

Indexing Versus Journal Ethics

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ABSTRACT

There is a profit if a journal managed to get indexed in a well-recognized database. The encouraging of being an indexed journal might cause an unethical management approaches in some unprofessional journals. This commentary dis-cusses some of the unethical activities which may be done before submission for indexing.

Keywords: Indexing; Journal management; Ethics

Commentary

Competition in the ranking of universities and educational institutes has spurred publication in indexed journals. Most universities encourage publication in indexed journals (e.g. Scopus indexed). Finding manuscripts for non-indexed journals [or indexed in less-recognized databases] is a difficult task. As soon as a journal enters a popular index, manuscript submissions will increase. Publication is a business for many journals (Sorooshian 2016), and indexing improves revenues. For a university, establishing an indexed journal means easier publication for staff, leading to a better university ranking. However, an indexed journal cannot be developed quickly. The well-known indexing services are looking for quality journals. Indexation criteria include an authentic record of peer review, a variety of authors and editors from different regions, and achieving a reasonable citation rate. The temptation of achieving an indexed journal in short time may lead to unethical practices. This letter describes several such unethical practices.