Quick Guide to Assessing Journal Credibility

By Journal Title:

Method 1:
- Search PubMed for a journal using the National Library of Medicine (NLM) Catalog and the tag: [jo]
  1. To access the PubMed, go to WHSC Library web site (http://health.library.emory.edu/), link to "Databases," and select PubMed
  2. Use the database drop-down menu on the left of the PubMed search bar to select the NLM Catalog
  3. Enter the journal name with the tag [jo]
  4. Search

Below are the results of the search. Note whether the journal in question is indexed in Medline, the National Library of Medicine’s premier bibliographic database. Click on title hyperlink to see a more detailed description of the journal.
Method 2:
- Access Emory’s subscription to Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory, an online database featuring detailed information on academic and scholarly output.
- To access the Ulrich’s Directory, go to WHSC Library web site (http://health.library.emory.edu/), link to "Databases," and select Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory.
  1. Enter the journal name in the search bar.
  2. Search.

(Screen shot of Ulrichsweb output for Am J Epidemiol)

- Note the labels **Referred** (journal has been peer-reviewed) and **Content Type**.
- **Abstracting & Indexing** shows the user which sources provide abstracting and indexing coverage data.
By Subject Area:

- To find the impact factor for a journal or group of journals, go to WHSC Library web site (http://health.library.emory.edu/), link to "Databases," and select **Journal Citation Reports**
- Click submit on the default settings
- Choose the appropriate category and sort by impact factor
- Submit

- Impact factors are calculated using 3 years of citation data; therefore new journals will not have an impact factor

**NOTE:** For more information on how impact factors are calculated see this essay from Thomson Reuters: [http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/free/essays/impact_factor/](http://thomsonreuters.com/products_services/science/free/essays/impact_factor/)
If you cannot locate the journal in question using the steps above or want additional information:

- Make sure the title you are searching is correct. (ex: and versus &)
- Search the journal/publishers website and verify the contact information, including address and telephone numbers.
- Investigate the journal’s editorial board. Search to see whether members are recognized experts within the field of study.
- Locate the journal/publisher’s policy for author fees
- Read the journal’s policy on peer-review


For additional information, please contact Ask-A-Librarian, http://health.library.emory.edu/ask-librarian/