Publishing smart: Choosing where to publish

Dr Maria Dams, Research Services Adviser
Tamahina Sheridan, Māori Research Services Adviser

Student and Scholarly Services, Research Services

Overview

Motivation

- Why do you want to publish?
- Motivation shapes strategy

Assessing Journals for Quality

- What makes a quality journal?
- Beware of predatory journals
- Getting published in top-tier journals, e.g. Nature and Science

Publishing Beyond Metrics

- Local context and Indigenous publishing
- Open Access
- Preprints
- Publishing Broader Knowledge

Why do you want to publish?

Motivation: Build an Academic Career

=> Strategy:

- Target high-impact journals in your field
- Prioritise original research and novel contributions
- Aim for indexed journals (Scopus, Web of Science)

Motivation: Contribute to Society

=> Strategy:

- Choose open access journals for broader reach
- Consider preprint servers for early visibility
- Publish data papers, methods, or negative results to support reproducibility

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Motivation: Graduate Requirements or Funding Obligations

=> Strategy:

- Focus on timely publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Choose journals with shorter review cycles
- Ensure compliance with funder or university mandates (e.g., open access, data sharing)

What makes a quality journal?

Peer Review Process

Reviewer Guidelines

F1000Research's peer review model

Peer review of articles on F1000Research takes place after publication; once the article is published, expert reviewers are formally invited to review under our open and transparent peer review model. To improve the consistency of definitions and terminology in peer review, F1000Research uses the NISO standard terminology for peer review to summarise our peer review process as:

- Identity transparency: All identities visible
- Reviewer interacts with: Editor, other reviewers, authors
- Review information published: Review reports, submitted manuscript, reviewer identities
- Post publication commenting: Open

More information is available on Peer review process for articles section of the How it Works page.

Peer review reports are published alongside the reviewers' full names and affiliations, and remain attached to the article, including if it is indexed with sites such as PubMed and Scopus. Your report will be published, citable, and have a DOI. Peer review directly determines whether an article will be indexed, via the approval status that reviewers select when reviewing the article.

We are very appreciative of the work our reviewers do for us, and believe it is important for

Initial Checks

Editorial Review

Peer Review

Editorial Decisions

Revisions

Accepted Manuscripts

Editorial and Peer Review Process

PLOS ONE is a peer reviewed scientific journal with a rigorous editorial screening and assessment process made up of several stages.

PLOS ONE considers original research articles from all disciplines within the journal's scope in the natural sciences, medical research, engineering, as well as the related social sciences and humanities. The editors make decisions on submissions based on scientific rigor, regardless of novelty.

Peer Review

During the submission process you'll be asked to indicate any specific editors or reviewers who should not review your manuscript. We will respect your request so long as it does not interfere with the objective and thorough assessment of the submission.

The handling editor selects reviewers based on expertise, publication history, and past reviews, and invites them to provide feedback on the manuscript. After agreeing to review, external peer reviewers typically have 10 days to submit their review. The journal office will follow up with late reviewers and keep you informed if there are any delays.

PLOS ONE uses single-anonymized peer review. Reviewers remain anonymous unless they choose to identify themselves by signing their name to their review in our submission system.

PNAS Author Center

Tier 1: Editorial Board assessment

The PNAS Editorial Board is made up of NAS members who are active scientists and experts in their fields. On submission, your paper is assigned to an Editorial Board member in one of the 31 NAS disciplines. If the Board member determines that the paper should proceed further, the individual assigns it to a member editor or, if the NAS membership lacks sufficient expertise, to a nonmember guest editor to oversee the peer review process. The Board may reject manuscripts without further review, or review and reject manuscripts that do not meet PNAS standards. More than 50% of submissions are declined at initial evaluation.

Tier 2: Member Editor or guest editor assessment

A member editor is an NAS member who is an active scientist in the field most relevant to your research. The member editor manages the peer review process for papers in their field and determines suitability of your work for PNAS.

A guest editor is an active scientist who is not an NAS member but is recognized by the Board as an expert in their field. Guest editors manage the peer review process in emerging and interdisciplinary fields where the NAS membership lacks sufficient expertise. With oversight from the Editorial Board, guest editors determine suitability of your work for PNAS.

