



Waipapa  
Taumata Rau  
**University  
of Auckland**

# Publish Smarter

Choosing where to publish

ResBaz 2026

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# Overview



## **Motivation**

- Why do you want to publish
- Motivation shapes strategy

## **Assessing journals for quality**

- What makes a quality journal?
- Predatory Publishers
- 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

*Featuring UoA researchers' perspectives*

Why do you want to publish?



## Motivation 1: Build an Academic Career

### ➤ Strategy:

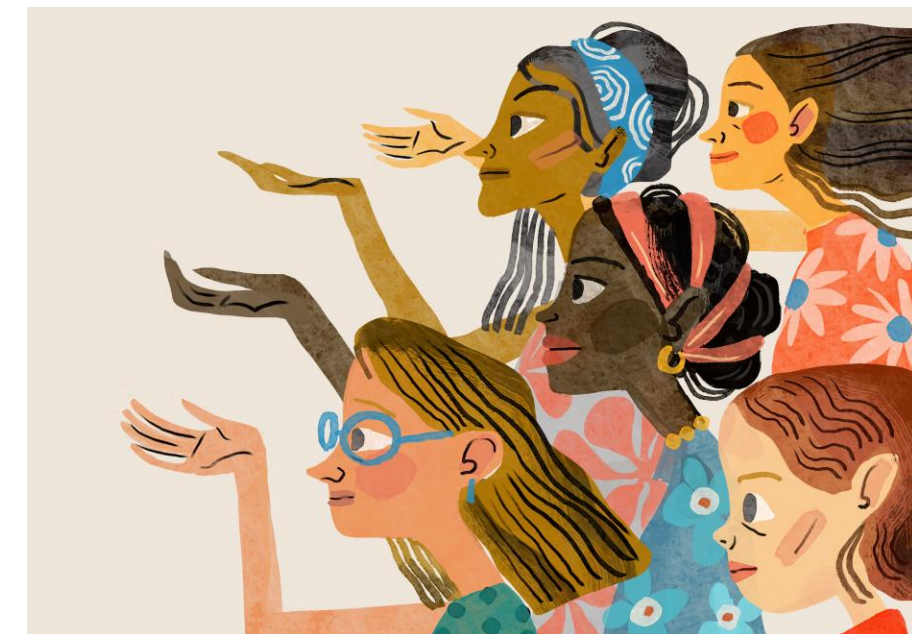
- ✓ Target high-impact journals in your field
- ✓ Aim for indexed journals (Scopus, Web of Science)
- ✓ Prioritise original research and novel contributions



## Motivation 2: 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





What makes a quality journal?

# What makes a quality journal?



Peer Review  
Process

## Reviewer Guidelines

Peer review model

Scope & article eligibility

Reviewer eligibility

Peer reviewer code of conduct

Guidelines for reviewing

How to submit

The peer-review process

Peer Reviewing Tips

Benefits for Reviewers

## 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

## About F1000Research

[How it Works](#)

[For Reviewers](#)

[Our Advisors](#)

[Policies](#)

[Glossary](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Contact](#)

# 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 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.



[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](#)

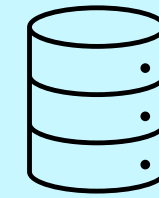
# What makes a quality journal?



Peer Review  
Process




Editorial  
Standards



Indexing



# Common Indexing Databases

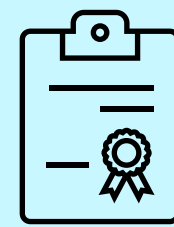
- 
- Scopus
  - Web of Science
  - PubMed
  - DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
  - Google Scholar (less selective but widely used)



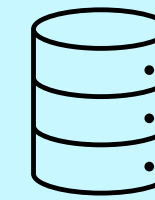
# What makes a quality journal?



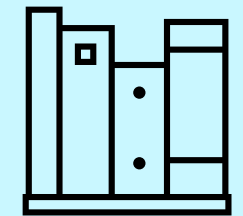
Peer Review  
Process



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

## Using AI to Find Journal Rankings

### Yes, but ...

- AI tools rely on **publicly available data only**
- No direct access to subscription databases:
  - Journal Citation Reports (JCR)
  - Scopus
- Results may be **incomplete, outdated or inaccurate**

### Best practice:

For reliable quartile rankings (Q1-Q4), use official sources provided by your university library



# Categories by Group i

See all 254 Categories

Sort by: Alphabetical

## Agricultural Sciences

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.

