

Notes on Journal Selection and Submission

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When you work on a doctoral dissertation or a master's thesis, you may want to submit your draft manuscript to an international journal. This “Keizaikagaku-Ronkyu” is, of course, one option to which you may submit, but you can also challenge yourself to submit to a journal outside of Saitama University, in particular if your doctoral dissertation consists of several independent research chapters. You may face some difficulty in finding a journal suitable for your submission if you do not access a reliable Journal list or if you find too many possible journals on such a list.

This document offers some notes to help you understand the quantity and quality of international journals and to provide a reference for you to find a suitable journal. Understanding the quality of journals can also be helpful for conducting the literature review for your own writing, as you can select more highly regarded papers to which you should refer from among the many options in your search. It should be noted that this document mainly applies to the fields of economics and econometrics. In case your research field belongs to another category, such as business, management or law, you can ask your supervisor about journal selection. All the views expressed in this document are the author's personal opinions, and not authorized by Saitama University.

1. Journal Ranking

You can first check the total number and ranking of international journals in the field of economics at <https://ideas.repec.org/top/top.journals.simple.html> (IDEAS/RePEc Simple Impact Factors for Journals)¹, where around 2,500 journals are indexed. My ‘personal rough’ yardstick for their quality evaluation is as follows: the journals ranked in the top 500 are highly professional in which prominent and experienced professors often publish their papers with theoretical and empirical contributions; those ranked as 500–1,500 are middle-quality ones in which ordinary researchers publish their works with either theoretical or empirical contribution; and those ranked below 1,500 vary significantly in their quality. You can target the middle-quality journals above, when you submit your paper for the first time, although you may have a final goal to publish in a top 500 journal.² Most journals focus on a sub-field within economics and you are likely to have the most success and relevant audience by matching the journal field.³ You can

pick several journals whose name seems to fit the topic of your paper from this category. Then you can further select from among these following the subsequent steps.

One reason why you may be best submitting to among the middle-quality journals at your initial stage of research is that the high-ranking journals are likely to lead to frequent rejections such that you may get frustrated and demotivated, and that low-ranking journals pose a serious risk of your falling victim to ‘predatory journals’, as will be mentioned in the next section.

2. Predatory Journal

You should exclude ‘predatory’ journals from your selection as a second step. The predatory journals involve charging high publication fees to authors without checking articles for quality and legitimacy. There are, however, no precise lists for clearly-defined predatory journals. The website of <https://predatoryjournals.com/journals/> is one of the references for listing ‘possible’ predatory journals and publishers ‘potentially’ engaging in predatory practices (hereafter, the possible predatory journals). You can carefully check the publishers as well as the journals themselves by this possible predatory journal list. Roughly speaking, in the IDEAS/RePEc ranking in Section 1, the possible predatory journals are found frequently from the ranking with around 1,000 place or lower. In this sense, the category of the middle-quality journals in Section 1 would often make you face a trade-off in the frequency between your paper’s rejection in the higher rank and your encountering the possible predatory journals in the lower rank. The reason why you should avoid submitting the possible predatory journals is that the publication of your paper in that journals might also discredit your overall academic performances in the case of their evaluation.

3. Web of Science

The website “Web of Science” (<https://mjl.clarivate.com/home?PC=K>), on the other hand, provides you with the list of credible journals with high quality.⁴ The core lists contain SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded, covering clinical, natural and applied sciences), SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index, covering social sciences) and ESCI (Emerging Sources Citation Index, covering all disciplines, less qualified than SCIE and SSCI from impact criteria). You can confirm the status of the journals you select by inputting the journal’s name in the website, or by downloading the journal list of each category with excel-sheet through your logging-in.

Your publications appearing in the Web of Science database would be highly appreciated as part of your academic performance, and thus it is worth challenging yourself to submit your paper in any categories including ESCI. An interesting note is that the frequency of journal-listing in the Web of Science is not necessarily linked to the IDEAS/RePEc ranking in Section 1. Table below shows the selected sample of the journals classified into SSCI and ESCI under the 500th rank in the IDEAS/RePEc ranking, in the field of Economics, finance and Asian Economy. You can find that even lower-ranking journals in the IDEAS/RePEc have the status of SSCI and ESCI. In case that you could not make it to publish your paper in the Web of Science, the second-

