



Publishing your scholarship

Profs. Kathleen Collins (Library) and Rosemary Barberet (Sociology)

John Jay College Office for Student Research & Creativity

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Objectives

- Why publish in scholarly journals? What do you get out of it?
- How to find journals, what to look (and look out) for
- Tips on succeeding – what skills are required?

Types of journals

Journals are distinguished from “popular” sources such as magazines, newspapers, websites

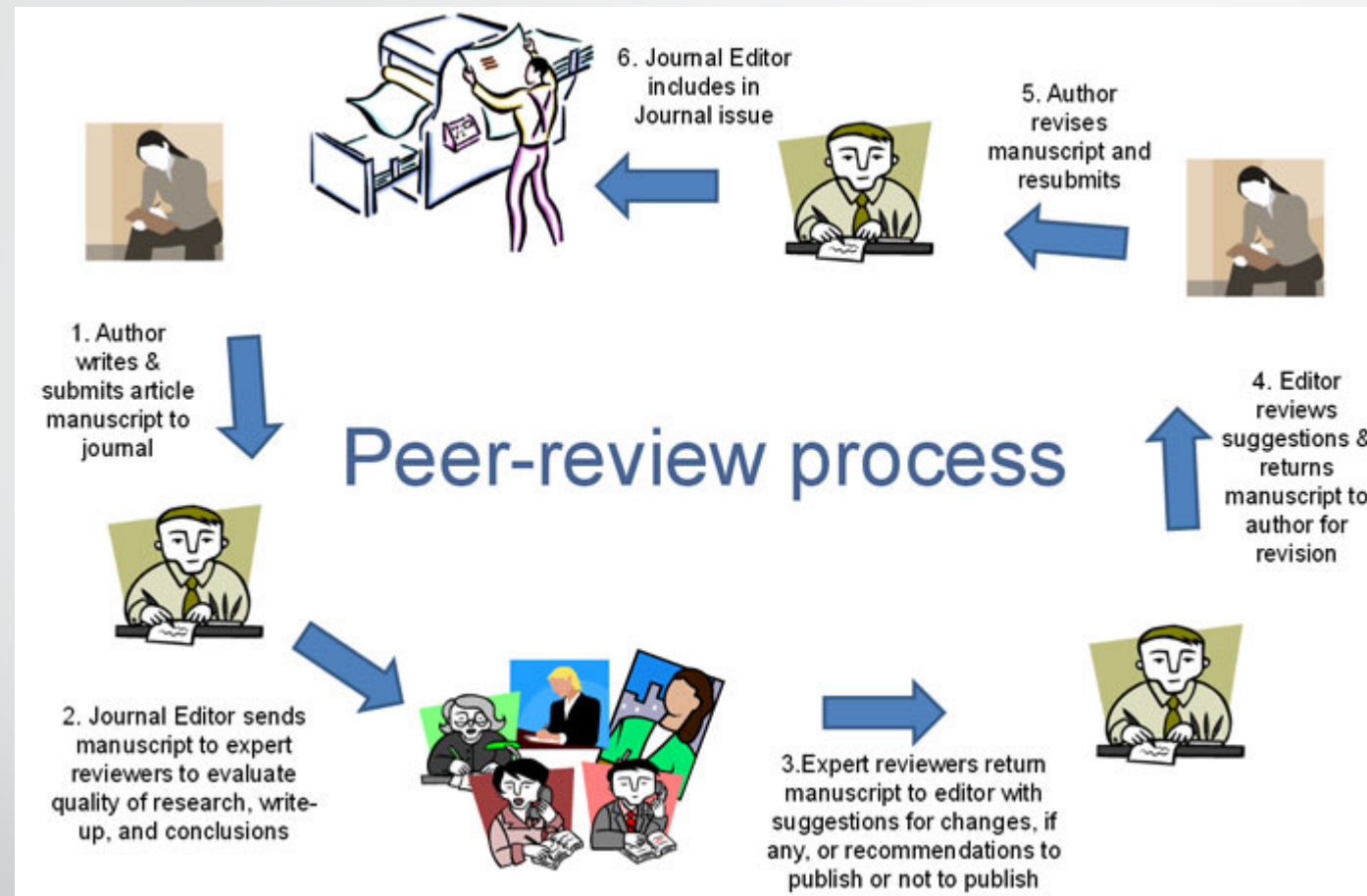
- **Scholarly**
 - Peer-reviewed aka refereed (vetted by disciplinary experts)
 - Non peer-reviewed: reviewed by editorial board /editors
- **Trade journals, law reviews**
 - Not categorized as “scholarly” but still reputable and valuable
 - Beware of “predatory” journals (more on this later)

What Is Peer Review?