NUMBER OF CATEGORIES

7

NUMBER OF JOURNALS

441

NUMBER OF CITABLE ITEMS

59,253



- AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY
- AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING
- AGRICULTURE, DAIRY & ANIMAL SCIENCE
- AGRICULTURE, MULTIDISCIPLINARY
- AGRONOMY

Journal name	ISSN	eISSN	Category	Edition	Total Citations	2023 JIF	JIF Quartile
<input type="checkbox"/> FOOD POLICY	0306-9192	1873-5657	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY	SCIE	10,470	6.8	Q1
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS	0169-5150	1574-0862	AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS & POLICY	SCIE	5,264	4.5	Q1

# 🏠 Critical Studies in Education

Submit an article ▼

About this journal

Browse all articles & issues ▼

## 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

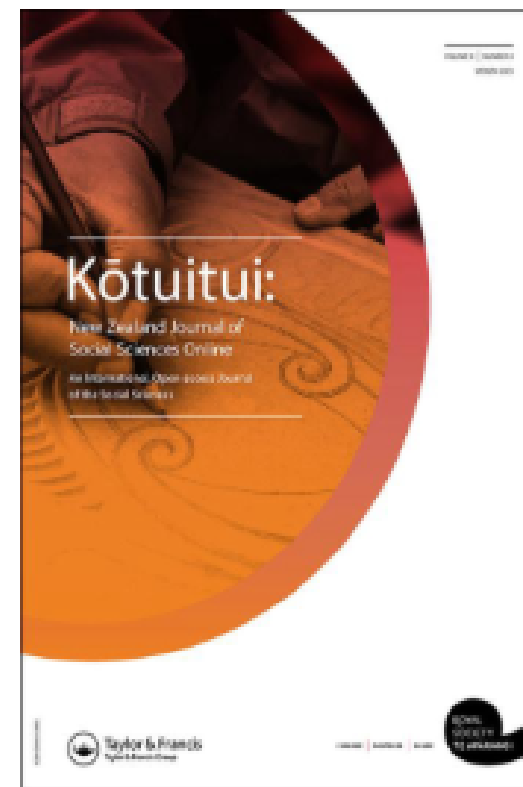
Submission to first decision

**34 days**

Acceptance rate

**45%**

[Read more about understanding journal metrics](#) 



[Learn more](#) 

or visit the [cost finder](#)  to calculate the article publishing charge

 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%**

[Read more about understanding journal metrics](#) 



[Learn more](#) 

or visit the [cost finder](#)  to calculate the article publishing charge

## Publishing Strategy: Aim High, Revise, Resubmit



“When choosing where to publish, I prioritise the journals I read most and aim high, submitting first to top-tier journals in my field. I’ve been desk rejected many times, but I treat those as opportunities to improve the manuscript. After revising, I submit to a second-choice journal that’s still reputable and well-aligned with my work.”

