reviewers did not follow the assessment procedure for the IJSA: the correct criteria were not considered, the assessment was not carried out properly, the opinions of the reviewers do not correspond to the facts, the embargo imposed (April 2027) was not justified.



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

SECTION 2

Analysis of IJSA indicators based on 5 categories and

14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria (with our comments and evidence)

Journal Policy

1. Convincing editorial policy

+ The IJSA has a convincing editorial policy, available on the website under “Editorial Policy” <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.1> with convenient, up-to-date hyperlinks. The information is categorized into the following sub-sections: Publishing ethics; Co-operating with reviewers, authors, readers; Duties and responsibilities of editors; CrossMark Policy; Correcting; Retracting or Withdrawing Policies; Archiving, etc.

The Journal has separate web pages with editorial policy features:

- Plagiarism policy <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.2>
- Open access statement <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.3>
- The ethics codex of scientific publications <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.4>
- Disclaimer, Privacy statement <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.5>
- License terms, Transfer of rights <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.6>
- Terms of publications (fee) <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.3.7>

The Editorial Policy of IJSA has been positively evaluated by experts from COPE, DOAJ and others.

2. Type of peer review

+ The type of review is clearly stated (double-blind review). It is supported by highly qualified reviewers. The IJSA has a list of reviewers that is systematically updated <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.reviewers>

The Journal has a clear description of the procedure of the quality control system in textual and schematic form https://culturehealth.org/hogokz_knigi/Journal/Editing_and_reviewing_process.jpg

On the Editing and Reviewing web page <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2.3>, the information is divided into subsections that cover the specifics of the editing and reviewing process: Review procedure; The review procedure for manuscripts; Evaluation process time; Publication frequency; The reasons for rejection of publication; Appeal to the editor's and the reviewers' decisions, etc.

The Reviewer web page <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2.2> describes the specifics of the Reviewer selection process; Requirements for reviewers, Guidelines for preparing reviews, etc.

The Journal provides the Reviewer Evaluation Form https://culturehealth.org/hogokz_knigi/Journal/IJSA_reviewer_evaluation_form.pdf and the Response to Reviewer Comments Template https://culturehealth.org/hogokz_knigi/Journal/IJSA_Replies.pdf

3. Diversity in geographical distribution of editors

+ The IJSA Editorial Board includes the most authoritative 30 scientists from 17 countries, 5 continents in the fields of Education, Psychology, and Medicine <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2.1>

4. Diversity in geographical distribution of authors

+ The IJSA has a sufficiently diverse geographical distribution of authors (90 authors from 21 countries). Information is available on the Journal's website: <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/index.php/en/statistics/authors>

Each author has a personal page on the IJSA website with papers published in the Journal

For example, <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/index.php/en/archiv/previous-issues-ijsa/73-georgieva>

Content

5. Academic contribution to the field

+ The IJSA consistently publishes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic and professional audience in the field of humanities and health integration. The IJSA publishes research examining the Human as an exposure as well as an outcome. As an exposure, the Journal publishes articles examining how socium influences all aspects of human life and its health <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.4.1>



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

6. Clarity of abstracts

+ All IJSA articles have clearly structured abstracts (Background and Aim of Study; Material and Methods; Results; Conclusions). For example, <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2023.2.2>

7. Quality and consistency with the stated aims and scope of the journal

+ The IJSA has clear objectives and scope/policy for the Journal <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa> These are consistent with the content of all issues of the Journal <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.4.1>

8. Readability of articles

+ The IJSA has good readability. The Journal is represented in more than 40 international scientometric databases, repositories and search engines <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.1.3>

Content available online in various formats: pdf, jpg, doaj, xml, txt, etc. For example, <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2023.2>

Journal Standing

9. Citedness of journal articles in Scopus

+ The IJSA is scientifically significant. The IJSA is cited in other journals, including those listed in Scopus. The value of the ratio of citations to total number of articles for all years of IJSA publication (2018-2023) is 2.63 for Google Scholar and 0.43 for Scopus.