Tier 3: Independent peer review

Research papers across all submission routes are peer-reviewed by at least two independent experts. If your paper is sent out for review, your member editor or guest editor selects recognized subject experts to review your work. The editors evaluate the reviewers' comments and make a recommendation to the Editorial Board member, who makes the final decision to accept or reject your paper. The acceptance rate is currently 14%.

A member or guest editor will typically secure two independent peer reviews. However, a single negative review, with which the editor agrees, may be sufficient to recommend rejection. The names of the reviewers of Direct Submissions are confidential and not shared, unless express permission is granted by the reviewers. Contributed submissions have open peer review (named reviewers).

What makes a quality journal?

Peer Review Process

Editorial Standards

The membership organisation for publication ethics

Promoting ethical practices and supporting high standards in scholarly publications.

Find out more →

Promoting integrity in scholarly research and its publication

IGI Global
Scientific Publishing
Publishing Tomorrow's Research Today

Hershey, Pennsylvania
New York, New York • Beijing, China

Get Our News   Language: English Chinese

Search title, author, ISBN...

Books ▾   Journals ▾   e-Collections ▾   OnDemand   Open Access ▾   Publish with Us   Resources ▾

IGI Global Scientific Publishing is a Full Member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)

What is the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)?

The Committee on Publication Ethics, known also by its acronym, COPE, is a non-profit UK-based international organization that strives to provide leadership and promote adherence to strict ethical guidelines in the publishing and academic communities, as well as offers a professional voice in current debates. COPE continually shares educational resources with editors and publishers on the latest best practices for maintaining the highest standard of ethics in all publications.

C|O|P|E
Member Since 2017
Committee on
Publication Ethics

Learn More about COPE

COPE Membership Review Process

At the start of 2017, IGI Global Scientific Publishing submitted an application to COPE and then entered into a review process by the COPE Council in which our publishing house was carefully examined, including our editorial management processes, our peer review process, our ethics and malpractice policies, and our online manuscript submission system, eEditorial Discovery®. We agreed to comply with the COPE core principles of publication ethics as laid out in COPE's "Core Practices."

In 2017, IGI Global Scientific Publishing was formally recognized by COPE and was offered the opportunity to become a full member, which we gladly accepted. This allows all our journal Editor(s)-in-Chief to become full members of COPE as well.

COPE Core Practices   Principles of Transparency and Best Practice

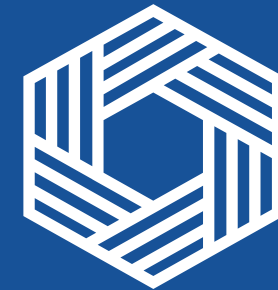# What makes a quality journal?

Peer Review Process

Editorial Standards

Indexing

Common Indexing Databases

- **Scopus**
- **Web of Science**
- **PubMed (for biomedical sciences)**

- DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
- ERIC (for education)
- Google Scholar (less selective but widely used)

What makes a quality journal?

Peer Review Process

Editorial Standards

Indexing

Journal metrics

Citation metrics

e.g., Impact Factor (Web of Science)
CiteScore (Scopus)

1. Match the Metric to Your Goals
2. Compare Journals in Your Field
3. Balance Metrics with Other Factors
4. Avoid Over-Reliance on Metrics

What Are Journal Quartiles?

Q1 **(Top 25%)**

Top-tier journals with the highest impact and citations.

Q2 **(25-50%)**

Strong journals with solid reputations.

Q3 **(50-75%)**

Mid-tier journals, often more specialized.

Q4 **(Bottom 25%)**

Lower-tier or emerging journals with fewer citations.

Where to find journal metrics and quartile rankings?

Journal Citation Reports

Best for: Journals indexed in Web of Science

Scopus sources

Best for: Journals indexed in Scopus

Scimago Journal & Country Rank

Best for: Journals indexed in Scopus

Journal Citation Reports™

< **Journals** **Categories** **Publishers** > **Compare** ♡ My favorites 👤 **Maria Dams** ⌄

Categories by Group ⓘ

See all **254 Categories**

Sort by: Alphabetical ▼

🌿 Agricultural Sciences

NUMBER OF CATEGORIES	NUMBER OF JOURNALS	NUMBER OF CITABLE ITEMS	
7	441	59,253	⌃

Covers multiple aspects of agriculture, including engineering application in agriculture; selection, breeding, and management of livestock and crops; cultivation of plants; the formation, distribution, and utilization of soils; and all aspects of agricultural commodities and the management and policy decisions affecting them.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY

AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

AGRICULTURE, DAIRY & ANIMAL SCIENCE

AGRICULTURE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY

AGRONOMY

Journal name ▾	ISSN	eISSN	Category	Edition	Total Citations ▾	2023 JIF ▾	JIF Quartile
☐ FOOD POLICY	0306-9192	1873-5657	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY	SCIE	10,470	6.8	Q1
☐ AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	0169-5150	1574-0862	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY	SCIE	5,264	4.5	Q1

🏠 Critical Studies in Education

Journal metrics

📄 Usage

- **188K** annual downloads/views

📈 Citation metrics

- **4.0 (2023)** Impact Factor
- **Q1** Impact Factor Best Quartile
- **4.0 (2023)** 5 year IF
- **10.1 (2023)** CiteScore (Scopus)
- **Q1** CiteScore Best Quartile
- **3.248 (2023)** SNIP
- **1.819 (2023)** SJR

⏱ Speed/acceptance

- **24** days avg. from submission to first decision
- **107** days avg. from submission to first post-review decision
- **10** days avg. from acceptance to online publication
- **11%** acceptance rate

Use Journal Suggester, e.g. Taylor & Francis

🔓 An open access journal

Kotuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online

[About] [Metrics]
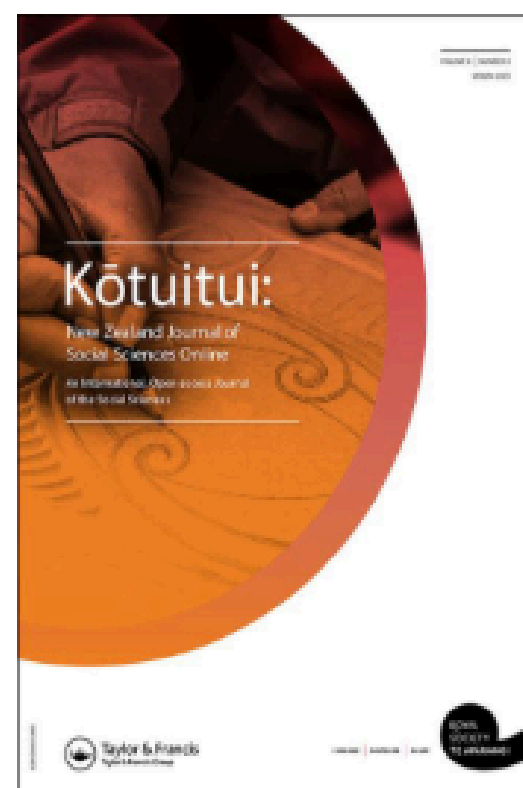
📈 Citation metrics

Impact Factor	**1.4 (2023)**
CiteScore	**3.6 (2023)**
SNIP	**1.082 (2023)**

ⓘ Speed / acceptance

Submission to first decision	**34 days**
Acceptance rate	**45%**

Read more about understanding journal metrics ↗

[Learn more ↗]

or visit the cost finder ↗ to calculate the article publishing charge

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🔓 Open Select: Choose to publish open access

Policy Reviews in Higher Education

[About] [Metrics]

📈 Citation metrics

Impact Factor	**3.8 (2023)**
CiteScore	**9.0 (2023)**
SNIP	**3.818 (2023)**

ⓘ Speed / acceptance

Submission to first decision	**16 days**
Acceptance rate	**19%**

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[Learn more ↗]

or visit the cost finder ↗ to calculate the article publishing charge

Beware of predatory journals!

- Aggressive emails
- Fake credentials
- Hidden fees and policies
- Unrealistic Promises

Think. Check. Submit.

EDUCACIÓN XX1

UNED

About Educación XX1 ▾   Current issue   Previous issues   Instructions for Authors   Announcements   Contact

Educación XX1 is an international scientific journal published by the Education Faculty of the Universidad Nacional de Educacion a Distancia (UNED, Spain), which aims to encourage the diffusion of advances in educative research and innovation.

Although in recent years the journal has mainly focused on higher education, it also welcomes other scientific works of a multidisciplinary nature considered to make an important contribution to the field of education.