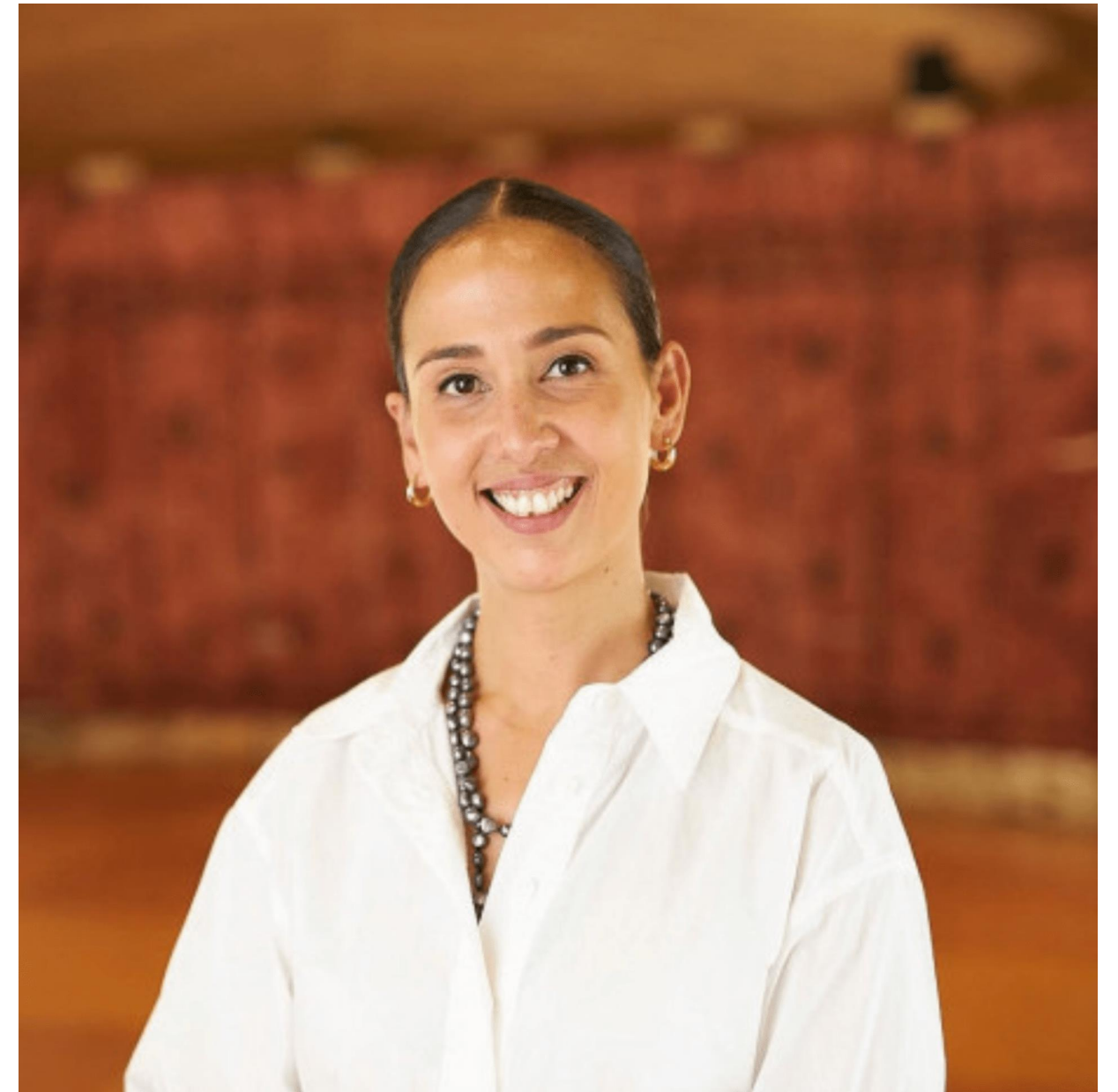


Dr Helen Murray, Senior Research Fellow,  
FMHS, The University of Auckland

## Publishing Strategically for Career Growth



"Having publications in top-tier journals makes a significant difference if you're planning an academic career. I was surprised by how quickly it opened doors for me."

