

CHAPTER 2

HOW TO CHOOSE A JOURNAL: SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

One of the most important and least understood decisions made in the course of publishing a scientific article is the choice of a journal. The decision determines the audience reached, the context in which scholarly work is presented, and the time it takes to achieve formal publication. At best, the right choice of a journal results in the rapid publication of an article that achieves the exposure it deserves. At worst, the wrong choice results in rejection, delay, and even loss of an author's motivation to persist in seeking publication for a potentially valuable scientific contribution.

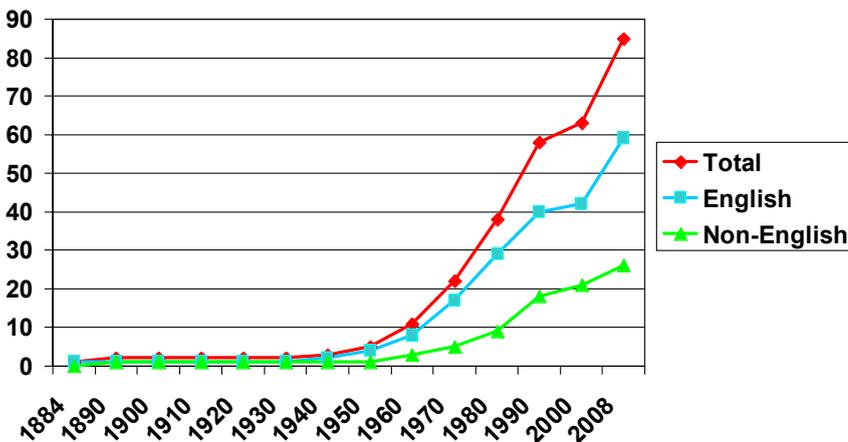
Journal choice is little understood even by those who have spent decades in the field of addiction research. One reason for this state of affairs is that the field is rapidly changing, with new publication opportunities constantly arising (e.g., electronic journals) and more traditional outlets of communication (e.g., print journals) adapting to new technology. Another reason for the difficulty in choosing a publication outlet is that until recently there was little communication between journal editors and their potential authors. As indicated in Chapter 9, the process by which a journal decides to accept or reject a given article is often mysterious; most journals have carefully preserved the mystery within the 'black box' of editorial decision-making. With virtually no formal training programs on how to write for and publish in scholarly journals, the learning process for novices has been left to chance or the luck of finding an experienced mentor.

This chapter provides guidance on how to choose a journal for a scholarly publication on the subject of addiction, broadly defined as any topic dealing with psychoactive substances as well as compulsive behaviours such as gambling. We begin with the basic assumption that the primary purpose of publishing is to communicate findings and ideas to a broader audience than one's immediate circle. Our focus is on scholarly journals, which have become the primary organ (in addition to conference presentations, posters, books, and abstracts) of the scientific communication system that has evolved over the past century. Although we will provide some information about publishing in disciplinary journals that serve the scholarly interests of professional groups such as biologists, neuroscientists, physicians, sociologists, psychologists, and social workers, our primary interest is in the addiction specialty journals, which limit their subject matter primarily to psychoactive substances and related addictive behaviours.

GROWTH OF ADDICTION SPECIALTY JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATION SOURCES

As noted in Chapter 1, a scientific journal has multiple functions. Journals provide a forum for scientific communication and certify the scientific value of an individual author's work. They provide access to reliable knowledge, and at the same time confer scholarly prestige that facilitates career advancement (see Lafollette 1992). Figure 2.1 provides a striking illustration of the increase of scientific publishing in the addiction field, which parallels the growth in most other areas of science during the past century (Babor 1993a). The figure shows the cumulative record of addiction specialty journals, plotted according to the number of journals publishing articles since the late nineteenth century, when addiction publishing first began. The 1970s and 1980s showed dramatic growth in the development of new addiction journals, an exponential trend that shows no signs of reaching asymptote. By 2008, there were 88 addiction specialty journals operating throughout the world, which can be interpreted as an indication of the remarkable growth in addiction science during the past 50 years.

