ACADEMIA | Letters

Journal classification portals: new indexing trend

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There is a new trend regarding the indexing of journals, now we are faced with a diversity of internet portals that ask a series of questions and classify the journal within a specific group related to open access, the form of documentation treatment, compliance with certain standards, embargo periods, among other elements. The idea of this letter is to make a summary of the most significant portals that currently exist in terms of current trends. Also, is a way to see how the long classification process in indexing is changing to make it more dynamic and automatic, being different of the long time wait for indexing that the journals face normally or used to face for big indexation services.

Here is a small list of them (the three most recently constituted or renewed, such as the Sherpa-Romeo case), and then talk about what each one is about and point out the web link where it can be located:

a. **Responsible Journals.**

Webpage: www.responsiblejournals.org
Year of creation: 2020
Organization: Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University.
It is a web platform created in order to contribute to the organization responsible for editorial procedures carried out by academic scientific journals. It makes it easy for publishers to show transparency about their procedures, gives recommendations to publishers and publishers for improvements to peer review procedures, and presents integrated information on the variety of review procedures in use. In addition, it maintains a database on the current peer

review format of journals and provides information and mechanisms to use these metrics in a responsible way[1].

It focuses on peer review, based on the research by Horbach and Halffman (2018), where the following criteria are indicated: selection and accreditation of good science (accreditation mechanism), improvement of the quality and accuracy of a work sent (contribution to improvement), provides fair and equitable opportunities for all actors (although now open review is promoted), activates the filter for problematic research (although it cannot be present at the time of the experiments, there are the programs that can verify plagiarism and data manipulation).

It is contemplated to register the scientific journal and ask questions with reference to four aspects: time and selectivity; opening of the review, specialization of the review and technological support of the review. It provides a database on journals and their current editorial procedures, which makes possible a vision on strengths and weaknesses in editorial procedures, which can be taken as a basis to improve editorial policies. In addition, it enables the query of the complete database as input.

The essence of this platform is that the journals answer the questions and, based on their answers in each aspect, make recommendations on alternatives that are currently available (if the journal is not using it).

b. Transpose

Website: https://transpose-publishing.github.io/

Year of creation: 2018, launched in 2019.

Organization: Unidentified, it arises from a group of professors from various recognized organizations such as ASAPbio, Crossref, BioRxiv and PREreview and TU Graz, among others.

It stands for TRANnsparency in Scholarly Publishing for Open Scholarship Evolution (TRANSPOSE) and is an initiative to create a database about journal policies. They are focused on open review, co-review, and detailed preprint policies. Receive contributions from everyone. but seek verification from magazines and publishers. The goal is to foster new practices while raising awareness among authors, editors, and other stakeholders, and seeks to provide funding to help journals establish, share, and clarify their policies[2].

It has a link to add a current record that leads to a questionnaire. Clarifies that the questionnaire can be left blank in the sections that do not interest you (all questions are optional

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[1]Translated from: https://www.responsiblejournals.org/

[2]Translated from: https://transpose-publishing.github.io//about

except the email and the name of the journal), it has 6 parts: email and magazines; open peer review; co-reviewers and peer review structure; transfer of peer review; peer review credit and detailed prepress policies.

When the journal is displayed, the following fields are detailed: peer review type, peer review policy (leads to a link if the journal inserts URL), peer review format, peer review credit policy, credit in Publons / ORCID, Peer Review Transfer Policy.

c. Sherpa-Romeo.

Website: https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/
Year of creation: 2005, 2020 change of web link and policies.
Organization: Joint Information Systems Committee
It is a database on editorial policies related to self-archiving of journal articles on the web and in open access repositories. It helps to clarify the situation to authors and anyone interested in knowing the policies of the magazines and avoid confusion when sharing content on the internet. Covers peer review serials and papers that are suggested by readers[3].

It is an online program that analyzes publications based on open access policies, established worldwide, shows the summary of the journal in terms of self-archiving permissions and the rights granted to authors and journals, this portal also collaborates with DOAJ. Previously they did a color classification, but in the new version they declare that this was eliminated.

If any publisher or journal is not on the list, it can be suggested, for the journals they ask that it have an ISSN, that the editorial board be clearly indicated on the journal's website, as well as all licenses, open access policies and Copyright.

The process involves filling out a form with the journal's data, publisher, as well as the data of the person submitting the suggestion and if they have any position in the journal. They receive the suggestion, evaluate it based on their criteria, taking into account the information published in the provided web addresses of the journal, and publish the result. As a result of this collection of information, the lists that are generated are for the use of the academic community.

This approach to the portals is only a summary that comes from a book that is being written about it, which will help us to take a brief look at the new trends in responsible practices. Below we show through the following table (table 1) the elements to which each of these portals are mainly related, specifically if they deal with open access issues, peer review or procedures carried out by the journal editor. As can be seen, the TRANSPOSE portal is

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[3]Translated from: http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/search.php

one of the three that is related to the three elements, we englobe for this portal in the editors procedures elements as preprints, media and coverage.

It could be said then that these elements are related to the internal practices of the journals and these three portals are oriented to find elements to make classifications in this regard. There are also portals that measure external elements such as the participation and ethical practices of the author, however, this may be developed in future installments or may be observed in the book to be published for us in 2022.

ELEMENTS / PORTALS	OPEN ACCESS	REVIEWERS	EDITORS PROCEDURE
Responsible Journals		X	
Sherpa Romeo	X		
Transpose	X	X	X

Table 1. Portals orientation

References

Horbach, S.P.J.M; Halffman, W. (2018). The changing forms and expectations of peer review. Res Integr Peer Rev 3, 8. https://doi.org/10.1186/s41073-018-0051-5

We recommend this additional resources to review about the importance of this topics and the way to see it in journals:

COPE (2018). Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing. https://doi.org/10.24318/cope.2019.1.13

Editorial Policy Committee, Council of Science Editors (2018). White Paper on Promoting Integrity in Scientific Journal Publications. Wheat Ridge, CO.

ICMJE (International Committee of Medical Journal Editors) (2021). About ICMJE. Extraído de http://www.icmje.org/

ORI (The Office of Research Integrity). (2021). About ORI. Extraído de https://ori.hhs.gov/about-ori