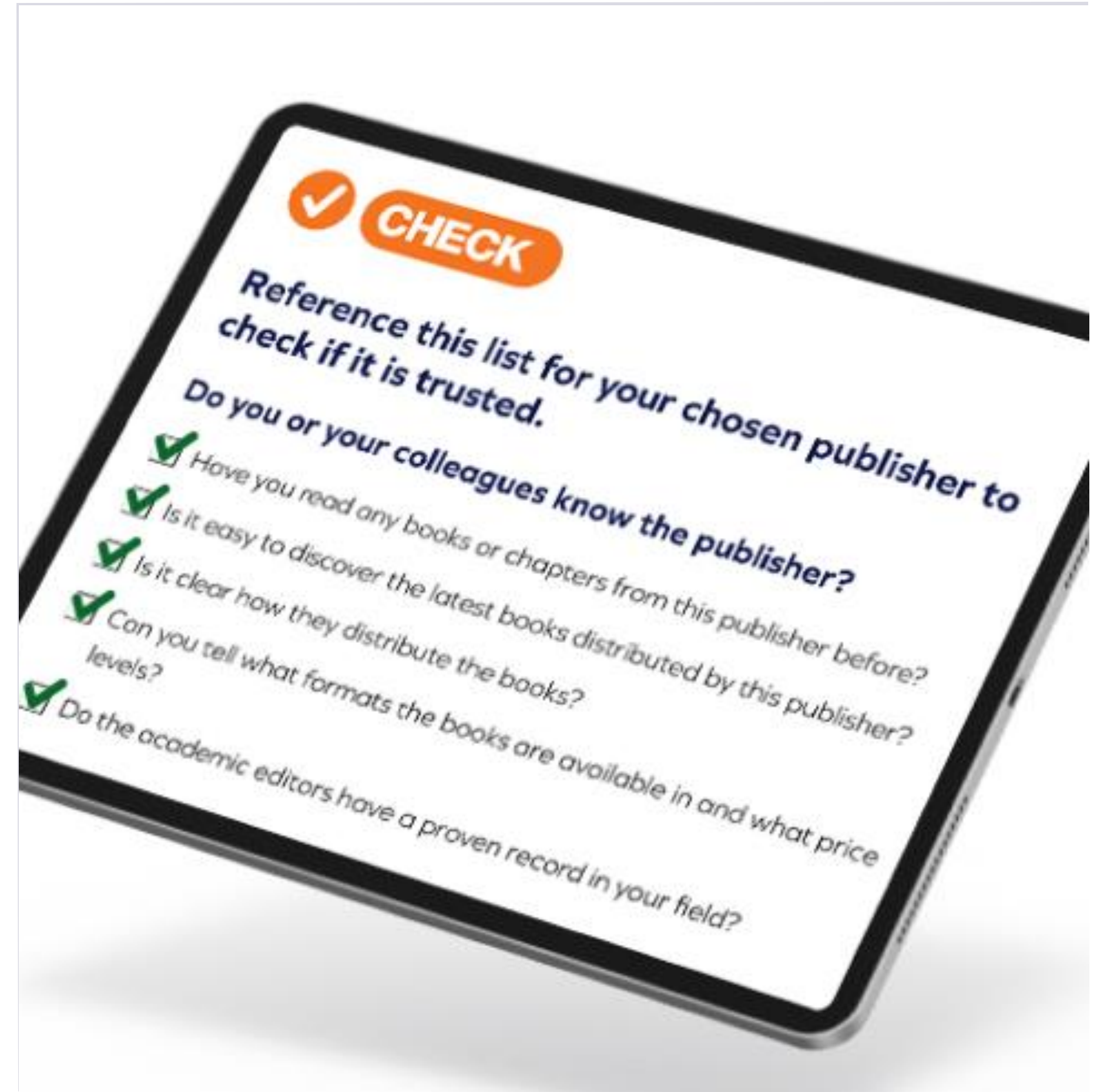


Dr Moeata Keil, Faculty of Arts and Education,  
Social Sciences, The University of Auckland

# Beware of predatory journals!

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

[Think. Check. Submit.](#)



## Publish Where You Read: Building a Trusted Journal List



“You should only consider publishing in journals you’re familiar with. Ideally, maintain a curated list of up to 15 reputable journals in your field and engage with their content regularly. By doing so, you’ll avoid even considering predatory journals, because they won’t be part of your reading list.”



Professor Julia Kotlarsky, Business School,  
The University of Auckland



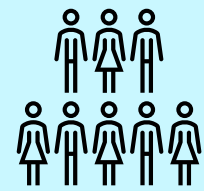
## Getting published in top-tier journals, e.g., *Nature* and *Science*



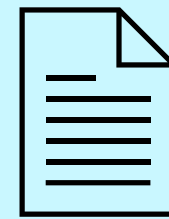
Highly selective journals,  
10% acceptance rate



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



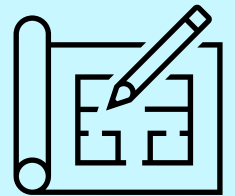
Broad Appeal



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.

## Tell a Story That Resonates Across Disciplines



“*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, Faculty of Science, 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 a 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

# Balancing Local and Global Publishing



"As a Pacific researcher, I often find that the journals I want to publish in aren't formally recognised. My publishing strategy is to place about 50% of my work in localised journals and 50% in larger international ones. If we stop publishing in domestic journals, they risk disappearing."




Associate Professor Sereana Naepi, Social Sciences, The University of Auckland



# 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/community
- 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



**ALTER** AN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL  
OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES  
**NATIVE**

VOLUME 21 • ISSUE 2 • 2025



<http://journals.sagepub.com/home/aln>





# What is Open Access?



- Free for anyone to read online — no paywalls.
- May cost authors (an APC), but not always.
- Free or prepaid options exist through agreements, Diamond journals or sharing earlier versions.
- Authors keep more control over their work using Creative Commons (CC) licences.

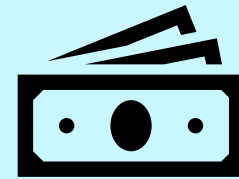


# How can you make your work open access?



## STEP 1

- Is the journal covered by the University's [Open Access publishing agreements](#)?