FIGURE 2.1 CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF ADDICTION JOURNALS PUBLISHED SINCE 1884, DISAGGREGATED ACCORDING TO LANGUAGE OF PUBLICATION (ENGLISH AND NON-ENGLISH)



In addition to the total number of journals published each decade, Figure 2.1 also subclassifies the journals according to language of publication. Approximately two-thirds of these journals are published in the English language, which has emerged as the main language for international scientific communication (Babor 1993b). Details about the journals plotted in Figure 2.1 are provided in Tables 2.1 and 2.2. The data in these tables were compiled from a survey conducted by the International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE). The survey results were supplemented by a review of public information sources, such as the journal's Web page (if available), print copies of the journal, and its instructions to authors.

Additional information about these journals, including their mission statements, submission details, and contact information, is available on the ISAJE-sponsored PARINT Web site (<http://www.parint.org>).

Table 2.1 lists the titles of the English-language journals along with information about the substances or addictive behaviours with which they are concerned (e.g., alcohol, tobacco, licit and illicit drugs, pathological gambling); general topical areas (e.g., treatment, prevention, biological mechanisms, including information about whether the journal publishes qualitative research); and details about the journals' frequency of publication, print circulation, acceptance rate, Impact Factor score (a measure of how often articles in the journal are cited), and abstracting or indexing services. Table 2.2 provides the same information for journals published in languages other than English, with the exception of Impact Factor (at this writing none of the non-English language journals have reported an Impact Factor). Almost all of the journals listed in the tables are peer-reviewed.

Growth in the number of specialized addiction journals tells only part of the story of how the addiction field has grown in size and complexity. A significant portion of the addiction literature is published in scholarly journals that have a more general scientific, professional, or disciplinary orientation such as medicine, psychology, biology, sociology, economics, and public health. Figure 2.2 shows the results of a content analysis that describes the kinds of journals currently publishing articles on alcohol-related research. We chose alcohol research for this analysis because this literature was catalogued relatively well on an international level. We counted and classified a sample of 344 journal articles published in 2001 that were abstracted in ETOH, a comprehensive index of the world scientific literature on alcohol and alcohol problems. The results showed that 58% of the alcohol-related articles were published in general or disciplinary journals and 42% were published in addiction specialty journals. When we subclassified the articles as either 'biomedical' (i.e., dealing with biological or medical topics) or 'psychosocial' (i.e., dealing with topics such as treatment, prevention, epidemiology, psychology, or social policy), we found that the addiction journals published a higher percentage of articles on psychosocial topics, whereas more general disciplinary journals published a greater share of the biomedical articles. Our review also indicated that authors of articles on alcohol-related topics publish in a tremendous variety of journals. In 2001, ETOH abstracted articles from over 50 addiction journals and 125 disciplinary and general scientific journals.

