




## Does the publication cost or Article Publication Charges influence a journal?

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IT is essential to note that researchers intend to share their findings, build academic reputations, and advance their careers in a peer-reviewed scientific journal. However, this editorial finds it judicious to raise questions about the cost associated with publication, especially the Article Processing Charge (APC). Many researchers wonder why APCs differ so much from one journal to another. This editorial helps to succinctly break down the key elements contributing to the final cost of publishing in a scientific journal. The Article Publication Charges (APCs) are known as Article Processing Charges. There are fees generally charged to authors by publishers in the context of open-access journals to cover the publication costs of an article. Various factors may influence publication costs, such as journal indexing and ranking, discipline, peer-review approach, editorial and copyediting, and production services.

It is essential to consider that journal indexing can be influential, especially if it is indexed in globally recognized databases such as Scopus or Web of Science. A few reasons could explain why indexed journals generally charge higher APCs. It could be advantageous due to their reputation, stringent editorial standards, and broader dissemination of the work published in their databases. It benefited authors by increasing their articles' visibility, credibility, and citations.

The journal ranking plays a critical role in the cost of publication and influences the impact factor of the journal and CiteScore. The journal ranking is advantageous to the authors. If they are published in high-ranking journals (e.g., Q1, Q2, Q3, etc.), they mostly receive more submissions, which are selective. The published article in the higher-ranking journals could be prestigious for authors as the journals could significantly improve their academic profile.

It is essential to consider that the scientific discipline could be a relevant element in the cost of publication. Similarly, the cost of publication varied and depended on the research field. For example, journals in science domains, such as medicine, biology, and engineering, might have higher publication costs due to various and complex peer-review processes, requests for specific technical editing, and more resources to ensure that content quality and compliance are rigorously observed. The peer-review approach could be more demanding for some journals as they generally pay their peer reviewers to accelerate the process. Some publishers are known for offering paid, fast-track review services, increasing the overall cost of publication. This policy supports quicker turnaround times but disadvantages the authors' financial responsibility. Regardless of the journal, the publication costs include primary services. These include assigning a Digital Object

Identifier (DOI), typesetting and formatting the manuscript to meet publication standards, language editing, uploading and presenting the article on the journal's website, compensation for editorial and technical staff, and issuing an official acceptance letter and certificate. These services are helpful as they ensure that articles are professionally processed and accessible to the scientific community.

This editorial addresses how authors must select a good and right journal. Authors must understand the factors influencing publication costs and make informed decisions. Choosing the cheapest journal would not sometimes help you. Still, you must produce quality articles, balance your budget, and decide how visible your academic profile would be, as well as the speed and prestige of the journal. Furthermore, the authors must carefully assess the journals' policies, peer-review processes, and editorial services and submit well-prepared manuscripts to avoid additional revision costs or rejections.