



MOVING FROM POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TOWARDS PUBLISHING IN CREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

by

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WHAT IS 'PUBLISHING'?

- Publishing is the ethical process of making scientific information widely available in the right form to users.
- The main form of publishing scientific information recognized for the award of Masters and Doctorate degrees are **Credible Scientific Journals**.
- The main types of articles published in Credible Journals are:-
 - (a) Original Research Articles
 - (b) Review Articles
 - (c) Patents



WHAT IS 'A CREDIBLE SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL'?

- A Credible Scientific Journal is the one that meets the following three primary criteria:-
 - (a) **Ethical** requirements that are focused towards upholding **Scientific Integrity**.
 - (b) **Evaluation** by other people working in the same field through **Peer-Review**.
 - (c) **Indexing** in recognized library databases and platforms.



Ethical Criteria

- Ethical criteria is the **minimum** for identifying a Credible Scientific Journal.
- Ethical criteria is achieved by the journal or its publisher subscribing to the **Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE)** <https://publicationethics.org>

The screenshot shows the COPE website homepage. The header is dark grey with the COPE logo on the left, navigation links for 'Guidance', 'Member resources', and 'About COPE' in the center, and a 'Sign in' link on the right. Below the header is a search bar with the text 'Search our website'. The main content area features a large headline: 'Promoting integrity in scholarly research and its publication'. Below the headline is a short paragraph: 'COPE provides leadership in thinking on publication ethics and practical resources to educate and support members, and offers a professional voice in current debates.' At the bottom of this section is a purple 'Read more' button.



Peer-Review Criteria

- Peer-Review is declared and practiced through the **Profile and Policy Statements** of the journal or its publisher.

Editor-in-chief > Editorial board



Dr. Benji Gyampoh, PhD

Scientific African is a **peer reviewed, open access, inter- and multidisciplinary scientific journal** that is dedicated to expanding access to African research, increasing intra-African scientific collaboration, and building academic research capacity in Africa. The journal aims to provide a modern, highly-visible platform for publishing pan-African research and welcomes submissions from all scientific disciplines in the following broad categories:

AGF - Agriculture and Food Security

CHE - Chemistry

CON - Conservation and Sustainability Studies

ECO - Economics and Business

ENV - Environmental and Geosciences

ITE - Information Technology and Engineering

LIF - Life and Health Sciences

MAT - Mathematics

PHY - Physical Sciences

SOC - Social Sciences and Policy

The journal welcomes submissions of full text research articles, reviews but also publishes invited perspectives and critical policy papers.



Indexing

- Indexed in recognized library databases and other credible platforms.
- Some key library databases are:-
 - (i) African Journals Online (AJOL): An online platform recommended as the minimum
 - (ii) Scopus (or SCImago)
 - (iii) MEDLINE (PUBMED)
 - (iv) Web of Science: Recommended as being the oldest and most reliable

NB: Many other reliable databases do exist



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Credible Journal Owners and Publishers

- **Credible Journals** are run by various professional societies or consortia of editors.
- Credible Journals are published by various publishing companies referred to as **‘Credible Publishers’** and are found on the **COPE** website.
- Some of the key Credible Publishers include:-
 - (i) Elsevier Science Publishers
 - (ii) Springer
 - (iii) Taylor & Francis
 - (iv) Wiley
 - (v) Frontiers



Examples of Credible Journals

(a) Biological Sciences Programmes

- Crop Protection (Elsevier)
- Frontiers in Environmental Science (Frontiers Media SA)
- Natural Resources Research (Springer)
- Parasitology (Cambridge University Press)
- Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata (Wiley Online Library)
- Journal of Molecular Biology (Elsevier)
- Bioinformatics (Oxford University Press)
- Annals of Microbiology (BioMed Central – BMC)



Examples of Credible Journals

(b) Pure & Applied Chemistry

- Advances in Inorganic Chemistry (Elsevier)
- Advances in Organometallic Chemistry (Elsevier)

(c) Physics

- Physics (MDPI)
- Advances in Atomic Molecular and Optical Physics (Elsevier)

(d) Mathematics

- Mathematics (MDPI)
- Advances in Applied Mathematics (Elsevier)



Credible Journal Editorial Board & Reviewers

(a) Editorial Board

- These are the experts who run the journal.
- Have demonstrated experience in the research field.
- Their details are available online with reliable affiliations.

(b) Composition of Editorial Boards

- Chief Editor
- Associate Editors
- Editorial Board Members



Peer Review Process



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When and How do you Choose a Credible Journal?

(a) WHEN?

- Starts at the point of Research Concept Development.

(b) HOW?

- Understand how your topic, problem statement and justification relate to the **Scope** of the Credible Journal.
- Choose Credible Journals from articles that relate well with your topic especially those cited in your work.
- Depending on availability of resources, decide on whether you wish to publish in **Subscription-based** on **Open Access Journals**.



- Examine the duration of the review process of the Credible Journal from submission to author notification.
- Find out the rejection rate of the journal.
- Depending on availability of resources, decide on whether you wish to publish in **Subscription-based** or **Open Access Journals**.
- Consider the universality of your article, your location and collaborators.



What are the Primary Reasons for Article Rejection by Credible Journals?

(1) Concept note and research proposal

- A pedestrian and narrow topic that lacks depth and innovativeness in terms of contributing to knowledge.

(2) Materials and Methods

- Bad study designs and sampling methods
- Obsolete technologies and equipment.
- Poorly processed and presented data.
- Weak linguistic capacity.
- Inadequate skill in addressing editorial requirements



Consequences of Not Working Towards Publishing in Credible Journals

- You will not meet the requirements for the award of the degree being pursued as per University and Government Policy.
- You will not have basis for recognition as a researcher.
- You will not be able to compete for scholarships, jobs and other opportunities.
- You will delay or never complete your studies.
- **MMUST WILL NOT EARN ANY WEBOMETRICS POINTS FROM YOUR STUDIES.**



**LASTLY, YOU SHALL BE EXTORTED BY PREDATORY PUBLISHERS AND
YOUR WORK SHALL END UP IN DR. KANDA'S FILTHY DUSTBIN**





THANK YOU