Educación XX1 publishes two issues per year. There are no publication fees for authors to publish. Articles must be sent in English or in Spanish.

Those interested in publishing their work are reminded that the journal is a diamond open access journal, i.e. authors publish free of charge and readers have free access to the published work.

Announcements

Problemas técnicos con el envío de correos a través de la plataforma OJS

📅 2025-03-13

Estimadas y estimados autoras/es:

Os informamos de que **el servidor del OJS ha tenido algunas incidencias con el envío de correos de rechazo tras la pre-evaluación de los trabajos enviados en la ventana de recepción de enero-febrero durante varios días** (hasta el 3 de marzo).

En el caso de haber enviado algún artículo a Educación XX1, **recomendamos que se acceda directamente a la plataforma para comprobar si tienen alguna comunicación** al respecto sobre su envío.

Language

English

Español

Sindication

ATOM 1.0

RSS 2.0

RSS 1.0

eISSN: 2174-5374

ISSN: 1139-613X

Index and quality

Journal Citation Reports
Clarivate
2023

Educacion XX1
Q1   Education
best quartile
SJR 2024
0.79
powered by scimagojr.com

About ▾   Current   Archives   Author Guidelines   Announcements   Contact

[Search]   Search

EDUCACIÓN XX1
2025
Vol 28 | No 1

UNED

EDUCACIONXX1 is a peer-reviewed, international academic journal dedicated to advancing the field of education through innovative research, theoretical studies, and practical applications. The journal focuses on modern educational challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, providing a platform for the exchange of ideas, methodologies, and findings that contribute to the improvement of teaching and learning practices worldwide.

Announcements

The English version of EDUCACIONXX1

📅 2025-01-28

We are proud to announce that starting in 2025, the **English version** of EDUCACIONXX1 has been launched on a new platform! Previously published in Spanish, the journal now also accepts submissions from researchers in English.

Make a Submission

English version of EDUCACIONXX1

WE'RE HERE
ANNOUNCEMENT

Scopus & Impact Factor 2024: 3

Educacion XX1
Q1   Education
best quartile
SJR 2024
0.79
powered by scimagojr.com

JOURNAL CITATION REPORTS
Clarivate
SSCI
Impact Factor
2024: 3

Article Processing Charges

The journal is Open Access. Article Processing Charges (APCs) allow the publisher to make articles immediately available online to anyone to read and reuse upon publication.

Concerning the **article processing fee**, we offer two distinct methods. The **standard method** typically requires 12 to 25 days for assessment and publication. Alternatively, our **fast-track method** expedites the process, taking only 1 to 3 days for both reviewing and publishing. The associated costs for the chosen method will be promptly communicated to you **via email.** Ms. NECIBA EMIRI is the official representative of the journal in Turkey, and all payments made in her name are valid and approved.

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Getting published in top-tier journals, e.g. Nature and Science

Highly selective journals, 10% acceptance rate

What makes a study a good fit for *Nature, Science,* or similar top-tier journals

Broad Appeal

Accessible Writing

Strong Narrative

Presentation Matters

Types of suitable studies

Public Interest Topics: e.g., pandemics, climate change, AI ethics.

Technological Breakthroughs: Tools or methods that can be used across disciplines.

Big Data or Resources: Datasets, platforms, or models that others can build on.

"Think about the destination early on, that will tell you what you need to focus on and what areas of your research will be important for the paper. What is the issue that people are trying to solve in my area, how does my research speak to that, how do I speak to that?"

"Who do you want to have a conversation with? Those who study the topic in New Zealand? Or internationally? You really need to think about the audience. Research is a conversation, who do you want to have a conversation with, and what do you want the conversation to be?"

Assoc Prof Simon Greenhill, Biological Sciences, The University of Auckland, and on the board of reviewing editors at the journal *Science*.

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"Science and Nature are not your typical academic journal, they are magazines. If your research is sound but doesn't tell a good story, then it should not go here. You need to tell a story, like an elevator pitch, that your grandparents can understand. How do you tell your story to people in your field but also in other fields?"

Dr Ziyun Wang, Chemical Sciences, The University of Auckland

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Dr Ziyun Wang, Chemical Sciences,
The University of Auckland

Publishing beyond Metrics

Strategic publishing is about more than just metrics and citations. It can be about ensuring your work reaches outside of academia and makes societal change.