Table 2.1 COMPENDIUM OF ADDICTION JOURNALS PUBLISHED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Journal Name	Substances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Impact Factor ^f	Abstracting/ Indexing Services ^g
Addiction*	A,D,T,O	P,T,H,E,Q	12	1600/-----	19%	4.09	51
Addiction Biology*	A,D,T,O	T,B	4	500-1500/-----	45%	1.75	33
Addiction Research and Theory	A,D	P,T,Q	6	250/-----	60%	0.66	13
Addictive Behaviors*	A,D,T	T,P,B,E,Q	12	-----/5268	35%	1.85	20
Addictive Disorders and Their Treatment	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R	4	-----/-----	90%	N/A	4
African Journal of Drug and Alcohol Studies*	A,T,D,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	2	600/0	65%	-----	1
Alcohol: An International Biomedical Journal	A	B,T,P,E	8	100/2000	57%	2.02	14
Alcohol and Alcoholism	A	T,P,E,B,H,Q	6	850/~275	55%	2.06	8
Alcohol Research and Health	A	T,B,E,P,Q	4	1500/-----	N/A	0.46	7
Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*	A,T,O	T,P,B,E,H,R	12 + 2-3S	2000/~400	60%	2.93	42
Alcoholism: Journal on Alcoholism and Related Addictions*	A,D,T,O	T,B,P,E,H,R	2	1000/-----	75%	-----	11
Alcoholism Treatment Quarterly*	A	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4	340/-----	65%	pending	33
American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse	D,A	T,P,Q	6	300/-----	60%	1.15	26
American Journal on Addictions	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B	6	1200/-----	60-70%	1.40	15
Contemporary Drug Problems	A,T,D,O	E,P,H,Q	4	1800/-----	50%	N/A	10
Drug and Alcohol Dependence*	A,T,D	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	18+ 3S	837/-----	33%	3.21	19
Drug and Alcohol Review*	A,T,D	T,P,B,E,H,Q	6	461/-----	67%	1.42	17
Drugs and Alcohol Today	A,T,D,O	T,P,E,H,R	4	350/-----	-----	N/A	7
Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*	A,T,D	P,T,H,Q	6	200/-----	60%	0.52	27
European Addiction Research*	A,T,D,O	T,P,B,E,H,Q	4	800/-----	25%	1.67	5+
Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*	A,T,D,O	T,P,E,B,H,Q	6	858/858	40%	1.62	8
Harm Reduction Journal	D,A,T	T,P,E,B,H,Q	continuous online	open access: 80,000 downloads/yr.	85%	N/A	4

Journal Name	Substances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Impact Factor ^f	Abstracting/ Indexing Services ^g
International Gambling Studies	O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	3	-----/-----	55%	-----	7
International Journal of Drug Policy*	A,T,D	T,P,E,H,R,Q	6+1-2S	500/3500	50%	-----	10
International Journal of Drug Testing	A,T,D,O	T,P,B,E,H	1	-----/-----	75%	N/A	0
International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4	N/A / N/A	55-60%	N/A	4
<i>Journal of Addiction Medicine</i>	A,T,D,O	T,P,B,E,H	4	-----/-----	-----	-----	-----
Journal of Addiction Science & Clinical Practice [formerly Science and Practice Perspectives]*	A,D,T	T,P,B	2	25,000/-----	N/A	N/A	0
Journal of Addictions Nursing*	A,O	T,P,Q	4	900+/-----	45%	N/A	2
Journal of Addictive Diseases*	A,D	T,P,E,B	4	4000/-----	50%	1.42	47
Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education	A,T,D	P,Q	3	1,100/-----	35%	0.08	15
Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse	A,D	E,P,T,Q	4	500/-----	50%	0.39	45
<i>Journal of Drug Addiction, Education, and Eradication</i>	D,A,T	T,E,P,B,H,R	4	-----/-----	-----	-----	-----
Journal of Drug Education	A,D,T	P,E,Q	4	-----/-----	60%	0.42	36
Journal of Drug Issues*	A,D,T	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4	700/700+	30%	0.76	7+
Journal of Dual Diagnosis: Research and Practice in Substance Abuse Comorbidity	A,D,T,O	T,P,B,E,Q	4	218/218	75%	N/A	2
Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse	A,D,T	T,P,E,H,R,Q	4	-----/-----	50%	N/A	49
Journal of Gambling Issues*	O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	3	N/A / 6000	44%	-----	1
Journal of Gambling Studies	O	T,P,E,B,H	4	-----/-----	15%	N/A	8
Journal of Maintenance in the Addictions	D	T	4	225/-----	75%	-----	18
<i>Journal of Opioid Management</i>	D	T,P	6	-----/-----	-----	-----	-----
Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4	800/ N/A	60%	0.83	21
<i>Journal of Smoking Cessation</i>	T	T,Q	2	N/A / 75	-----	-----	-----
Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions*	A,D,T,O	T,P,H,Q	4	240/-----	39%	-----	22

