ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

How to Select Journals and Submit Your Papers

HOW TO SELECT JOURNALS AND SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS?

THE NORMAL PUBLICATION PROCESS

1. You submit manuscript to journal

2. Editor decides whether submission is …
   a) … rejected right away
   b) … sent out for review

3. After review, editor …
   a) … rejects
   b) … accepts
   c) … requests major/minor revisions

4. Resubmission/New submission at other journal

HOW TO SELECT JOURNALS AND SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS?

<u>Before</u> you submit a manuscript
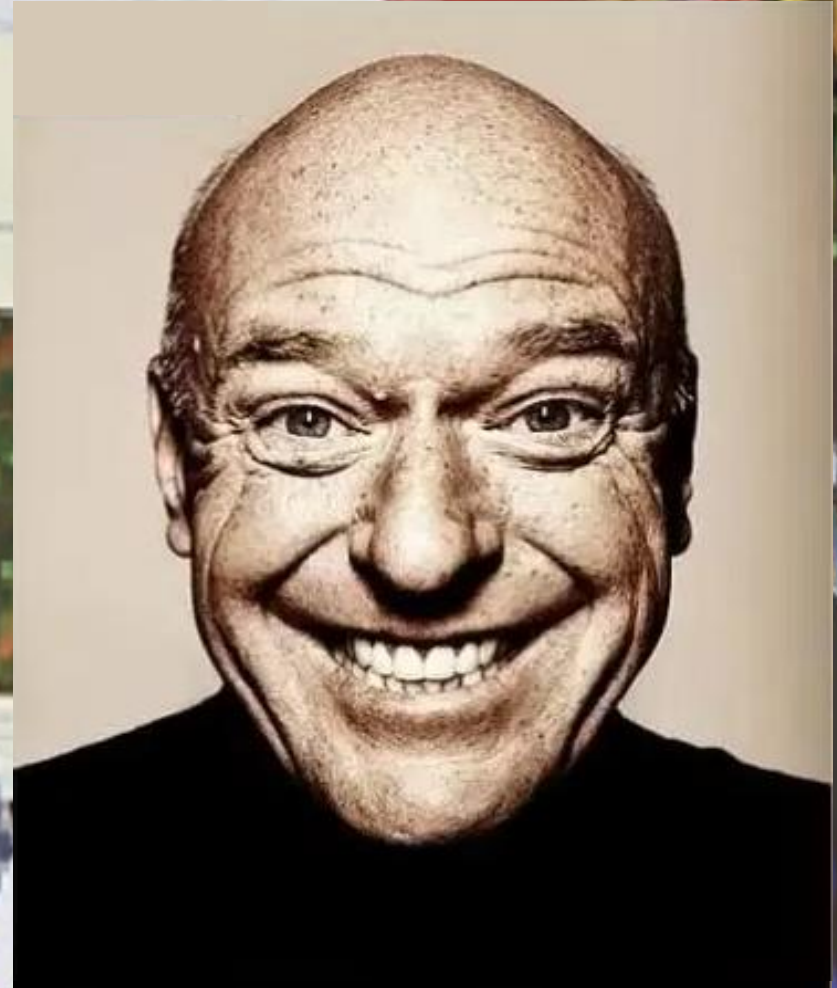
<u>During</u> submission of manuscript

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

Ask your supervisor!

- They know the field
- They know the "usual suspects" journals"
- But how do the supervisors choose a journal?

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Narrow down selection of possible journals by…

  - Using tools such as Web of Science Journal Citation Reports, Scimago, or ChatGPT to find the right research category and then browse list of journals

  - Going through your reference list. Which journals do you cite most often? Where were key studies in your manuscript published?

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Once narrowed down…

  - Does your study align with the aims and scope of the journal?

  - → Read the "aims and scope"

  - Would the editor of the journal be interested in your study?

  - Make sure that you cite (recent articles) from the journal in your manuscript!

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Publish as highly as possible …

What is "high" and how do I know?

- Impact factor, reputation, journal rankings ([Web of Science Journal Citation Reports](#), [Scimago](#))

- … without wasting your time

- Develop a publication plan ("We try first here, if rejected there, if then rejected …")

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

2. Impact (factor)

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Rejections are part of the "aim high" strategy

- If under time/publication pressure, "aim high" strategy may be abandoned in agreement with your supervisor

  - Identify journals with higher chance of acceptance

  - And fast processing time

  → Web of Science Journal Citation Reports, Scimago, Google

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

2. Impact (factor)

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Journals typically have different types of submissions (standard, short report/communication, review, editorial, comment etc…)

- Journals have different formats with respect to e.g. citation style, word length, manuscript structure (e.g. methods second or last)

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

2. Impact (factor)

3. Article format

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- When developing the "publication plan", take into consideration whether you need to make (substantial) changes to the manuscript

  - E.g. Your paper got rejected, you try journal #2 and have two choices, which are similar in impact, but one requires a cut of 3000 words due to a word limit, the other not.