If your primary motivation for doing research is community impact or societal benefit, your publishing strategy may need to adjust to reflect that.

Purpose-driven publishing

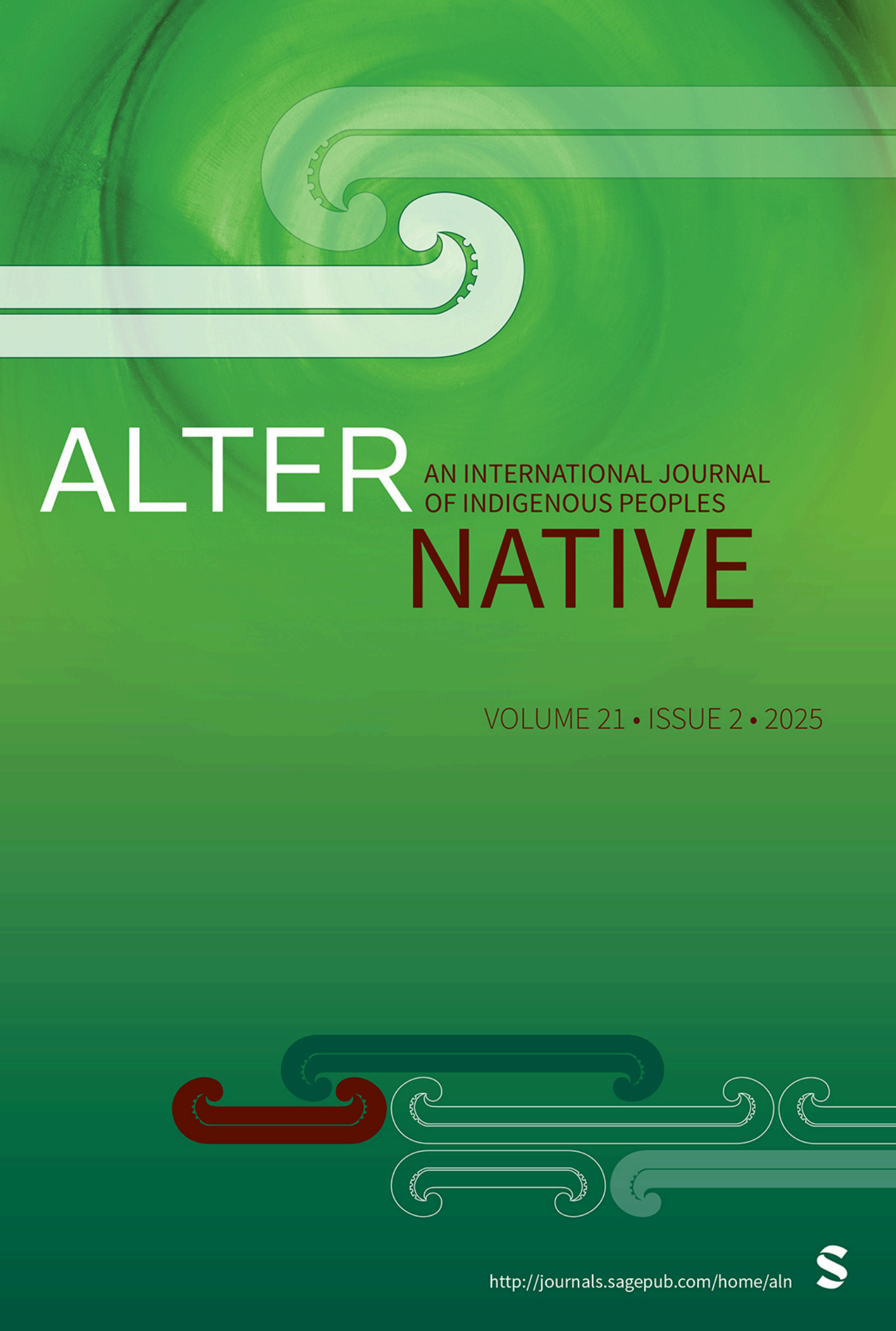If your motivation is broader impact, your publishing strategy might also include:

- Local/Indigenous journals
- Open Access
- Preprints
- Publishing null/negative results
- Publishing broader outputs such as policy documents, blogposts, and NTROs