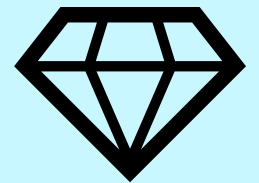
## STEP 2

- Are you eligible for the [Open Access Support Fund](#), or do you have a grant or other funding available?



## STEP 3

- Does the journal have a subscription/non-APC publication route? Learn about [Green Open Access](#).



## STEP 4

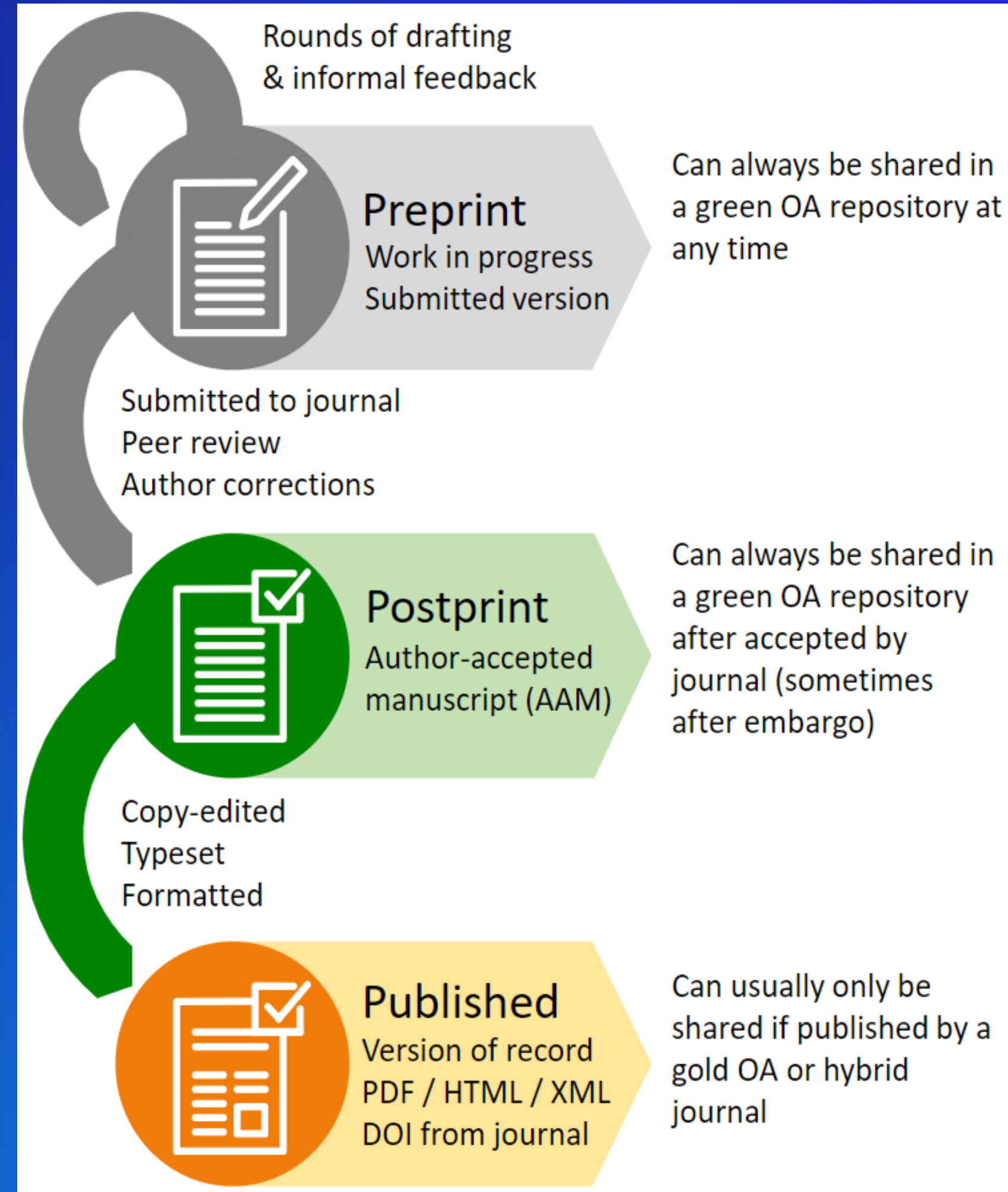
- Is there a Diamond OA journal that you could publish in? Check out [DOAJ](#).