Journal Name	Substances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Impact Factor ^f	Abstracting/Indexing Services ^g
Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*	A,D,T	T,P,E,B,H,I,R,Q	6	1733 / N/A	33%	1.88	28
Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*	A,D,T,O	T,Q	8 + occasional supplements	475-500/2000+	30%	2.01	14
Journal of Substance Use*	A,D,T,O	T,P,B,E,Q	6	200/-	60%	N/A	12
Journal of Teaching in the Addictions*	A,O,D	T,P,E,H,Q	2	-----/-----	38%	-----	-----
Nicotine and Tobacco Research	T	T,E,P	12	1000+/-	35%	2.30	8
Psychology of Addictive Behaviors	A,D,T,O	T,P,E	4	2030/-	15%	2.17	12
Psychopharmacology*	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B	24	575/-	50%	3.63	3+
The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs: An Interdisciplinary Journal	A,D,T,O	P, H	2	75/-	50%	-----	2
Substance Abuse	A,D,T	T,P,B,E,H,R	4	600/-	40%	N/A	19
Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy	A,D,T	P,E,T,B,H,Q	continuous online	open access	84%	N/A	3+
Substance Use and Misuse	A,D,O	T,P,H,Q	14	-----/-----	-----	1.38	29
Tobacco Control	T	P,E,H,Q	6	1200/-	12%	2.80	~20

^a Main substances and other addictive behaviors addressed by the journal. A=alcohol, D=licit and illicit psychoactive drugs other than alcohol; T=tobacco and other nicotine products; O=other substances and addictive behaviors including gambling and eating disorders

^b Primary and secondary areas of interest to the journal. T=treatment; P=prevention and policy, E=epidemiology; B=biological mechanisms or effects; H=history; R=religion and spirituality; Q = qualitative research

^c The first number reflects the number of regular issues per year. The second number, if included, refers to the number of supplements (S) published per year

^d Taken from most recent issue published in 2007; includes library subscriptions and copies distributed to professional society members

^e Proportion of peer reviewed research reports accepted for publication, based on the total number of research reports submitted for review

^f Figures cited refer to 2006, except for the *Journal of Alcohol and Drug Education*, which is based on 2001 data

^g Number of abstracting and indexing services that include this journal

*Member journal, The International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE)

N/A means not applicable; ----- means information not available

Titles in italics are new since 2004

Additional information about many of these journals (e.g., mission statement, web address, submission information, etc.) can be found at www.painint.org

Information about the following recently established journals was not available when this table was compiled: *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, *International*

Journal of Addiction Researchers, *Mental Health and Substance Use: Dual Diagnosis*, and *The Open Addiction Journal*

Table 2.2 COMPENDIUM OF ADDICTION JOURNALS PUBLISHED IN LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

Journal Name (English Translation)	Language	Sub- stances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Abstracting/ Indexing Services ^f
Abhängigkeiten (<i>Addictions</i>)	German (English/French abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,Q	3	600/-----	90%	1
Addiktológia – Addictologia Hungarica (<i>Addiction</i>)*	Hungarian (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4	1000/-----	70%	4
Adiktologie (<i>Addiction</i>)*	Czech (+ English articles & abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4 + 1-2S	1000/-----	85%	1
Adicciones (<i>Addiction</i>)*	Spanish (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4 + 1S	1500/-----	70%	9
Alcoologie et Addictologie (<i>Alcohol and Addiction Studies</i>)	French (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	4 + 1-2S	2200/0	67%	4
Alkoholizm i Narkomania (<i>Alcohol and Drug Abuse</i>)*	Polish (English abstracts, table of contents, tables and graphs)	A,D,T	T,P,E,B,H,Q	4	1700/1700	77%	1
Alkoholizmus a Drogové Závislosti (<i>Alcoholism and Drug Addictions</i>) [formerly Protialkoholický obzor (<i>Antialcoholic Review</i>)]	Slovak, Czech, some English (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,Q	5 + 1-2S	1000/0	60-70%	0
BlutAlkohol: Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für die Medizinische und Juristische Praxis (<i>Blood Alcohol: Scientific Journal for Medical and Legal Practice</i>)	German (some English articles)	A	P,B	6	3200/-----	25%	0
Chinese Journal of Drug Abuse, Prevention, and Treatment Dependence	Chinese (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,Q	6	2000/-----	80%	12
Chinese Journal of Drug Dependence	Chinese (English abstracts)	A,D,T	T,P,E,B,H,Q	6	1700/-----	80%	12
Drogues, Santé et Société (<i>Drugs, Health and Society</i>)	French (English and Spanish abstracts)	A,D,T	T,P,E,H,Q	2	150/open access	65%	4
Eradicciones	Spanish	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H	2	2,000/-----	75%	0
Exartisis (<i>Addictions</i>)*	Greek (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,H	2	1,000/-----	100%	0