Indigenous Research

- Māori and Pacific scholars in Aotearoa navigate a complex and unique publishing landscape
- Māori scholars may prioritise kaupapa Maōri values: collaboration, reciprocity, benefit to iwi/hapū
- May be wary of impact metrics that do not fully capture their contributions (h-index, quartiles etc).
- Due to this, some academics adopt a dual strategic approach:
  - Publish in high impact journals for greater recognition
  - Paired with publishing in Open Access/local journals for community/stakeholder reach and accessibility

Open Access

If your motivation includes accessibility, public benefit, or community engagement, publishing in Open Access is a strategic publishing choice to help achieve that
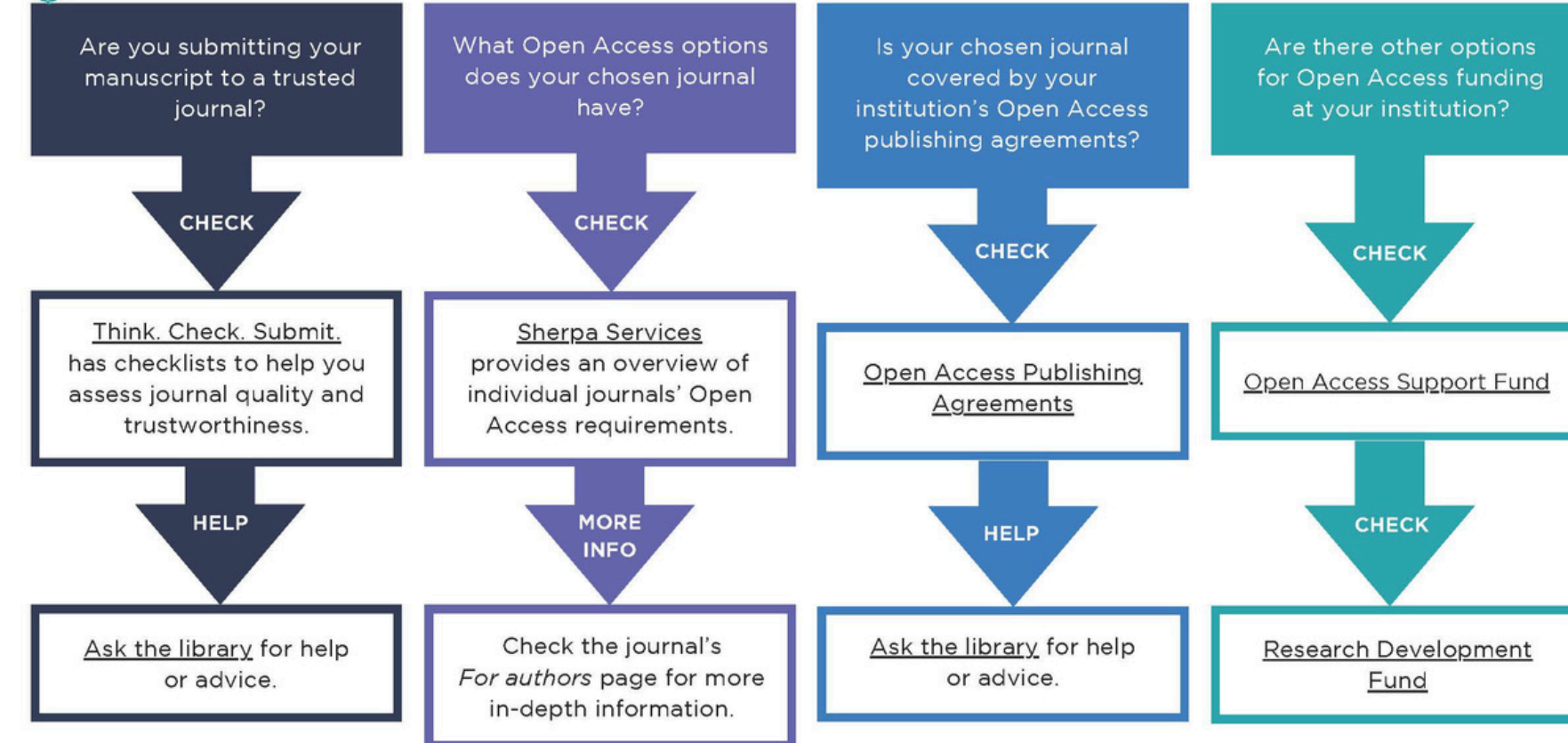
Open Access:

- Increases the reach and visibility of your work
- Enables public benefit
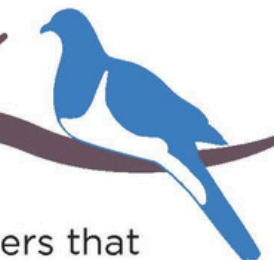- Supports equity in knowledge
- Boosts citations

Open Access Toolkit

- Support for the Open Access process
- Open Access publishing agreements
- Open Access Support Fund
- Directory of Open Access Journals

Stage 2:
Choosing a journal

Open Access Toolkit for Aotearoa New Zealand Researchers

UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

Are you submitting your manuscript to a trusted journal?	What Open Access options does your chosen journal have?	Is your chosen journal covered by your institution's Open Access publishing agreements?	Are there other options for Open Access funding at your institution?
CHECK	CHECK	CHECK	CHECK
Think. Check. Submit. has checklists to help you assess journal quality and trustworthiness.	Sherpa Services provides an overview of individual journals' Open Access requirements.	Open Access Publishing Agreements	Open Access Support Fund
HELP	MORE INFO	HELP	CHECK
Ask the library for help or advice.	Check the journal's *For authors* page for more in-depth information.	Ask the library for help or advice.	Research Development Fund

Tips & Tricks

Tip 1: Ignore publishers that aggressively solicit your research.

Tip 2: Use Open Access filters in library databases such as Scopus, Dimensions or Web of Science to find reputable journals.

Tip 3: Use the Directory of Open Access Journals to find journals without Open Access fees.

Tip 4: If the best journal for your research does not have an Open Access option, you may still be able to