# Preprints

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

## But

- Not peer reviewed
- Journal policies vary
- Need to consider ethics, consent and misinterpretation



## The Benefits of Early Feedback



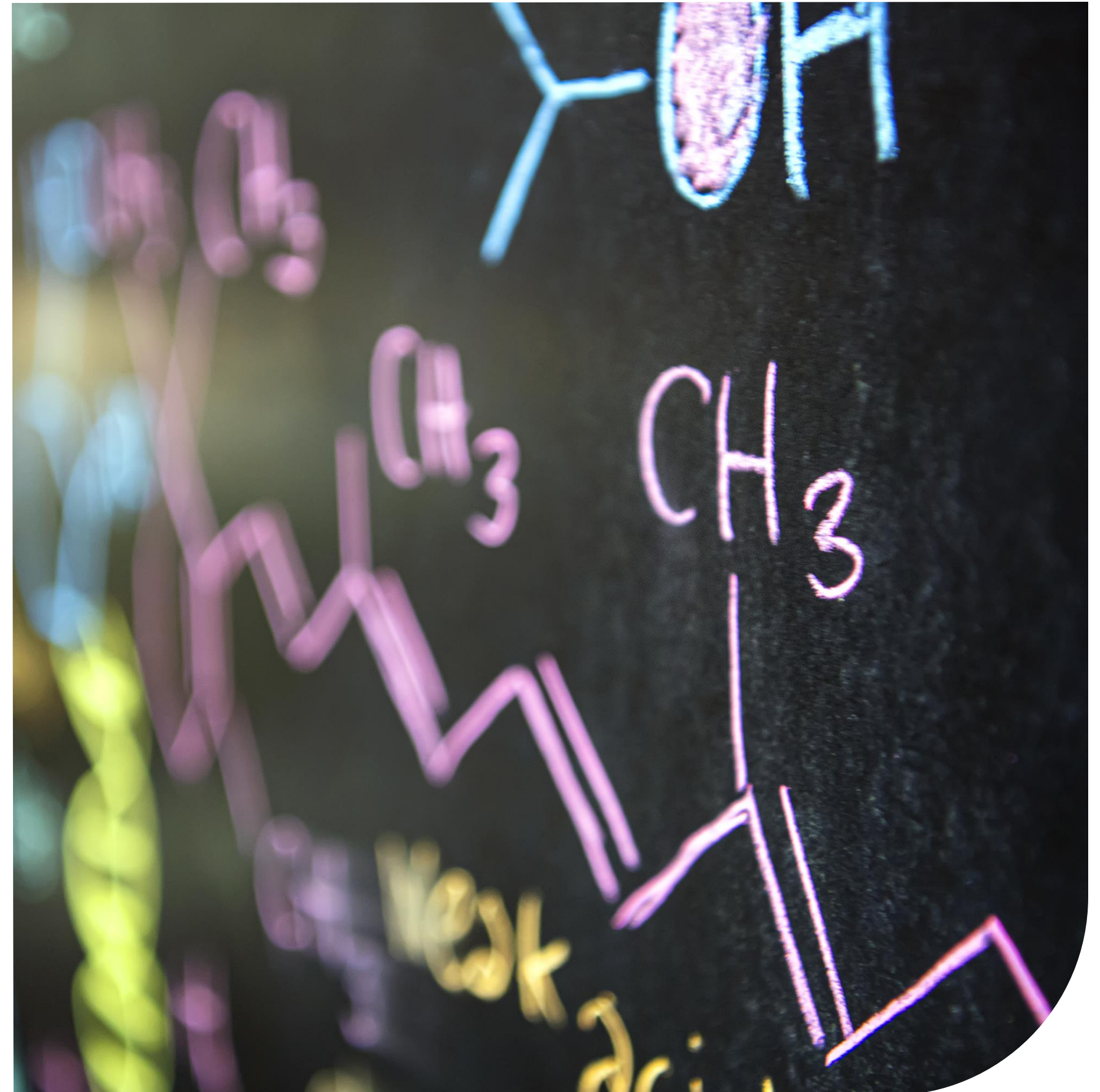
“As a postdoc I led a big paper we didn’t post as a preprint which I later sorely regretted. It was published in Nature, but after publication a serious error was discovered that led us to retract the paper (and later republish a corrected version in a different journal). I’m pretty sure if we had posted 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, Faculty of Science,  
Psychology, The University of Auckland

# Publishing null/negative results

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





# Publishing Broader Outputs

- Policy briefs
- Technical reports
- Guides or toolkits
- Blogs, op-eds, science communication
- Non-traditional research outputs



# 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

Consider high-impact  
journals and 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.



# Reflection



What was your one key takeaway?