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

2. Impact (factor)

3. Article format

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Do you want your article to be freely accessible?

- Then you need to pay for it!
  - Can you afford it?
  - Does the UiB cover it?
  - Check here:
    https://www.uib.no/en/ub/127354/open-access-publishing-deals
  - Funding for hybrid option?

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission

2. Impact (factor)

3. Article format

4. Open access/hybrid/ subscription journal

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- All these ideas are rough guidelines and can and should be adjusted depending on the situation

  - In agreement with the supervisor!

- For example, invited papers or special editions.

Factors to consider

1. Match journal/submission
2. Impact (factor)
3. Article format
4. Open access/hybrid/ subscription journal
5. "Special circumstances"

Before you submit a manuscript

Which journal do I choose?

- Never a "predatory" journal!

- Generally avoid semi-predatory journals

- Do some research!

  - There are black lists and white lists

HOW TO SELECT JOURNALS AND SUBMIT YOUR PAPERS?

<u>Before</u> you submit a manuscript

<u>During</u> submission of manuscript

During submission of manuscript

You have chosen your (first) journal and want to submit

During submission of manuscript

You have chosen your (first) journal and want to submit

Not so fast!

First, read the "instructions for authors" very carefully!

Again!

To check that your manuscript is in line with the instructions
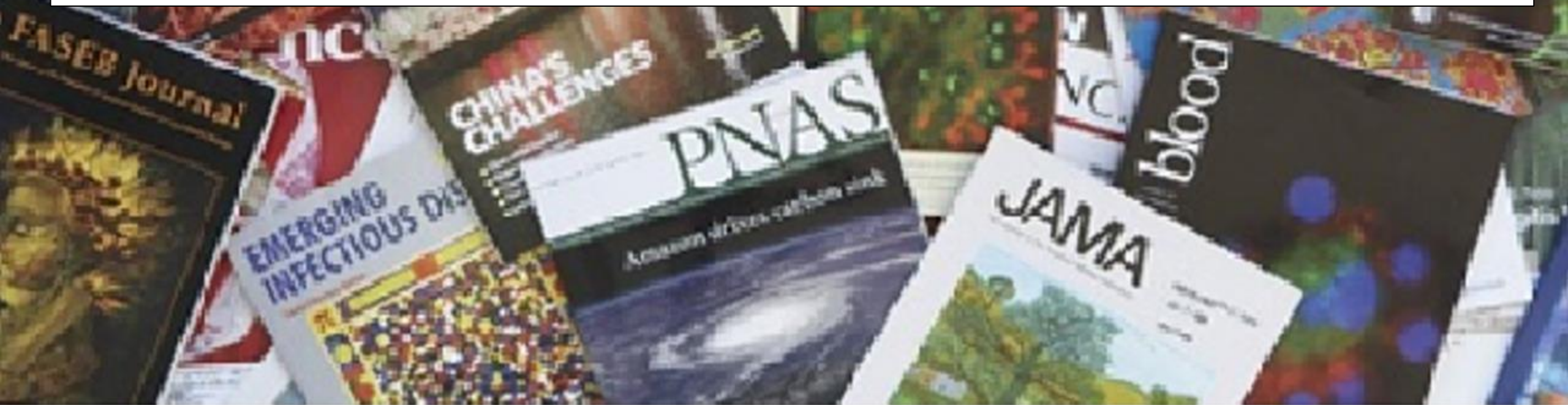
During submission of manuscript

Boring tasks

- Uploading files etc…

- Completing a few boxes about licensing, key words, "plain language summary"/"Highlights" (3 to 5 sentence summary), research area of the study …

- Letter to the editor?
  - Long and elaborate? Or short and generic?

Interesting tasks

- Suggest reviewers!!
  - It saves time for editor, opens the door for choosing fair reviewers (not your best friends and not your worst enemies)
  - Go for reviewers that are interested in your study
    - Who has published recently on the same subject?
    - Are there papers in your manuscript that are especially relevant and whose work you extend?
  - Check that you cite their work!

"On the high seas and in court , we are in God's hands."

"On the high seas and in court and in academic peer-review, we are in God's hands."