10. Editor standing

+ The IJSA Editorial Board includes the most authoritative 30 scientists in 17 Countries (5 continents) who are responsible for the Journal scientific sections: Social Sciences – 6; Education – 8; Psychology – 6; Health Care Science – 10. All The Editorial Board members are presented on the website with the necessary supporting information: first name and surname, degree, affiliation, country, links to scholarly profiles (Scopus, ResearchGate, ORCID, Google Scholar) and photo. KRPOCH Publishing has formal cooperation agreements with each member of the Editorial Board <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2.1>

Publishing Regularity

11. No delays or interruptions in the publication schedule

+ The IJSA has a stable publication schedule with no delays in publication. Articles are published online as soon as they are available (peer-reviewed and copy-edited). The Journal collates them into archival print “numbers” (two per year: June, December) and “volumes” (one per year) <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.4.1>

In December 2022, in a combined volume 5, the articles from issues 1 and 2 were published. This is caused by a full-blown war in our country (Ukraine). The premises of our publishing house were badly damaged in bombing raids, and equipment was destroyed. We continue to publish the Journal regularly despite these circumstances. For each article, the submission, acceptance and publication dates are available. In addition, CrossRef DOI, Crossmark linking are implemented for all published papers <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.2023.2>

Online Availability

12. Full journal content available online

+ The full content of the IJSA is available online in various forms:

JPG – <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijisa.4.1>

PDF – https://culturehealth.org/ijisa_archive/IJSA.Vol.6.2.2023.pdf and others.

The full content of the IJSA is also available online in bibliographic databases: DOAJ, OAJI, Scilit, Internet Archive, MIAR, Zenodo, OpenAIRE, etc.

For example, <https://oaji.net/journal-archive-stats.html?number=8882>

The IJSA is represented at universities and in more than 160 libraries around the world: Stanford University Libraries (United States), University of California Davis Library (United States); Simon Fraser University (Canada); Maastricht University (Netherlands); V.I.Vernadskiy National Library of Ukraine, etc. For example, https://is.gd/nbuV_IJSA



Scopus Title Evaluation Appeal Form

Scopus®

13. English language journal home page available

+ The IJSA has its own website with an accessible home page in English. Base URL: <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org>
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa>

The Journal's website also offers the option to view all pages in Ukrainian. There is a handy function for switching between languages.

14. Quality of journal home page

+ The IJSA home page <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa> has clearly structured elements that allow users to get complete information about the Journal: title proper; abbreviated key-title; publication type; directions; frequency; edition language; print ISSN; online ISSN; linking ISSN; information about the founder and publisher of the Journal; registration certificate numbers of the founder, publisher and Journal; IJSA mission; information about the Editorial Board. indexing, and license.

A handy toggle is available on the log home page to switch to the online submission system <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa/online.submission.system> Descriptions and hyperlinks to manuscript preparation instructions for authors, article submission guidelines, manuscript templates, and supporting document forms are available here.

So, we have analyzed the IJSA based on clearly defined 5 categories and 14 quantitative and qualitative selection criteria. This analysis may be useful to the Independent Appeals Officer in making recommendations to the Scopus CSAB, as it is in line with the principle of a transparent selection of journals and a rigorous evaluation mechanism of the journals for the inclusion of their content in Scopus.

On the basis of the above, we request

- 1. To accept the Appeal against the assessment of the International Journal of Science Annals for inclusion in Scopus.**
- 2. To re-evaluate the International Journal of Science Annals and recommend to the CSAB the inclusion of the journal in Scopus.**

May 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

Yuriy Melnyk, PhD, MPSI, MIM,
Director of KRPOCH Publishing,
Editor-in-Chief of the IJSA
6/6 Shchedryka lane
Kharkiv, Ukraine, 61105
publisher@culturehealth.org

6

Cite this article as:

Melnyk, Y. B. (2024). How journals are indexed in Scopus and whether this guarantees their quality: A practical case of the International Journal of Science Annals. *International Journal of Science Annals*, 7(2), 5–26. <https://doi.org/10.26697/ijsa.2024.2.3>

The electronic version of this article is complete. It can be found online in the IJSA Archive <https://ijsa.culturehealth.org/en/arhiv>



This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/deed.en>).