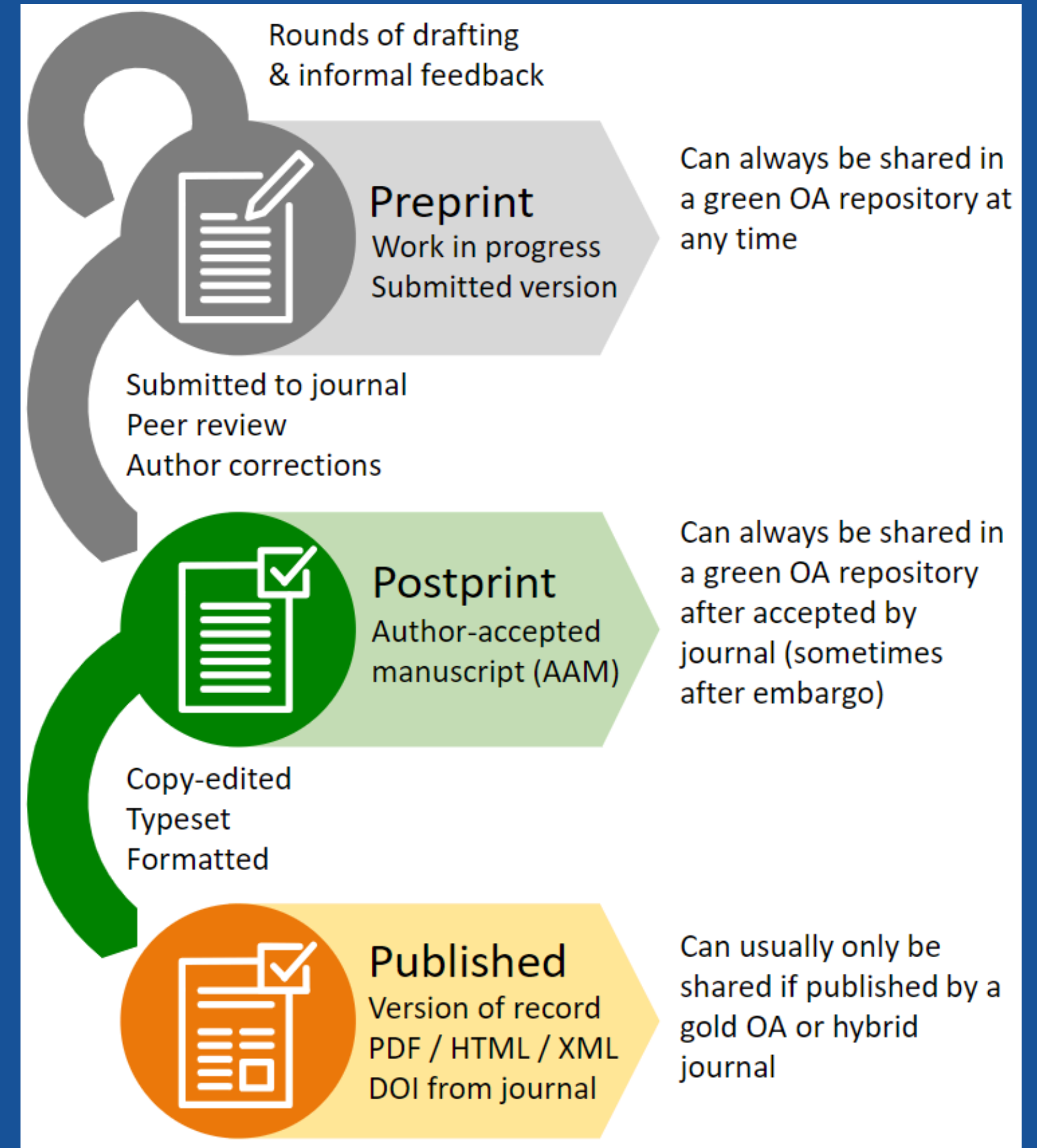## Checklist

- [ ] I have checked the legitimacy of the journal I have chosen.
- [ ] I know what Open Access options my chosen journal offers and which one(s) I plan to use.
- [ ] I have checked the University's Open Access publishing agreements to see if I can publish in my chosen journal for free.
- [ ] If I can't use UOA's Open Access publishing agreements, I have explored other funding options.

Preprints

- Allows for rapid sharing
- Shows work in progress
- Early review/feedback
- Better visibility/accessibility

But

- Not peer reviewed
- Need to consider ethics, consent, misinterpretation

Rounds of drafting & informal feedback

Preprint
Work in progress
Submitted version

Can always be shared in a green OA repository at any time

Submitted to journal
Peer review
Author corrections

Postprint
Author-accepted manuscript (AAM)

Can always be shared in a green OA repository after accepted by journal (sometimes after embargo)

Copy-edited
Typeset
Formatted

Published
Version of record
PDF / HTML / XML
DOI from journal

Can usually only be shared if published by a gold OA or hybrid journal

"As a postdoc I led a big paper we didn't post as a preprint which I later sorely regretted. It was published in Nature, but after publication a serious error was discovered that led us to retract the paper (and later republish a corrected version in a different journal). I'm pretty sure if we had posted a preprint the error would have been identified and corrected before publication, avoiding all the drama and wasted time of retracting/republishing. I don't think I've ever published a paper since then without preprinting it first."

Dr Patrick Savage, Senior Research Fellow at School of Psychology, The University of Auckland, and Assoc. Prof. at Keio University

Publishing null/negative results

- Strengthens integrity and transparency
- Prevents duplication
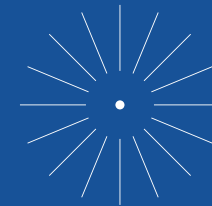- Contributes to overall knowledge
- Prevents publication bias

Publishing Broader Outputs

- Policy briefs

- Community reports

- Guides or toolkits

- Blogs, op-eds

- NTROs: artefacts, exhibitions, performances

Motivations

Career? Community? Change?

Why you publish shapes where and how you publish

Your motivations might fluctuate, or overlap at different times. You can adjust your strategy to reflect this.

If your focus includes society, community, culture, consider broadening where you publish

However, don't discount high-impact journals, but use them strategically

You can do both!

Follow-up activities

1 List your motivations and align them with journals that support your publishing goals.

2 Use JCR or Scopus to identify the top 5 Q1 journals in your field.

3 Find 5 journals in your field your university has Open Access agreements with.

4 Use DOAJ to locate 5 Open Access journals in your field without fees.

5 Explain your research in one sentence for a non-specialist audience.

Questions?

What was one key takeaway from this presentation?