In academic publishing, the goal of **peer review** is to **assess the quality** of articles submitted for publication in a scholarly journal. Before an article is deemed appropriate to be published in a peer-reviewed journal, it must undergo the following process:

- The author of the article must submit it to the journal editor who forwards the article to experts in the field. Because the reviewers specialize in the same scholarly area as the author, they are considered the author's peers (hence "peer review").
- These impartial reviewers are charged with carefully evaluating the quality of the submitted manuscript.
- The peer reviewers check the manuscript for accuracy and assess the validity of the research methodology and procedures.
- If appropriate, they suggest revisions. If they find the article lacking in scholarly validity and rigor, they reject it.

Because a peer-reviewed journal will not publish articles that fail to meet the standards established for a given discipline, peer-reviewed articles that are accepted for publication exemplify the best research practices in a field.

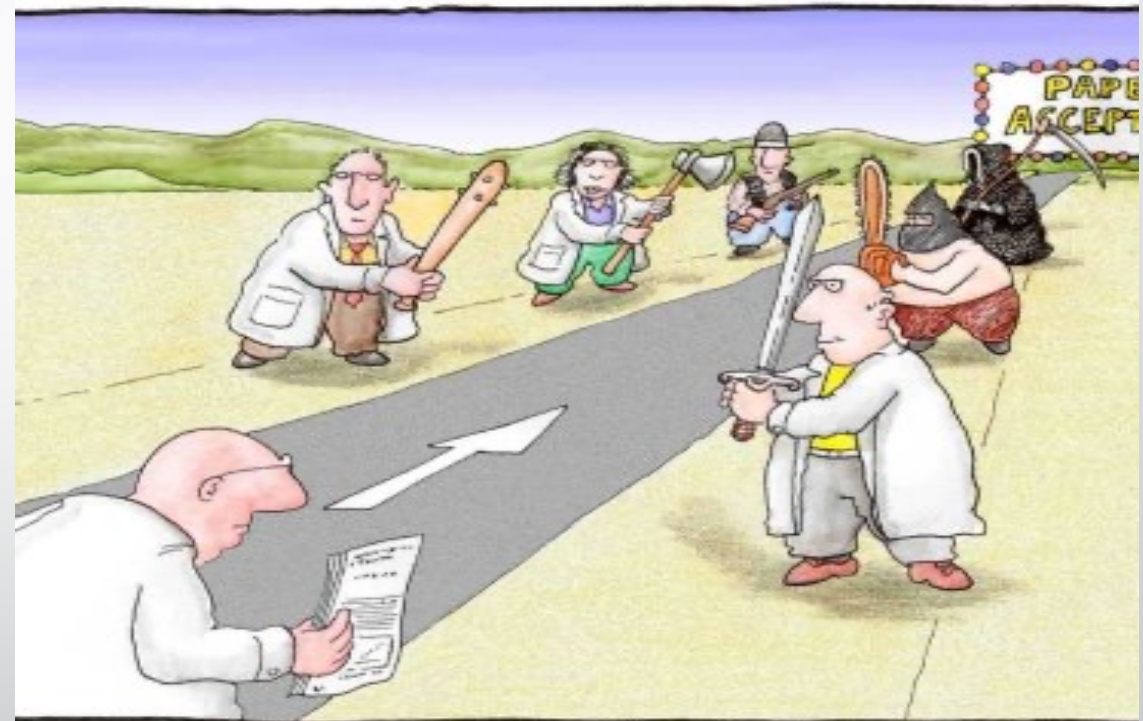


Source: Quora

History, Purpose & Importance of Peer Review

- Relatively recent: since World War II
- Purpose: Quality control

to ensure that the science on which researchers base their work meets specific, rigorous standards



Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

Common review criteria

- What is novel, unique, new, significant about the research?
- Was the research conducted using appropriate methods? (e.g., sampling procedure, sample size, can the method produce the data needed to answer the research question[s]?)
- Was the data analysis appropriate? (e.g., correct use of grounded theory, correct use of specific statistical techniques?)
- Was the research conducted ethically and responsibly?
- Is the interpretation of the findings logical and accurate?
- Are there significant implications for the research? (e.g., future research, practice, policy?)
Are the findings *usable*?