Table Sample of SSCI & ESCI Journals under 500th Rank in the IDEAS/RePEc Ranking

Journal	IDEAS Rankig	SSCI/ ESCI	Publisher
Economics Bulletin	661	ESCI	Access Econ
Economic Analysis and Policy	688	SSCI	Elsevier
Eastern European Economics	689	SSCI	Taylor & Francis
International Real Estate Review	744	ESCI	GSS
Asian Economic Policy Review	745	SSCI	Wiley-Blackwell
Studies in Economics and Finance	790	ESCI	Emerald
Frontiers of Economics in China	804	ESCI	HEP
Financial Innovation	817	SSCI	Springer
Journal of Applied Economic Research	876	ESCI	SAGE
Economic Theory Bulletin	960	ESCI	Springer
Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment	965	ESCI	Taylor & Francis
Decisions in Economics and Finance	985	ESCI	Springer
Asian-Pacific Economic Literature	1018	SSCI	Wiley-Blackwell
International Journal of Financial Studies	1022	ESCI	MDPI
Economies	1029	ESCI	MDPI
Global Economy Journal	1031	ESCI	World Scientific
The Singapore Economic Review	1032	SSCI	World Scientific
Journal of Risk and Financial Management	1042	ESCI	MDPI
Cogent Economics & Finance	1055	ESCI	Taylor & Francis
International Journal of Computational Economics and Econometrics	1061	ESCI	Inderscience
Journal of Economic Issues	1076	SSCI	Taylor & Francis
Progress in Development Studies	1109	SSCI	SAGE
Journal of Quantitative Economics	1110	ESCI	Springer
Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting & Economics	1116	SSCI	Taylor & Francis
Sustainability	1123	SSCI	MDPI
International Journal of Economic Sciences	1155	ESCI	IISES
Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies	1171	SSCI	Wiley-Blackwell
South Asian Journal of Macroeconomics and Public Finance	1200	ESCI	SAGE
East Asian Economic Review	1311	ESCI	KIIEP
Economic Affairs	1318	ESCI	Wiley-Blackwell
Foreign Trade Review	1320	ESCI	SAGE
Public Budgeting & Finance	1332	ESCI	Wiley-Blackwell
Review of Pacific Basin Financial Markets and Policies	1348	ESCI	World Scientific
Scientific Annals of Economics and Business	1498	ESCI	Sciendo
Review of Economic Perspectives	1575	ESCI	Sciendo
Economic and Political Studies (China)	1685	ESCI	Taylor & Francis
International Journal of Asian Business and Information Management	1881	ESCI	IGI
East Asian Policy	2326	ESCI	World Scientific

Note The ranking above was retrieved in October, 2020 as "Simple impact factors: all years".

best option is to choose journals with 'reliable publishers', for instance, those listed in the rightmost column of Table including e.g., Elsevier, Taylor & Francis, Wiley-Blackwell, Emerald and Springer.

4. The Other Notes in Your Submission

The followings are the other notes in your paper submission to journals in general.

- The very first thing you have to do is to read the journal's 'author guideline' carefully. The guideline describes the principles of submission and the details of formatting your manuscript in terms of total volume, font modes, forms of table, figure and references.
- The important principle common to any journals is that the content of your manuscript should 'not' be submitted or already published in another journal.⁵ The journal world strictly prohibits any double submissions, and the violation of this principle would lead you to a risk that you are put on a blacklist.
- You may be required to pay a submission fee at a time of your submission, or a publication fee in case that your manuscript is accepted. They depend on the journals you submit, and these fees might be covered by the research budget of your supervisor. So please consult your supervisor in that case.
- The reviewing process usually takes several months, sometimes even six months or longer. After waiting for a long time, you may finally get a discouraging decision of 'rejection' or 'major revision' / 'revise and resubmit' with dozens of severe comments and suggestions. Remember, the reviewers are almost always volunteering academic whose revisions and suggestions are intended to improve your research or the presentation of your manuscript.
- Even when told the paper is 'rejection' or 'major revisions', you do not have to feel sick just because this is quite common and usual. As long as your manuscript is not rejected, you should cope with any 'revisions' by sincerely responding to each reviewer's comments, since your giving up doing so lessens the chances of publications and refinements of your manuscripts.
- When you face 'rejection', you can try on another journal with a lower ranking. In case you need an earlier decision, you can try on such web-journals as 'Economics Bulletin' with a reviewing period of around 50 days. One way for you to feel less frustrated during the period from submission to publication is to have a number of different manuscripts for submission with several journals, not just sticking to a single manuscript.

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Notes

- 1 The website of the IDEAS/RePEc (<https://ideas.repec.org/>) is worth visiting, since it contains a plenty of information such as journals, papers and authors in the world. You can register the website for free

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and identify the ranking of yourself. It should be noted, however, that the website does not necessarily cover all the journals and papers in the world.

- 2 The choice of the journals to which you submit depends basically on your time-horizon of your paper's publication. If your time allowed, it would be worth submitting your paper to high-ranking journals so that you can get valuable comments. Please discuss this issue with your supervisor.
- 3 It is not uncommon to get a very quick 'desk rejection' (submission is rejected by editor without going through peer review) if the editor feels that topic is not suited to the journal or the article fails to meet a technical guideline from the journal.
- 4 There are many other so called White List that lists credible journals: DOAJ (<https://doaj.org>), OASPA (<https://oaspa.org>), COPE (<https://publicationethics.org/>), ABDC Journal Quality List (<https://abdc.edu.au/research/abdc-journal-list/>), and SCOPUS (<https://www.scopus.com/>).
- 5 It is usually fine to have published a draft of your paper as a 'discussion paper', 'working paper' or conference presentation for feedback. Please ask your supervisor for confirmation.