

Open Access Guidelines

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1. Introduction

There is a growing movement towards **open access** to research results, namely publications and experimental data. Various reasons justify this movement, namely:

On the philosophical side, removing access barriers to these results is expected to “accelerate research, enrich education, share the learning of the rich with the poor and the poor with the rich, make these results as useful as they can be, and lay the foundation for uniting humanity in a common intellectual conversation and quest for knowledge”.

On the other hand, since most research is sponsored by public agencies, with public money, those agencies are making mandatory that results from funded projects be published in open access.

Furthermore, having research results in an open access repository brings several benefits at individual and institutional level:

Individual level benefits

The most relevant benefits of having results in open access for individual researchers are:

- Increases the visibility of, and showcases, their research
- Increases the usage of their research
- Increases the impact of their research (more readers, more potential citations and increased h-index).

But other additional benefits can also be mentioned:

- An open access repository enables them to collect all their outputs in a safe, permanent location
- An open access repository provides information on usage and impact
- An open access repository may provide personalised publication lists to be used in grant applications, CVs and when writing articles
- The publication cycle is, in general, much faster in open access when compared to traditional channels.

Institutional level benefits

- An open access repository collects and preserves the institution’s scientific output and disseminates it through the repository
- Facilitates the possibility of indexing and tracking the scientific output of the institution through Web search engines
- Monitors the number of visits and use and collects data and indicators that can be used in institutional planning, and the search for sources of funding etc.
- Provides opportunities for the use and re-use of the institution’s output for scientific purposes (CVs, publications, excellence reports, indicators, institutional websites, personal websites etc.)
- Strengthens international communication and collaboration channels and the institution’s international profile.

Nevertheless, this is still a complex and changing field that is subject to various negotiation processes with the publishing sector (evolving business model). Open access often comes with a (high) cost as publishers charge a (high) publication fee from authors, while giving free access to readers.

As a side effect of this business model and taking advantage of the need all researchers to publish (the old saying of “publish or perish”), the open access movement also created a desirable territory for “predators” whose main goal is to make money.

In such evolving context, it becomes difficult for researchers to find a “safe way” in this territory. This document is intended to provide a set of guidelines that will help CTS researchers make informed decisions regarding open access.

2. PUBLICATION PRINCIPLES

CTS is committed to a wide dissemination of its research results, and for that purpose, the open access can play a relevant role.

Open access journals

Considering that open access represents a new business model, it seems that traditional publishers are moving to this new model following a number of different strategies:

- New journals (on new topics) are predominantly created in open access;
- Most traditional journals also offer now the possibility of publishing articles in open access (in which case the authors have to pay a fee);
- A few traditional journals changed their business model and turned into open access only channels;
- Some publishers (e.g., IEEE) are launching “twin” journals in parallel with the traditional ones, being the twin ones open access.

On the other hand, we can notice a wide proliferation of new publishers that offer large portfolios of open access journals. Some of them are not reputable, only concerned with profit and neglecting good reviewing practices.

As such, CTS researchers shall be very careful when choosing an open access journal / publisher. Some minimal recommendations:

- Check if the journal is indexed in both Science Citation Index (or Science Citation Index Expanded, or Emerging Sources ...) and SCOPUS.
- Consider only journals ranked Q1 or Q2 in Scimago.

Additionally, a CTS researcher needs to consider the publication costs:

- Do you have a budget for open access publishing?
- Remember to include a proper acknowledgement to the funds source in your paper.
- Considering that research funds usually come from “public money”, it is necessary to make a rational use of those funds. As some publishers / journals charge outrageous Article Processing Charges (APC), do not support those publishers / journals.

Open access proceedings

The open access modality is not yet very popular when it comes to conference proceedings. Nevertheless, some proceedings publishers offer the option to individual authors to publish their paper in open access (paying the corresponding APC).

In this case, the general recommendation to choose a conference is: look for highly recognized conferences, indexed in Web of Science and/or SCOPUS, with evaluation based on the full paper and with an evaluation period of at least 1 month, with an International Program Committee, and proceedings published by an established publisher.

Constraints

Before publishing, a CTS researcher should always check if there are publication constraints imposed by the specific research program / project or by intellectual property protection aims.

3. SOME PRACTICAL ASPECTS

3.1 Open access to publications

In case an article is published in the open access modality, the open access to that publication is automatically ensured in the site of the publisher.

