

## Indexing of Scientific Journals – Understanding the basics

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Research is essential to carry science forward. However, equally important is dissemination of the research findings emerging from the research. An original article is the backbone of a scientific journal but more important is to present the real and original research in a fair manner. Indexation of a journal is considered to be a reflection of its quality. Indexed journals are considered to be of higher scientific quality as compared to non-indexed journals. Indexation of scientific journals has become a debatable issue. Over the years, many popular indexation services have developed which includes MedLine, PubMed, EMBASE, SCOPUS, EBSCO Publishing's Electronic Databases and SCIRUS etc [1-3].

In order to be known as an authoritative and accepted source of scientific information, and to stand out from among many other publications that are crowding the publishing space, journals must increase their visibility, availability, and readership. One of the ways by which journals can achieve this is by getting their publication indexed by one or more leading databases [1-3].

### But why Indexing is essential

- Indexing helps the journal achieve its main purpose of being accessible to a wide audience.
- Being accessible in turn will improve journal's reputation as a reliable source of high-quality information in your field.
- Database research is the first activity researchers undertake as part of their study, and they naturally look to established, well-known databases. Thus, being indexed in a known database in the field will help increase journal's readership.

This brings us to the controversial question about which indexation is best and most valid? How to compare the quality of articles published in journals indexed with different indexation services? These questions are of particular relevance for two main reasons. First, importance of publications is being increasingly recognised by the academic institutions. Medical Council of India and Dental Council of India guidelines also recommend indexed publications for teaching faculty in medical and dental colleges. Consequently, many more authors would be publishing than ever before [4].

Selection of high quality journal becomes a difficult decision for the authors as there is no clarity on the issue. Whether the author should aim at only the journals indexed in Index Medicus/MedLine/PubMed or is it appropriate to make submissions to journals having a high impact factor although they are not indexed with Index Medicus/MedLine/PubMed?

Second, recently many more indexation services have come up. These include Caspur, DOAJ, Expanded Academic ASAP, Genamics Journal Seek, Hinari, Index Copernicus, Open J Gate, Primo Central, Pro Quest, SCOLAR, SIIC databases, Summon by Serial Solutions, Ulrich's International Periodical Directory. Are these indexations services equally relevant? Would a journal indexed with any of these databases be considered "indexed"?

Indexation services are meant to give journals wider coverage for easy accessibility to their published articles. Bearing this in mind, we can regard all indexation bodies as equally relevant. However, the coverage capacities of these bodies differ. Indexing/abstracting bodies like Pubmed has over the years grown to be globally acceptable and now has a broader horizon. If the newer indexing bodies would continually strive to maintain quality and integrity, then they will also grow with time [5-8].

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