Journal Name (English Translation)	Language	Substances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Abstracting/ Indexing Services ^f
Japanese Journal of Alcohol Studies & Drug Dependence	Japanese	A,D,T	T,P,E,B,H	6	1200/-----	100%	0
Narcologia (Addiction Studies)*	Russian (English abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H,R,Q	12	500/0	-----	0
Nordisk alkohol- & narkotikatiskskrift (Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs (NAT))*	Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, English	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,H,Q	3-4 Scandinavian languages; 2-3 English	1200 / -----	80%	8
Personalità/Dipendenza* (Personality/Dependencies)	Italian (English & sometimes French abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,R,Q	3	1000/-----	90%	0
Psychotropes (Review: Psychotropic)	French	D,T,A,O	T,P,E,B,H,R	4	-----/-----	-----	-----
Revista Española de Drogodependencias (Spanish Drug Dependency Review)	Spanish (English and French abstracts)	D,A	T,P,B,H	4	-----/-----	-----	1
Salud y Drogas (Health and Addictions)*	Spanish (articles also accepted in English, French, and Portuguese; English and original language abstracts)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,H,Q	2	300/1100	-----	7
SMAD Revista Eletrônica Saúde Mental Álcool e Drogas (SMAD Electronic Journal of Mental Health, Alcohol, and Drugs)	Portuguese (articles also accepted in Spanish and English)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,R,Q	2	N/A / -----	70%	5
Sucht: Zeitschrift für Wissenschaft und Praxis (German Journal of Addiction Research and Practice)*	German (English titles, key words, abstracts; 10% English articles per year)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B,H	6 + 1-2S	3500/-----	58%	9
Suchtmedizin in Forschung und Praxis (SuchtMed) (Addiction Medicine in Research and Practice)*	German (English abstracts & some English articles)	A,D,T,O	T,P,E,B	4	500-1000 / 50	90%	4

Journal Name (<i>English Translation</i>)	Language	Substances ^a	Areas of Interest ^b	Issues per Year ^c	Print Circulation/Online Subscriptions ^d	Acceptance Rate ^e	Abstracting/ Indexing Services ^f
Suchtherapie (<i>Addiction Treatment</i>)	German (English abstracts)	A, D, T, O	T, P, E, B	4 + 2-3S	2000/-----	60-70%	2
Toxicodependências (<i>Drug Addiction</i>) [*]	Portuguese (articles in French, Spanish; English/ French/ Portuguese abstracts)	A	P, E, B, H, Q	3	2500/0	70%	0
Trastornos Adictivos* (<i>Addictive Disorders</i>)	Spanish (English abstracts & some English articles)	A, D, T, O	T, P, E, B,	4	2000/ ~3000 downloads per issue	80%	3
Voprosy Narkologii (<i>Addiction Problems</i>)	Russian (English abstracts)	A, D, T	T, P, E, B, H	6	1500/-----	62%	0

^a Main substances and other addictive behaviors addressed by the journal. A=alcohol; D=licit and illicit psychoactive drugs other than alcohol; T=tobacco and other nicotine products; O=other substances and addictive behaviors including gambling and eating disorders