Elements of a good manuscript

- Title
- Abstract – accurate reflection
- Introduction
- Literature review – comprehensive, up to date, critical
- Theory
- Aims/hypotheses – flow from lit. review and theory
- Research design; methods and data: appropriate, ethical and transparent
- Analysis – alternative explanations explored
- Discussion - connects to literature review
- Limitations
- Conclusions/Implications – fit with title and abstract
- Further research/recommendations
- References

More Indicators of Quality

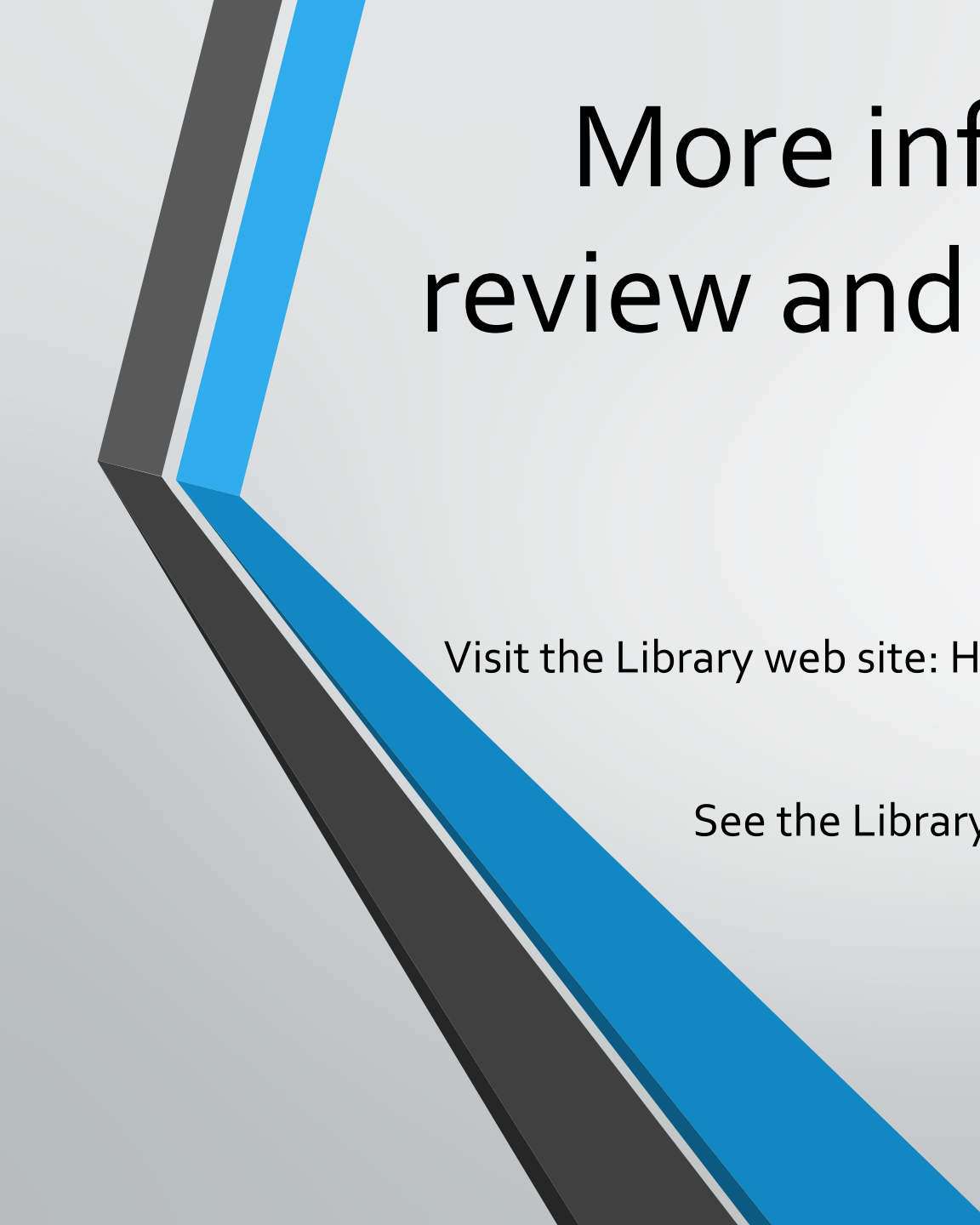
- Innovation
 - New idea
 - New twist or challenge to an old idea
 - Important topic or puzzle that is under researched
- Contribution to the field (fills a gap)
- Solid methods or defects that can be fixed (not fatal flaws)
- Evidence to support claims
- Limitations acknowledged; context discussed
- Sophisticated treatment of journal's topic focus
- Well written