Nevertheless, it is convenient to notice that there are various levels of open access:

- **Gold open access** - the publisher makes the publication and related content available for free immediately on the channel's website. In such publications, articles are licensed for sharing and reuse via creative commons licenses or similar.
- **Green open access** - self-archiving by authors is permitted under green model. Independently from publication by a publisher, the author also posts the work to a website controlled by the author, the research institution that funded or hosted the work, or to an independent central open repository, where people can download the work without paying but exploitation is only permitted within the confines of the legal restrictions of copyright law.
- **Diamond open access** - Journals which publish open access without charging authors article processing charges are sometimes referred to as diamond or platinum open access. Since they do not charge either readers or authors directly, such publishers often require funding from external sources such as the sale of advertisements, academic institutions, learned societies, philanthropists, or government grants.

Often people mean "Gold Open access" when they mention "open access".

But even publications in traditional (non-open access) channels may, in some circumstances be made "almost freely accessible". But this requires that you carefully read the conditions in the copyright transfer form that you signed with the publisher. For instance, some publishers let authors post a pre-publication version of their paper, i.e., the author's source file before being formatted / edited by the publisher, in the author's personal website or institutional repository.

For instance, in Springer's Consent to Publish and Copyright Transfer used for IFIP sponsored conferences (such as DoCEIS), it says:

Author may self-archive the Author's accepted manuscript of the Contribution on his/her own websites and in any repository. He/she may not use the publisher's version (the final PDF), which is posted on SpringerLink and other Springer websites, for the purpose of self-archiving or deposit. Furthermore, Author may only post his/her version provided acknowledgement is given to the original source of publication and a link is inserted to the published Contribution on Springer's website. The link must be provided by inserting the DOI number of the Contribution in the following sentence: "The final publication is available at Springer via [http://dx.doi.org/\[insert DOI\]](http://dx.doi.org/[insert DOI])".

So, even if the paper is not published in open access, in this case the author can make it available through a web site provided that he/she uses his own file (not the PDF prepared by Springer) and adds the reference and link to the final publication on top of the document.

These conditions need to be carefully checked for each type of copyright transfer contract.

Some publishers restrict the possibility to only publish the personal copy in a personal website or institutional repository.

In this case it is a matter of debate if a page in repositories such as **ResearchGate** (www.researchgate.net) or **Academia.edu** is considered “personal” or not. Some people advocate that unless these repositories are explicitly disallowed in the copyright transfer form, then they are personal pages. In fact, each researcher needs to create a personal page in the repository. But as copyright transfer rules frequently change, it is always necessary to carefully check the conditions.

What is the advantage of making papers available through such repositories?

They attract large numbers of readers and thus increase the potential impact of the papers (and indirectly the number of citations they might get).

WARNING:

Please note that some publishers/journals announce an extremely short average period for the first decision on a submission. When this period is too short one must be very careful and try to get more information about the reputation of the journal, as it may indicate a less rigorous reviewing process.

On the other hand, some editors also include in this average the time for a "desk-rejection" by the Editor-in-Chief. More and more, journals with high volume of submissions are using this mechanism to quickly reject submissions on the argument that the paper does not fit the scope of the journal or does not satisfy some other criterion. In this case, the paper is not evaluated by reviewers and the rejection is solely based on a decision by the Editor-in-Chief, which often is taken in less than a week, thus lowering the overall average time for a first decision

3.2 Open access to research data

Besides publications (articles), there is also a trend to make research data open access. This can be considered at two levels:

- Access to data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications. For this purpose, some publication publishers already offer mechanisms to store and make available such data associated to publications.
- Access to data sets collected during research and that may be made available independently of publications. These data can then be used by different researchers as input for their work (e.g., benchmark data).

The European Commission and other funding agencies encourage projects to elaborate a Data Management Plan (DMP) describing the data management cycle for the data to be collected, processed and/or generated by the projects. The purpose is to plan how to safeguard the research data, not just during the project period, but also for future reuse of the data.

This notion of open access that goes beyond publications and includes data and experiments' results is sometimes referred to as "open science".

Some support repositories / services:

- **OpenAIRE** - <https://www.openaire.eu/>
An European initiative to promote scholarly openness and transparency and facilitate innovative ways to communicate and monitor research.
- **OSF** – Open Science Framework - <https://osf.io/>
- **Mendeley Data** - <https://data.mendeley.com/>
- **figshare** - <https://figshare.com/>
- **Harvard Dataverse** - <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/>
- **Zenodo** - <https://zenodo.org/>
- **Dryad** Digital Repository: <https://www.teamscopeapp.com/blog/6-repositories-to-share-your-research-data>
- **And many more:** <https://mira.mcmaster.ca/research/open-access-data-repositories>

Other resources:

- **DMP online** - Support for data management plans: <https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/>
- **FAIR data principles** - a set of guiding principles to make data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable: <https://force11.org/info/the-fair-data-principles/>

3.3 Compliance with GDPR and other regulations

Despite the general recommendation to support open science, before making their outcomes open access CTS researchers need to check:

- Specific non-disclosure conditions that might be established in the research contracts and consortia agreements.
- Specific conditions related to intellectual property protection in case some IP protection and exploitation is planned.
- Specific data protection conditions defined in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - <https://gdpr-info.eu/>

4. USEFUL RESOURCES

Additional Reference Sources on open access policies and principles:

Budapest Open Access Initiative. Declaration marking a milestone in the open access movement. It is also useful for the definitions it provides and its guidelines and recommendations.

