

Online Services for the Evaluation of (Open Access) Journals

Problems and challenges

- new (open access) journals are constantly launched: the market has become non-transparent
- researchers are increasingly dissatisfied with the practices of some journals criticism especially refers to the amount of article processing charges (APCs) by many

open access journals and peer review or manuscript management in general

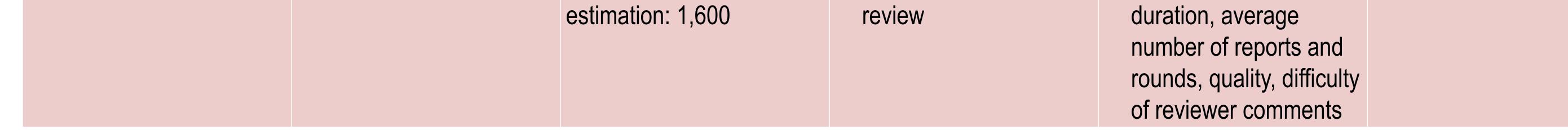
- questionable practices like "predatory publishing" have the potential to harm open access
- debate: blacklisting vs. whitelisting of journal practices the case of "Beall's list", which is now offline

Solution

- there are several free of charge online services which prefer whitelisting or simply collect facts about journals along with personal experiences from authors
- online services provide at least some orientation and can be used by libraries when providing advice on open access and selection of appropriate journals

Comparison of different online services

Online service	URL	Number of journals covered	Focus	Further information provided	Mode of participation
Directory of Open Access Journals	doaj.org	> 9,400	 open access journals with peer review 	 kind of peer review information on APCs licence used by the journal 	 request from publishers/editors application is reviewed by volunteers; therefore community driven
Quality Open Access Market	www.qoam.eu	> 24,500 (not all journal entries contain comprehensive information)	 open access and hybrid journals experiences by authors, reviewers, editors 	 transparency of journal website with regard to editorial information, peer review, governance and workflow comparison of APCs: information on website vs. recently paid 	 basic information is provided by librarians (volunteers) valuation: scientific community (authors are encouraged by email to share experiences); crowd sourcing
Open Access Spectrum Evaluation Tool	www.oaspectrum.org	> 1,000	 selection of open access, hybrid and subscription journals 	 degree of "openness" within six categories: reader, reuse, and author posting rights, copyright, automatic posting and machine readability 	 review by defined experts on scholarly communication and publishing, librarians
Journal Reviewer	www.journalreviewer.org	> 850 (not all journals are reviewed, rough estimation of reviewed journals: 12%)	 no indication on how journals are selected experiences by authors with regard to peer review 	 detailed information on peer review, e.g. duration, report length, quality, recommendations 	 authors can share their experiences
SciReV	scirev.sc	no indication on number of journals reviewed, rough	• experiences by authors with regard to peer		 authors can share their experiences



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Conclusion

- not all online services cover a critical mass of journals
- status of information partially unclear: some information seems to be outdated
- journal selection criteria sometimes not transparent
- there is no one-stop shop: different sources need to be combined to get an overview

References:

- Schmitz, Jasmin (2015): Plattformen zur Bewertung von Open-Access-Zeitschriften. In: PASSWORD 12, 18-19.
- van Gerestein, Danielle (2015): Quality Open Access market and other initiatives: a comparative analysis. In: LIBER Quarterly 24 (4). DOI: 10.18352/lq.9911.