

# Academic Writing Q&A Series:

## 3/“How do I choose a journal to publish in?”

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# About me

- Over 20 years working at the intersection of academic libraries, scholars, and technology
- Over 10 years on a STEM campus
- International career (US native now working/living in Europe)
- Editorial assistance (with formal acknowledgment) for over 40 peer-reviewed STEM articles
- On the editorial board of two journals, one based in Canada and one in Austria
- Independent consultant working mostly with doctoral candidates, postdoctoral researchers, and professors
  - All answers in this video reflect my experience in scholarly publishing to date (in the future, some things might change)

### 3/“How do I choose a journal to publish in?”

#### Answer:

- You should start by asking your mentor for advice and ideally, before starting to conduct research and write, know two journals (preferred and backup) where you want to publish
- General overview on selecting journals:  
<https://www.techlib.cz/en/84194-publishing-academic-papers>

# Step One: Ask your mentor

Always start by asking your mentor about journals they usually publish in and for other suggestions. I'd also recommend asking:

- What kind of article do I need to publish, for what requirement (doctoral degree completion requirement)? A research article, or do other things count?
- Do I need to publish in English or Czech?
- Are there any regulations (e.g., doctoral candidate publication requirements) that discuss where I need to publish?
  - That is, do I need to publish in a Top Quartile journal, or not?
- Any other journal requirements?

If it's possible, try to get answers to these questions in email so that you can refer your mentor back to it if they happen to forget. Sometimes it's not possible, but I suggest trying

- One way to do this would be to send an email summarizing what your mentor says in-person, to your mentor, asking that they confirm you understood what you discussed

## Step Two: WOS and Scopus

If your mentor cannot help you or if you are generally curious, you can explore journals ranked by various factors in your field using Web of Science and Scopus.

Web of Science Journal Citation Reports Categories (to explore journals in your field)

- Login using your university/NTK credentials using this link:  
<https://jcr-clarivate-com.ezproxy.techlib.cz/jcr/browse-categories>

Scopus Sources (to explore journals in your field)

- Login using your university/NTK credentials using this link:  
<https://www-scopus-com.ezproxy.techlib.cz/sources.uri?zone=TopNavBar&origin=searchbasic>
  - Enter subject area at the top
  - Use “Journals” filter under “Source Type”
- Learn more about WOS and Scopus at:  
[https://www.techlib.cz/en/83534-bibliometric-services#tab\\_WoS\\_Scopus](https://www.techlib.cz/en/83534-bibliometric-services#tab_WoS_Scopus)

# Still confused?

Schedule a virtual or in-person individual consultation with NTK's team:  
<https://www.techlib.cz/en/83810-consultations>

# What we learned today

- Ask your mentor about what journal to publish in
- Search for possible journals in WOS and Scopus
- NTK's team can help; don't hesitate to schedule a consultation with them