^b Primary and secondary topical areas of interest to the journal. T=treatment; P=prevention and policy, E=epidemiology; B=biological mechanisms or effects; H=history; R=religion and spirituality; Q=qualitative research

^c The first number reflects the number of regular issues per year. The second number, if included, refers to the number of supplements (S) published per year

^d Taken from most recent issue published in 2007; includes library subscriptions and copies distributed to professional society members

^e Proportion of peer reviewed research reports accepted for publication, based on the total number of research reports submitted for review

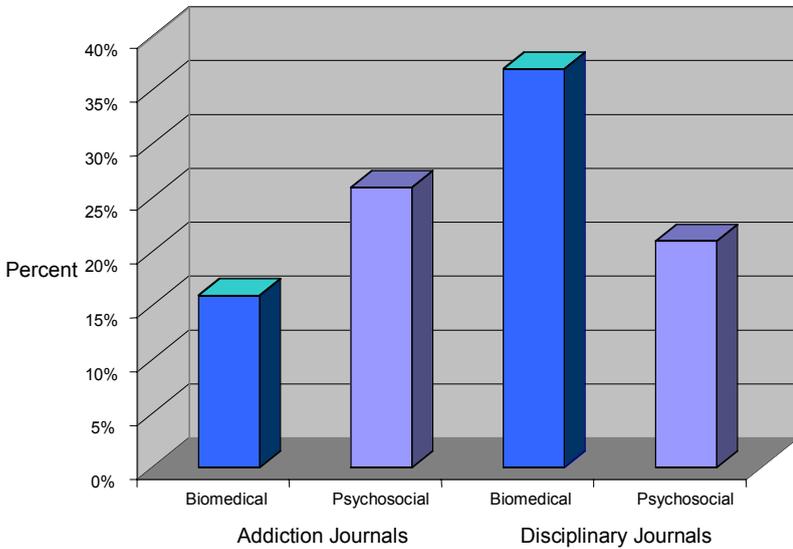
^f Number of abstracting and indexing services that include this journal

* Member journal, The International Society of Addiction Journal Editors (ISAJE)

N/A means not applicable; ----- means information not available

Additional information about many of these journals (e.g., mission statement, web address, submission information, etc.) can be found at www.parint.org

FIGURE 2.2 PERCENTAGE OF 2001 JOURNAL ARTICLES ON ALCOHOL PUBLISHED IN ADDICTION SPECIALTY JOURNALS AND DISCIPLINARY JOURNALS, CLASSIFIED AS EITHER BIOMEDICAL OR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUBJECT MATTER



In addition to the expanding array of journals from which addiction authors may choose, many publishers have increased the standard number of issues released per year, added supplements or 'special issues', and created new electronic formats for browsing and submitting articles. With the increase in the number, frequency, and breadth of scholarly journals covering addiction-related research, there has never been a greater opportunity to publish on the subject of addiction. Nevertheless, the plethora of journals has created new challenges and questions for prospective authors. What are the relative merits of publishing in disciplinary versus addiction specialty journals? How does an author find the most appropriate journal for a particular article? What are the chances that an article will be accepted by a given journal? Which journals have the greatest impact on the field? How does an author know whether a journal will reach an article's intended audience? The answers to these and related questions are the subject of the remainder of this chapter.

To assist prospective authors in the choice of the most appropriate journal, Box 2.1 describes the kinds of decisions that authors must make during the selection process. The following sections expand upon this outline, discussing each step in the process. Although our review focuses primarily on how to publish a standard article based on original research involving the collection of empirical data, the publication of other types of articles (e.g., review papers, theoretical articles, case reports) can also be informed by following these steps.