Journal-specific peer review procedures

- Journal mission
- Journal standards
- Journal checklists and ratings
- Editorial policies

Reviewers and Reviewer Feedback

- How do journals select reviewers?
 - Editorial board members
 - Noted experts in your area
 - Members of the organization that sponsors the journal
 - People you might have recommended (sometimes you are also given the option of NOT recommending certain reviewers)
 - Authors in your reference list
- How do you respond to reviewer feedback?
 - Head on
 - With respect
 - Succinctly, but with detail on every single point (sometimes a table is helpful)
 - You are free to disagree with their suggestions, but you must say why
 - You should always thank the reviewers. They are not paid for their work.



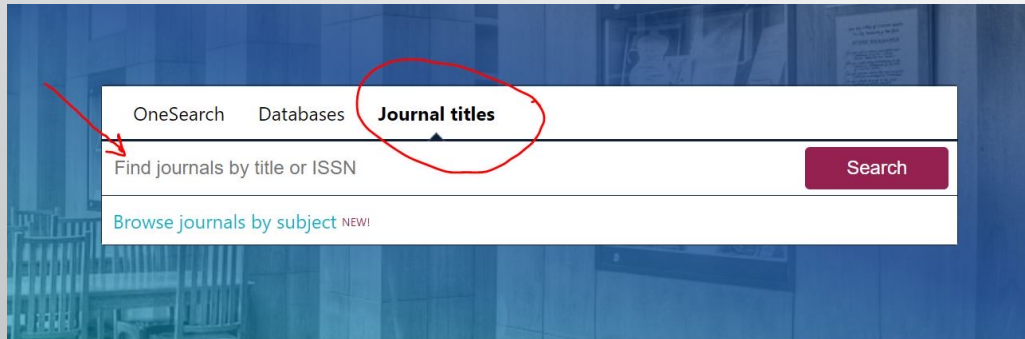
More information on peer review and scholarly journals

Visit the Library web site: How Do I? > [Scholarly Articles](#)

See the Library's [guide to faculty scholarship](#) for more tips and resources

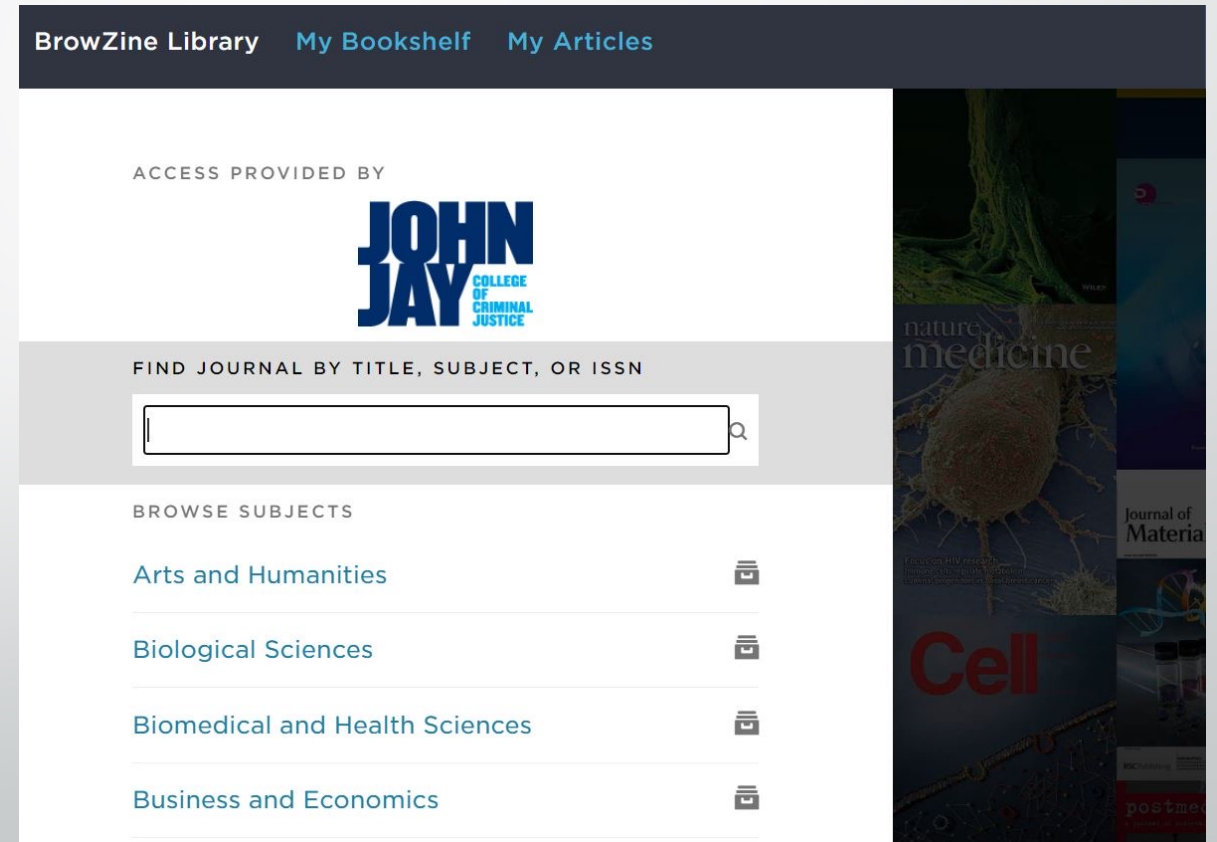
How do I find and research journals?