<https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/>

Fair Open Access Alliance (FAIR). Offers guidelines to transform academic publication conventions and return control of the publication process to the academic community.

<https://www.fairopenaccess.org/>

Guidelines to the Rules on Open Access to Scientific Publications and Open Access to Research Data in Horizon 2020. These guidelines explain the rules on open access to scientific peer reviewed publications and research data that beneficiaries have to follow in projects funded or co-funded under Horizon 2020.

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf

Open Access Policy Guidelines and Template for Funding Agencies. It follows the UNESCO open access guidelines, the 2012 recommendations of the European Commission and the requirements of the Horizon 2020 programme to provide a set of best practices in open access for funding agencies.

<http://www.pasteur4oa.eu/home>

Plan S - Making full and immediate Open Access a reality. An initiative that attempts to promote the open access status of academic publications resulting from research finances with public subsidies.

Commission of the European Communities (2008).

<https://www.coalition-s.org/>

Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations.

<https://www.ucm.es/data/cont/docs/1416-2017-05-29-CommRecommendation-IntellectualPropertyandCodeofPracticeforUniversitiesetc-C2008-1329.pdf>

Pirate initiatives

Motivated by the high costs imposed by many publishers, there is a pirate counter movement that aims to break the “paywalls” to academic literature. Examples are:

- **Sci-hub** – which describe themselves as “The first pirate website in the world to provide mass and public access to tens of millions of research papers”. Created by the Russian computer science researcher and “pirate queen” Alexandra Elbakyan, the site currently claims to have access to over 80% of the world’s scientific papers. Due to the constant fights with major publishers and legal prosecution, the address of this site is frequently moving.
- **b-ok.org** or **Z-Library** – another pirate site that freely distributes books (in electronic format) without authorization from publishers or authors. Probably all our books and conference proceedings have been pirated by them.

There is a lot of controversy about such type of initiatives, which are in fact illegal, corresponding to steal intellectual property. Although they are extensively used by the academia around the world, many argue that in the long run such initiatives do more harm for the future of open access than good.

ANNEX A

A LIST OF OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS

List prepared in March 2022 (to be updated periodically) – it only includes journals that are exclusively open access. Please notice that most traditional journals have now a hybrid model, letting authors to pay for open access modality, but these ones are not included in this list.

Journal	Publisher	Scimago	Scopus	SCI or SCIE (y) / ESCI (e)	IF (2020)	APC fee €	Days till first decision	URL
Springer								
Applied Network Science	Springer	Q1	y	e		EUR 1,090	45	https://appliednetsci.springeropen.com/
Cybersecurity	Springer	Q2	y	e		free	34	https://cybersecurity.springeropen.com/
Data Science and Engineering	Springer	Q2	y	e		?	67	https://www.springer.com/journal/41019
Energy, Sustainability and Society	Springer BMC	Q1/Q2	y	y	2.811	EUR 1,490	97	https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/
EURASIP Journal on Advances in Signal Processing	Springer	Q2	y	y	1.63	EUR 1,355	133	https://asp-eurasipjournals.springeropen.com/
EURASIP Journal on Information Security	Springer	Q2	y	e		EUR 840	115	https://jis-eurasipjournals.springeropen.com/
EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking	Springer	Q2	y	y	2.455	EUR 1,355	101	https://jwcn-eurasipjournals.springeropen.com/
European Journal of Futures Research	Springer	Q2	y	y	1.679	EUR 1,290	94	https://eujournalofuturesresearch.springeropen.com/
International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems	Springer Atlantis	Q2	y	y	1.736	EUR 1,690	46	https://www.atlantis-press.com/journals/ijcis
International Journal of Disaster Risk Science	Springer	Q1	y	y	3.727	?	91	https://www.springer.com/journal/13753
Journal of Big Data	Springer	Q1	y	e		EUR 1,390	41	https://journalofbigdata.springeropen.com/
Journal of Cloud Computing	Springer	Q2	y	y	3.222	EUR 1,140	37	https://journalofcloudcomputing.springeropen.com/
Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship	Springer	Q2	y	-		EUR 1,190	109	https://innovation-entrepreneurship.springeropen.com/
Microsystems & Nanoengineering	Springer Nature	Q1	y	y	7.127	EUR 3,790	?	https://www.nature.com/micronano/
IEEE								
IEEE Access	IEEE	Q1	y	y	3.367	\$1,850	42	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/aboutJournal.jsp?punumber=6287639
IEEE Photonics Journal	IEEE	Q1	y	e		\$1,850	42	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=4563994
IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing	IEEE	Q1/Q2	y	y	3.784	\$1,250	24	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=4609443
<i>(several others not yet indexed in SCOPUS ... likely to be good in future)</i>								
IEEE Open Journal of Circuits and Systems	IEEE			e		\$1,850	136	https://ieee-cas.org/publications/open-journal-circuits-and-systems
IEEE Open Journal of the Communications Society	IEEE			e		\$1,750	70	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=8782661
IEEE Open Journal of the Computer Society	IEEE			e		\$1,750	70	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/aboutJournal.jsp?punumber=8782664
IEEE Open Journal of the Industrial Electronics Society	IEEE		y	e		\$1,750	84	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=8782706
IEEE Open Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems	IEEE			e		\$1,750	84	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.jsp?punumber=8784355
IEEE Open Journal of Nanotechnology	IEEE			e		\$1,750	84	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/aboutJournal.jsp?punumber=8782713