BOX 2.1 MAJOR STEPS IN CHOOSING A JOURNAL

1. Decide whether the article is primarily of interest to a national or international audience
2. Consider the language of publication
3. Consider whether to publish in a general scientific, disciplinary or addiction specialty journal
4. Determine whether your article's general content areas (e.g., type of drug, clinical/basic science, etc) fit the journal's mission statement
5. Gauge your exposure by reviewing the journal's circulation, abstracting services, and open access
6. Evaluate your chances of acceptance
7. Consider, but don't be fooled by, impact factors
8. Take into account time to publication and other practical matters

MAJOR STEPS IN CHOOSING A JOURNAL

1. DECIDE WHETHER THE ARTICLE IS PRIMARILY OF INTEREST TO A NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE

This is partly a matter of the article's information content, and partly a matter of presentation or appeal. If the topic is primarily of local or national interest (e.g., prevalence of substance abuse among Brazilian secondary school students, or an evaluation of a local treatment program) and the presentation is oriented toward professionals in a particular country, then the article should be submitted to a journal capable of reaching that audience, such as one sponsored by a national professional society. If the topic is likely to appeal to scientists or professionals in many countries, and the presentation speaks to this broader audience, then consider sending your article to an international journal.

However, the distinction between domestic and international journals can become unclear. Many of the addiction specialty journals that are published in English are international in scope. Approximately 37% of authors published in two English-language addiction specialty journals live in countries outside of the United States, according to a citation analysis (Gust and Winstanley, 2007) of articles published in two international journals, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* and *Addiction*, over a seven-year period. The authors represented 60 different countries, and 10% (n=177) of the articles had authors from more than one country. The greatest number of authors came from three English-speaking countries: the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

In general, the best way to determine the scope and audience of a journal is to read the journal's mission statement, usually to be found in each hard-copy issue of the journal, on the journal's Web site, or at www.parint.org.

2. CONSIDER THE LANGUAGE OF PUBLICATION

Increasingly, as noted above, English has become the main language of scientific communication throughout the world. Nevertheless, significant numbers of scientific articles are published in German, Russian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, and the Nordic languages, as indicated by the journals listed in Table 2.2. For most researchers, choosing a language in which to publish depends largely on the author's native tongue, the country in which the study was conducted, the potential audience, and the availability of an addiction journal that publishes in that language and accepts papers on the author's topic.

If one is writing for an international audience, it is wise to choose an English-language journal that can be read by scholars in most countries. In many circumstances, an article in English will have greater exposure, especially when included in major abstracting and indexing services (e.g., MEDLINE, PsycINFO), most of which operate in the English language. English-language authors can choose between national, specialized journals, or the bigger international journals, depending on the quality of the paper, the importance of the findings, and the audience one wishes to reach (see Step 1). If the article is likely to be of interest to an international audience, but it is not written in English, the author can consider publishing it in English, in addition to his or her native language. Multiple publication in different languages, however, requires permission from both of the journal editors involved. Alternatively, researchers writing in languages other than English should consider publishing in journals that provide English-language abstracts (see Table 2.2), thereby gaining entry into some of the world's major abstracting services (listed in the journal section of www.parint.org).

In general, journals published in languages other than English provide a valuable service to national and regional audiences that have a special interest in addiction studies. For example, if an article has special relevance to French-speaking populations, the journal *Alcoologie et Addictologie (Alcohol and Addiction Studies)* provides immediate access to that audience not only because of the language in which it is written, but also because of the network through which the journal is distributed (i.e., the French Society on Alcoholism and Addiction). In addition, many non-English language journals demonstrate an intentional internationalism that is expressed in a readiness to publish articles submitted from many different countries. *Nordisk alkohol- & narkotikatidskrift (Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs)*, for example, defines its scientific role as going beyond the borders of one country to include the analysis of alcohol policy in the Nordic countries as well as the international arena.

Overall, non-English language journals serve as an important medium for communication among clinicians, scientists, and policymakers within major linguistic areas of the world. They increase the range of cultural and scientific diversity in the addiction field, and in this way, provide new opportunities for authors and readers. Authors whose first language is English should not ignore the advantages of publishing in these journals, which often have a higher acceptance rate and, in some cases, are open to submissions written in English. Depending on the topic and scope of the article, some journals are willing either to translate into the language of publication or to publish the article in English.

