Publishing in Non-Library Journals for Promoting Scientific Information Literacy

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Abstract

Academic librarians tend to publish in traditional "library" journals rather than journals directed at other academic disciplines, thereby missing the opportunity to inform and educate a key audience. This object of this poster is to alert librarians to publishing opportunities in science-related journals as a means of promoting science information literacy (IL).

Introduction

Scholarly publications are often the "make it or break it" component for academic librarians during promotion or tenure review. Most librarians tend to publish in traditional "library" journals rather than journals directed at the academic disciplines they serve. Librarians should seize the opportunity to interact with teaching and research faculty by publishing in subject-specific journals.

This list of recommended journals was developed by evaluating criteria (**Figure 1**). To gage the extent of interest in the topic of "information literacy" in science journals, the authors used the *SciFinder Scholar* (CAplus database), one of the most comprehensive databases for scientific information, to evaluate the content of article and review documents published between 1907 and 2011. A search using the term "literacy" resulted in 290 documents. An examination of the titles and abstracts confirmed the major focus of the articles is instruction. The increasing importance of IL is evident from the increase in growth of the number of articles published over the years (**Figure 2**)

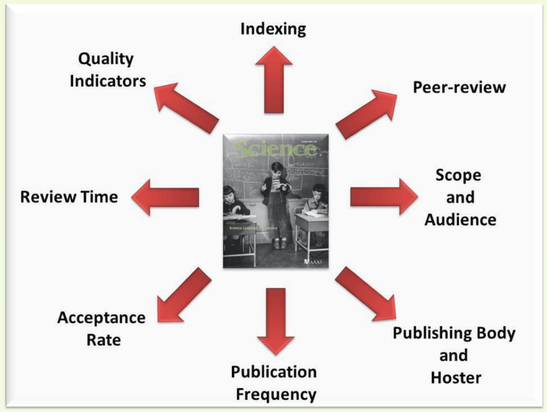

Figure 1: Journal Evaluation Criteria

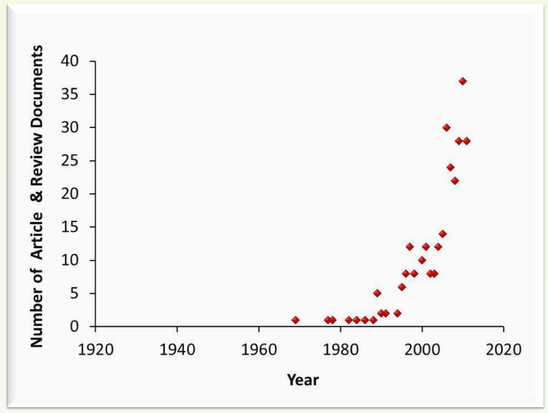

Figure 2: Plot Showing the Number of Article and Review Documents Containing the Term 'Literacy' from SciFinder Scholar (CAplus)

Methodology

Three databases were used to identify journals in the sciences suitable for librarian publications. These databases were: *Web of Science*, *Proquest Educational Journals*, and *ERIC.* The journal title lists from the other two databases were visually examined. Eighty-four potential journals were identified. E-mail letters were sent to the editors for information about their respective journal's acceptance rates and review times. A total of 70 responses (83 percent) resulted.

There were 62 positive responses (74 percent) that provided all or some of the requested information. Information about the publishing body and the content and scope of each journal was obtained from each journal's web page. Ulrich's periodical directory and the journal's webpages were used to identify the publisher, publication frequency, the journal's first publication date, editors, and links to the corresponding journal's webpages. A journal's quality was evaluated from Impact Factors, Eigenfactors, SCImago Journal Rank Score, and *h*-index.

Results & Discussion

☑ All journals in the study go through a peer-review process (**Table 1**)
☑ Journal first publication dates in this study ranged from 1880 to 2003.
☑ Publication frequency ranged from range of 1 per week to 18 per year.
☑ Review times for journals in this study range from 2 weeks to 18 months.
☑ Article acceptance rate ranged from seven to 75 percent with an average of 32 percent.
☑ Quality indicators for each journals have been indicated. Most journals identified in this study have a *h*-index below100 and range from one (*Journal of Science Education*) to 678 (*Science*).

Before selecting a journal for article submission, an author should consider and prioritize several criteria. One important question should focus on whether the theme of the manuscript falls within the journal's scope. Other factors such as peer-reviewed status, quality indicators, acceptance rates, publication frequency, and publisher also need to be taken into account. It is also important that the journal is indexed in one or more databases. These articles will then be searchable and accessible, and are therefore more likely to be cited.

Subject	Journal	Publisher	Hosted	Start Year of Print Journal	Publication Frequency	Review Time	Acceptance Rate	Impact Factor (2010)	EF (AF) (2010)	SJR Score & h-index SJR (2011)	Indexed
Biology	*Advances in Physiology Education*	American Physiological Society	American Physiological Society	1989	4/yr	1 month	47%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC PEJ WoS
	American Biology Teacher (The)	University of California Press	National Association of Biology Teachers	1938	9/yr	3-6 months	40%	Yes	Yes	No	ERIC PEJ WoS
	BioScience	University of California Press	American Institute of Biological Sciences	1951	12/yr	3 months	45%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC PEJ WoS
	Journal of Biological Education	Routledge	Society of Biology	1966	4/yr	4 months	30%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC WoS
Chemistry	*American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education*	American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy	1937	10/yr	1 month	46%	Yes	No	No	WoS
	Journal of Chemical Education	Division of Chemical Education, Inc., of the American Chemical Society	American Chemical Society	1924	12/yr	Not given	50%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC PEJ WoS
	Journal of Environmental Education (The)	Routledge	Routledge	1969	4/yr	4 months	30%	No	No	No	ERIC PEJ
Computer Science	*Computers & Education*	Elsevier	Elsevier	1977	8/yr	4-6 months	23%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC WoS
	Journal of Computer Assisted Learning	Wiley-Blackwell	Wiley-Blackwell	1985	6/yr	2.5 months	20%	No	Yes	Yes	ERIC PEJ
	Journal of Computing in Higher Education	Springer	Springer	1989	3/yr	1.5 months	45%	No	No	Yes	ERIC PEJ
Engineering	*IEEE Transactions on Education*	IEEE Education Society	IEEE Education Society	1958	4/yr	2 months	24%	Yes	Yes	Yes	ERIC WoS
	International Journal of Engineering Education	Dublin Institute of Technology Tempus Publications	Dublin Institute of Technology Tempus Publications	1985	6/yr	1 month	10%	No	No	Yes	PEJ WoS
	Journal of Professional Issues in Engineering Education and Practice	American Society of Civil Engineers	American Society of Civil Engineers	1956	4/yr	9 months	56%	Yes	Yes	Yes	WoS

Table 1: Table of Selected Non-Library Science Journals

Conclusion

One way librarians can outreach to the science disciplines is by publishing in journals read by the scientific community. The non-library science journals identified in this article are potential sources for communication and outreach to the science disciplines. Future work will focus on identifying non-library journals in other disciplines.

Contact Information

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