IEEE Open Access Journal of Power and Energy	IEEE			e		\$1,350	70	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.js?punumber=8784343
IEEE Open Journal of Power Electronics	IEEE			e		\$1,750	56	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.js?punumber=8782709
IEEE Open Journal of Signal Processing	IEEE			e		\$995	154	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.js?punumber=8782710
IEEE Open Journal of Intelligent Transportation Systems	IEEE			e		\$1,750	70	https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/xpl/RecentIssue.js?punumber=8784355
Elsevier								
Advances in Applied Energy	Elsevier	-	y	-		\$3,600	14	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/advances-in-applied-energy
Advances in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering	Elsevier	-	y	-		free till May	20	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/advances-in-industrial-and-manufacturing-engineering
Energy and AI	Elsevier	-	y	-		\$3,000	24	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/energy-and-ai
Energy reports	Elsevier	Q1	y	y	6.87	\$2,240	49	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/energy-reports
Energy Strategy Reviews	Elsevier	Q1	y	y	6.425	\$2,580	16	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/energy-strategy-reviews
HardwareX	Elsevier	Q1	y	e		\$500	?	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/hardwarex
Heliyon	Elsevier	Q1	y	e		\$1,950	65	https://www.cell.com/heliyon/home
ICT Express	Elsevier	Q1/Q2	y	y	4.317	\$1,000	70	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/ict-express
Information Processing in Agriculture	Elsevier	Q1	y	-		free	8	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/information-processing-in-agriculture
Intelligent Systems with Applications	Elsevier	-	y	-		free till Jun	63	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/intelligent-systems-with-applications
Journal of Innovation and Knowledge	Elsevier	Q1	y	y	9.269	\$1,800	21	https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/journal-of-innovation-and-knowledge
Results in Engineering	Elsevier	Q2	y	e		\$1,000	50	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/results-in-engineering
Sensors and Actuators Reports	Elsevier	-	y	e		\$1,600	28	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/sensors-and-actuators-reports
Smart Energy	Elsevier	-	y	-		\$2,000	21	https://www.journals.elsevier.com/smart-energy
Other								
Advances in Electrical and Computer Engineering	Romania (Univ)	Q3	y	y	1.221	EUR 300	92	https://aece.ro/
Computer Science and Information Systems	Serbia (Univ)	Q3	y	y	1.167	free	?	http://comsis.org/
International Journal of Computers Communications & Control	Romania (Univ)	Q2	y	y	2.293	EUR 600	?	http://univagora.ro/jour/index.php/iiccc/
Studies in Informatics and Control	Romania (Acad)	Q2	y	y	1.649	free	90	https://sic.ici.ro/
International Journal of Production Management and Engineering	Spain (Univ)	-	-	e		free	140	https://polipapers.upv.es/index.php/IJPM
Taylor & Francis								
European Journal of Remote Sensing	Taylor	Q2/Q1	y	y	3.647	EUR 910	?	https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/teir20/current
Cogent Engineering	Taylor	Q2	y	e		EUR 730	46	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/oaen20
Connection Science	Taylor	Q2/Q3	y	y	1.971	EUR 1090	48	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/ccos20
Forest Science and Technology	Taylor	Q2	y	e		\$1,030	35	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tfst20
Fuzzy Information and Engineering	Taylor	Q2	y	e		EUR 440	109	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tfie20
International Journal of Sustainable Engineering	Taylor	Q2	y	e		EUR 1090	49	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tpmr20
Production & Manufacturing Research	Taylor	Q2	y	e		EUR 1090	49	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tpmr20