Use OneSearch...



Find and browse journals on the library web site.
Search by title, subject or key words.

...or use BrowZine



How do I find and research journals?

	academic journals, news articles, primary source documents, images, videos, audio files and links to vetted websites. Access level: John Jay
Ulrich's Global Serials Directory	A source of detailed information on more than 300,000 periodicals (also called serials) of all types. Access level: John Jay
Umbra Search	A searchable collection of over 500,000 primary source documents relating to African American history and culture digitized by over 1,000 libraries libraries and archives across the country. Access level: Freely available to the public
Uniform Crime Reports (FBI)	The FBI's compendium of crime statistics. It includes volumes from 1995 to the present. The print version is available at the Reference Desk.

- Ulrich's Global Serials Directory (library database)

[Library home page](#) > Databases > choose by title > U

How else can I find and research journals?

- Ask your professors and mentors for recommendations
- Google journal title to find website; look for review process, acceptance rate, submission guidelines, calls for papers, etc.
- [The Scholarly Publication Process](#) (U. of North Texas Libraries)

Time-consuming process

- All of this takes a lot of time. Once you've submitted an article and if it is accepted, it could be *up to two years* before it makes it to actual publication. This is because the peer-review process can be slow, and many journals only publish 3-4 issues a year and already have a backlog of articles.
- Some journals will publish articles online before print version, in as quickly as six months.
- Look for CFPs (Calls for Papers) announcing special issues on specific topics. This may mean a fast time line and they CFPs often provide a list of topic ideas which can help you hone or reshape your idea to be an appropriate fit.

Consider student-friendly journals

- A [list](#) compiled by George Washington U.
- A [list](#) compiled by UNC Wilmington
- A [list](#) compiled by Sacred Heart U.
- A [list and guide](#) compiled by Nova Southeastern U.
- A [list](#) compiled by Zebrafish in the classroom (a teaching resource)
- John Jay

(Note: These may not be completely up to date; there are broken links here and there; and some information overlaps.)

Look for Calls for Papers (CFPs)

- [H-Net](#) (Humanities & Social Sciences Online)
- U Penn Dept. of English maintains a [CFP list](#) in numerous humanities subjects
- Look for others in your discipline.
- Join listservs for your discipline

Predatory publishers: Beware

- In general, an email (especially if rife with odd grammar or spelling) from a journal inviting you to submit your work is either not legitimate, will ask you to pay for the privilege or at the very least is not a quality journal. Learn about predatory publishing.
- Unless you are already well-known in your field, you will likely not be invited. You need to do the pitching!
- That's where CFPs (Calls for Papers/Proposals) can help.

Open access & author rights

- Learn about [open access](#) and consider submitting to journals that embrace these practices - outputs are distributed online, free of cost or other access barriers.
- Related: Know your [rights](#) as an author
- See the Library's [guide to faculty scholarship](#) for more tips and resources