

Journal selection criteria for CAB Abstracts and Global Health

Journals are selected for inclusion in CAB Abstracts and Global Health – the world’s leading bibliographic databases covering the global literature on agriculture, the environment, applied life sciences and public health – on the basis of quality and subject relevance and following CABI’s journal selection criteria guidelines.

The selection process is carried out by a team of subject experts who assess each title. New titles are assessed on receipt, but if more than one issue of a journal is needed to assess quality or subject relevance, a decision may be deferred until several issues of a title are available.

Selection criteria

Journals are evaluated using an agreed set of CABI quality criteria which include journal description and coverage; quality of content; editorial policy; publisher standards and practices; and, where relevant, online journal features and functionality. Journals must be peer-reviewed or subject to clear internal quality control. The main criteria and their application are summarized below.

Journal description and coverage

For inclusion in our database(s), the subject coverage of the journal should be defined and clearly stated and some, but not necessarily all, of the subjects should be within our coverage. Articles published in the journal should be within the described scope of the journal, the publication schedule should be clear and there should be continuity of publication. A number of other criteria which reflect the quality of the journal are also applied in order to reach an overall decision. For instance, if a journal has a geographical location in the title, this should reflect the origin, contents and/or coverage of the journal. Ideally, articles should have DOIs, but absence of DOIs would not cause a journal to be rejected.

Quality of content

The published articles should conform to the accepted standards of the discipline in terms of content, presentation, references, editorial quality and currency. For instance, a spread of authors would be expected, rather than a high proportion of papers by the same author(s), and the research should generally be current and include recent references. Journals with articles reporting results of student projects are generally not considered to be of significant quality for inclusion in our database(s).

Editorial policy

A journal is expected to have an Editorial Board with a good subject and, if relevant, geographical spread, with subject experts from recognized institutions. The peer review process should be clear and meet the standards for scholarly peer review. Instructions to authors should be clear, and the articles should follow international editorial conventions such as inclusion of informative journal article titles, complete bibliographic information for cited references, and full citations for all authors.

Publisher practices

Information on copyright and licensing should be clear, including Creative Commons or other licenses indicating rights of use, and information on publishing practices and services to the author (such as archiving policy, digital preservation, plagiarism, corrections and retractions) should be evident.

Online features and functionality

The editorial quality of the website and online journal should be acceptable and of adequate functionality, for instance links should work (links to pdfs, links within papers, links within the website) and the pagination or article identity should be suitable for easy identification and processing.

Other considerations

CABI aims to address problems in agriculture, health and the environment in the developing world and strives to provide unrivalled access to literature from and about developing countries. Whilst our quality criteria for journal selection are applied to all journals, consideration is given to journals from developing countries which have limited features or functionality due to fewer resources or limited training or experience in publishing activities, in order not to exclude these journals from exposure and dissemination. As part of our selection process we will aim to include journals publishing unique or valuable content from the developing world or regions which are poorly represented in the established literature, as long as these meet acceptable standards for quality of content and other features including editorial and publishing conventions.

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