Sustainability: Science, Practice and Policy	Taylor	Q1	y	y		EUR 730	16	https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/tsus20
MDPI => PLEASE BE CAREFUL AS THERE IS A LOT OF DEBATE ABOUT THE QUALITY OF THIS PUBLISHER								
Applied Sciences	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.679	2300 CHF	18	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/applsci
Agriculture	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.925	1800 CHF	21	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/agriculture
Computers	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1400 CHF	20	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/computers
Education Sciences	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1400 CHF	25	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/education
Electronics	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.397	2000 CHF	18	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/electronics
Energies	MDPI	Q2	y	y	3.004	2200 CHF	18	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/energies/apc
Entropy	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.524	1800 CHF	19	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/entropy
Fractal and Fractional	MDPI	Q2	y	y	3.313	1600 CHF	20	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/fractalfract
Future Internet	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1400 CHF	15	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/futureinternet
Informatics	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1600 CHF	21	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/informatics
Information	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1400 CHF	19	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/information
Journal of Open Innovation: Technology, Market, and Complexity	MDPI	Q2	y	-		800 CHF	24	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/JOItmC
Journal of Sensor and Actuator Networks	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1600 CHF	20	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/jsan
Photonics	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.676	1800 CHF	15	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/photonics
Remote Sensing	MDPI	Q1	y	y	4.848	2500 CHF	20	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/remotesensing
Robotics	MDPI	Q2	y	e		1600 CHF	24	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/robotics
Sensors	MDPI	Q2	y	y	3.576	2400 CHF	18	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sensors
Sustainability	MDPI	Q2/Q1	y	y	3.251	2000 CHF	18	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/sustainability
Symmetry	MDPI	Q2	y	y	2.713	1800 CHF	17	https://www.mdpi.com/journal/symmetry
Wiley								
IET Control Theory and Applications	Wiley	Q1	y	y	3.527	EUR 2900	234	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17518652
IET Cyber-Physical Systems: Theory and Applications	Wiley	Q2	y	e		EUR 2000	133	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/23983396
IET Electric Power Applications	Wiley	Q1	y	y	2.568	EUR 2500	175	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17518679
IET Electrical Systems in Transportation	Wiley	Q2	y	y	2.268	EUR 2000	203	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/20429746
IET Image Processing	Wiley	Q2	y	y	2.373	EUR 2000	252	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17519667
IET Optoelectronics	Wiley	Q2	y	y	1.636	EUR 2000	203	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17518776
IET Power Electronics	Wiley	Q2	y	y	2.641	EUR 2500	238	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17554543
IET Renewable Power Generation	Wiley	Q2	y	y	3.93	EUR 2900	210	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17521424
IET Signal Processing	Wiley	Q2	y	y	1.489	EUR 2000	245	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/17519683
IET Smart Grid	Wiley	Q2	y	e		EUR 2000	203	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/25152947
IET Wireless Sensor Systems	Wiley	Q2	y	e		EUR 2000	231	https://ietresearch.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/20436394

This is not a complete list!

NOTE: Flagged in yellow are journals that announce an extremely fast time for a first decision. Such journals should be checked carefully, as this may raise concerns on the quality of the review process.

ANNEX B

WARNING SOURCES

Nowadays there are many "predatory" journals and conferences, which makes open access in general less prestigious than publications in "traditional" journals. This requires that researchers be careful when selecting a publication channel.

Fake publication channels are run by for-profit organizations who may sometimes present themselves as not-for-profit. They usually perform a shallow review or no review at all in order to increase the amount of collected fees.

In order to help authors to detect such predatory publishers, there are some lists maintained online. Examples:

Beall's list of predatory journals:

<https://beallslist.net/>

Questionable Conferences

List maintained by University of Indianapolis

<https://libguides.uindy.edu/c.php?g=981357&p=7095715>

Also various institutions have published check lists to help authors:

- <https://libguides.uindy.edu/c.php?g=981357&p=7095715>
- <https://www.exordo.com/blog/9-signs-this-is-a-fake-conference/>
- <https://libguides.wits.ac.za/c.php?g=145385&p=6026817>
- <https://www.enago.com/academy/tips-identify-avoid-predatory-conferences/>