

Journal Review

Scientific Journal of Research & Reviews

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1. Journal Information

Journal Name: [Scientific Journal of Research & Reviews](#)

Journal URL: <https://irispublishers.com/sjrr/>

ISSN (if applicable): 2687-8097

Wayback Machine URLs: [About us](#), [Associate editor guidelines](#), [Author guidelines](#), [Editorial panel](#), [Index list](#), [Membership](#), [Peer review process](#), [Reviewer guidelines](#), [Scientific Journal of Research & Reviews - SJRR](#) and [Submit manuscript](#).

Date of Wayback Snapshots: 2022-12-27, 2023-05-17, 2023-06-08, and 2023-06-22

2. Reviewer Positionality

Teresa Schultz, Scholarly Communication & Social Sciences Librarian at the University of Nevada, Reno.

I am the co-lead editor of *Reviews: The Journal of Journal Reviews*. I often review various scholarly journals for faculty and other researchers at my institution and believe that “good” and “bad” journals do not exist but that a journal’s suitability depends on the needs of the authors. I chose to review this journal after seeing a fellow librarian mention it on Twitter as having some problematic practices.

3. Journal Review

3.1 Transparency of Practice

The journal, which identifies itself as open access, is transparent about its scope, in so much as it makes clear it does not have one (Iris Publishers, n.d.-h). It specifically notes it is open to research in any field and of any length or format (indeed, Power Point is listed as a possible submission format) (Iris Publishers, n.d.-i). Although the journal does not provide specific information about its peer review process, it does link to its publisher’s [peer review workflow chart](#), which notes that articles are reviewed by editors and three peer reviewers. The website did not provide information about any guidance that peer reviewers are given.

The journal does provide information for each article as to when it was submitted and accepted. From this, it appears the turnaround time is fast, sometimes as little as a week and often two to three weeks, indicating not much time is spent in peer review or on revisions. That is not to say all articles have such a quick turnaround; one article I examined took about seven months. However, out of about 10 other articles, all were published in less than a month of submission.

The journal’s use of PlagScan, a plagiarism checker, is concerning. Plagiarism is often not cut and dried – even the companies behind plagiarism-checking software note that users should not rely entirely on the generated score, as a high score does not always indicate illegitimacy (e.g. preprints) (Luschek, 2020). However, SJRR clearly states in its workflow chart that any paper with 75% or higher is rejected for plagiarism. This transparency is a positive even if the bright line ignores the nuance in plagiarism assessment.

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The journal is owned by [Iris Publishers](#), which asserts the goal of publishing scholarly knowledge (Iris Publishers, n.d.-a). The company has an address in San Francisco. It is not clear if Iris is a subsidiary of any other company or who their employees are.

The journal does not have a clearly stated copyright policy. Information provided on individual articles is conflicting – at the top of the first page for each one, it reads “Copyright © All rights are reserved by [Author].” However, at the bottom of each page is a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 license.

The journal does charge a publishing fee, with tiers based on low-, middle-, and high-income countries (Iris Publishers, n.d.-c). However, the journal does not define each level, leaving it ambiguous as to which tier an author will fall in. Neither does it say how it handles a manuscript with authors from different countries. It also charges different tiers for research articles, review articles, case reports, and others. The fees range anywhere from \$649 to \$1,780. The journal has a withdrawal policy that promises to charge authors \$99 for withdrawing their article from the journal. The policy, which provides conflicting information in places, attempts to define when authors can withdraw and when they cannot. For instance, it says that any manuscript can be withdrawn within 48 hours of submission with no penalties (Iris Publishers, n.d.-c). The policy also says it considers it to be unethical to withdraw in the final stage of peer review, but it’s unclear what that is. It claims that if authors stop responding to the journal, the journal has the right to move forward with publication. All of this appears to be based on questionable legal rights, as nowhere in the submission form does it ask the submitting authors to agree to any of this (Iris Publishers, n.d.-i). However, if Iris attempts to pursue its stated policy, this could still create an expensive legal situation for authors.

The journal provides little if any information for authors about formatting, including citation style, or how to handle complaints.

3.2 Behaviour

Although the journal has provided some policies, such as for plagiarism (Iris Publishers, n.d.-c), and has provided guidelines for peer reviewers and assistant editors (Iris Publishers, n.d.-b, n.d.-g), it is missing many of the policies recommended by the Committee on Publication Ethics. I do not have any personal experience with this journal.

3.3 People

People who serve as editors and associate editors appear to come from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. Varying levels of information are provided about the editors – some have fully sketched biographies and research interest areas, whereas others have nothing (Iris Publishers, n.d.-d). At least one editor is repeated twice on the list. Interestingly, for a journal that is open to all research disciplines, the vast majority of editors appear to come from engineering or medicine. The only social science discipline represented is business and economics; no editor has a background in arts and humanities. The only contact information for the journal are two generic email addresses that appear to be directed to the publisher as a whole: research@irispublishers.com and research@irisopenaccess.com.

3.4 Equity, Inclusivity, and Accessibility Practices

The journal provided no information about any of these areas.

3.5 Scholarship

Many of the articles appeared to be review articles, and many of those cases were miniature reviews of only a few pages. For those identified as research articles, the methodology sections were often lacking in information that set out how they actually conducted their research, although I admit to not being an expert in these fields and am unfamiliar with their disciplinary norms when it comes to writing methodologies. A large number of articles appeared to be focused on business and economics considering only the editor in chief has a listed specialty area in these areas. The grammar seems generally acceptable, although some errors were noted. Regarding the layout of articles, it was sometimes difficult to know when to move on to the next column on a page.

Specifically, the text in the right column would sometimes jump to the left column midway through page before jumping back to the right column, often after a visual element (see an [example article](#)).

3.6 Relationships

The journal lists a number of places it is supposedly indexed in; however none appear to be traditional indexing databases, and some of the links appear to be to other journals in Iris Publishing's portfolio (Iris Publishers, n.d.-e). The journal does not appear to be actively crawled by Google Scholar – after searching a handful of titles, the only ones to appear were those uploaded to other repositories.

The journal offers memberships that any researcher can buy, creating a paid relationship with the journal (Iris Publishers, n.d.-f). Benefits include priority in peer review, the ability to attend conferences, and an unlimited number of submissions to Iris journals. Memberships appear to be expensive – the cheapest, a one-year student membership, costs \$3,056. It's also unclear what, if any, conferences are included in this as none could be found on Iris Publishing's website; likewise, the website does not mention a limit on publication submissions anywhere else. Therefore, the membership cost appears to have the sole benefit of expediting peer review.

The publisher is not a listed member of the Committee on Publication Ethics or the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association, and SJJR is not listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals.

3.7 Background and History

The journal appears to be relatively new, with its first article published in 2018. They've since published three volumes.

4. Discussion & Conclusions

4.1 Summary

Scientific Journal of Research & Reviews claims to be a peer reviewed, open access scholarly journal. However, most articles list a turnaround time of about two weeks, and authors can pay a membership fee to "smooth" peer review. The journal charges both a fee to publish and a fee to withdraw articles after a certain point, which could prove costly for authors as well as limit their ability to submit their work elsewhere if they so desire. The journal provides conflicting information in some areas (such as around copyright) and no information in others, such as formatting articles or how to file a complaint.

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