

DOAJ Values

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What we do; what we don't do; how we communicate with people; what we don't communicate.

Customer confidentiality

We never discuss the details of an application or a decision with anyone apart from the journal or publisher. We will never discuss the reasons for a rejection. We will never disclose reasons for a journal being removed apart from referring to the information in the [Journals Removed spreadsheet](#).

DOAJ also adheres to the extended guidance on privacy and data protection as laid out in the GDPR. Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). The way we handle personal data affects you too.

To support this, the following email rules should be considered.

Email protocol

1. If you are forwarding an email thread, be sure to check for and erase any sensitive information such as internal DOAJ discussion.
2. Do not write defamatory, personal, or insulting comments in email. Keep your personal opinions to yourself at all times. DOAJ email is not the place for these kinds of personal opinions.
3. Try to use relevant email subjects lines, even if that means rewriting the subject line.

We are co-founders and supporters of the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

DOAJ adheres to and promotes [the Principles](#) and supports publishers and journals that do the same. It is the backbone of everything we do.

We promote gold OA; we do not promote subscription-based or hybrid OA.

Hybrid OA is a mutation of the Subscription Journal; it is generally twice as costly compared to genuine OA-journals, and there is no evidence that Hybrid is a transitional state leading to fully OA-journals over time. It is favoured by the larger publishers who made it their accession to the OA movement.

On open access

'By "open access", we mean its free availability on the internet, permitting any users to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of these articles, crawl them for indexing, pass them as data to software, or use them for any other lawful purpose, without financial, legal, or technical barriers other than those inseparable from gaining access to the internet itself. The only constraint on reproduction and distribution, and the only role for copyright in this domain, should be to give authors control over the integrity of their work and the right to be properly acknowledged and cited.' (Budapest Open Access Initiative: <https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>)

We do not promote or stigmatize individual publishers unless prompted by questionable publishers pretending to be us.

DOAJ provides a service to publishers which aims to help them improve their publishing practices. Some publishers and journals fall a long way short of our standards and DOAJ will do its best to help them rise to an acceptable level. DOAJ will not publicly discuss individual publishers or journals with anyone outside of the organisation, unless they are representatives of said publisher or journal.

Equally, we work very closely with some publishers who have journals indexed in DOAJ, who may be sponsors and who may exert pressure on us to promote their journals or

activities. DOAJ must remain absolutely neutral in these matters and must not favour one publisher over others, or push any publisher's agenda. Publishers are only one section of our users, supporters and audience.

We are against artificial rankings, impact factors and other journal based metrics

[DOAJ does not believe in the value of impact factors](#). We do not trust impact factors as a sign of a journal's merit or adherence to best practice in publishing. Often they are made up and are pasted to homepages to lure unsuspecting authors. However, for those impact factors that are calculated, ranking and evaluation of the quality of a journal is always based on some sort of citation analysis. It has been sufficiently proven that citation analysis is not suitable for assessing the quality of a journal (Björn Brembs et al, (2013) *Deep impact, unintended consequences of journal rank* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2013.00291>, and Larivière et al. (2016) *A simple proposal for the publication of journal citation distributions* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/062109>).

We highlight questionable publishing practices but we do not promote blacklists.

One of the duties of the DOAJ Team is to keep questionable publishers and journals out of the DOAJ. An effective way of doing this is to highlight questionable practices and make sure that the community is aware of them.

However we do not condone the use of blacklists and will always try to refocus conversations onto the use of the DOAJ as a whitelist instead. To this end, we will not share, redistribute or support studies, articles, blog posts, tweets etc that use a blacklist as their focus or starting point. If we are prompted to react to something that uses a blacklist as its focal point then we will do so by shifting the focus.

We promote the view that it is better to start with a whitelist and help show people where they can publish rather than a blacklist of where they can't publish.

We take a global perspective.

Open access applies to the whole world and not just the Global North. Many of the initiatives bandied around online and in social media, and many of the supporters of open access are from the Global North. Unfortunately, discussion tends to focus around the publishing systems of the Global North and assume a Western world context. DOAJ has a duty to ensure that it is relevant to the entire world and therefore we will always remember to check

that our messages, criteria and best practices are applicable across the Globe. Whenever the opportunity arises, we will remind our partners and audience of this.

DOAJ supports diversity and inclusion

DOAJ is [an adopting organisation](#) of the [C4DISC Joint Statement of Principles](#). Adopting the Joint Statement of Principles is a show of support for improving diversity and inclusion in scholarly communications.

Find out more about DOAJ on our About page: <https://doaj.org/about>