3. CONSIDER WHETHER TO PUBLISH IN A GENERIC, DISCIPLINARY OR ADDICTION SPECIALTY JOURNAL

The third step involves examining whether the results of a study are mainly of interest to other addiction researchers or to a more general readership, as in a general scientific journal or disciplinary journal. It is probably easier to get an addiction article accepted in an addiction specialty journal. Publishing in a non-addiction journal may require authors to write the article in a way that is comprehensible to those who do not speak the 'addiction dialect'. Some general scientific journals, such as *Nature* and *Science*, are multidisciplinary and oriented toward the larger scientific community. Other journals, like *Lancet* and the *Bulletin of the World Health Organization*, publish articles dealing with a specific discipline, such as medicine or public health, respectively. In countries without addiction specialty journals, a journal in psychiatry can, for instance, be an important channel for addiction research.

Although this chapter deals primarily with addiction specialty journals, there are several reasons to consider submitting an article to one of the more broadly oriented journals, in part because they publish more than half of the scientific literature on alcohol-related research. These journals are generally published by and oriented towards professional groups associated with the major disciplines contributing to addiction studies, i.e., biology, psychology, medicine, psychiatry, public health, sociology, and anthropology. Addiction researchers sometimes favour disciplinary journals because they are thought to have greater prestige value within a given discipline than an addiction specialty journal would offer. Professional advancement for academic researchers is often based on such subtle considerations. Moreover, some of the most popular disciplinary journals (e.g., *Lancet*, *New England Journal of Medicine*) have higher circulation numbers and Impact Factors (discussed below) than addiction specialty journals, which adds to their prestige value.

One way to identify potential target journals outside of the addiction field is to use a Web-based search engine to query your area of specialized research. There are several Web-based search engines, such as PubMed, Web of Science, PsycINFO, ETOH, and SCOPUS. Some of these Web sites are not publicly available because they must be accessed through a university library or another organization that has a subscription to the service. Also, an individual search engine may not provide an exhaustive list of publications. As an example, we searched the Web of Science for several terms related to alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use to identify articles published in 2006. We identified over 9,000 research articles across 1,728 different journals. We then ranked the top 50 journals by the number of research articles, finding that 44% of these were classified as addiction-specialty journals. The top 25 general scientific and disciplinary journals are presented in Table 2.3, along with their 2007 Impact Factors. Given the limitations in using any one search engine, it is possible that there are other journals that are not indexed in the Web of Science that were not included in this analysis. The number of general scientific and disciplinary journals publishing addiction-science research articles suggests a larger opportunity to publish than one might anticipate. Nevertheless, the average Impact Factor score of these journals (3.6) is almost twice as high as the average for the addiction-specialty journals (1.8) listed in Table 2.1, suggesting that it may be more difficult to publish in these journals.

TABLE 2.3 TOP 25 GENERALIST AND DISCIPLINARY JOURNALS THAT PUBLISHED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF ADDICTION RESEARCH ARTICLES IN 2006 ALONG WITH CURRENT JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

	Journal Title	2007 JIF
1	Psychopharmacology*	3.6
2	Neuropsychopharmacology	5.9
3	Pharmacology Biochemistry and Behavior	2.1
4	Brain Research	2.3
5	Journal of Neuroscience	7.5
6	Journal of Adolescent Health	2.7
7	Neuroscience	3.4
8	European Journal of Pharmacology	2.5
9	Neuroscience Letters	2.1
10	Behavioural Brain Research	2.6
11	Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics	4.0
12	Experimental and Clinical Psychopharmacology*	1.6
13	American Journal of Public Health	3.7
14	Psychiatric Services	2.4
15	European Journal of Neuroscience	3.7
16	Journal of Clinical Psychiatry	5.5
17	Pediatrics	5.0
18	American Journal of Psychiatry	8.3
19	Anesthesia and Analgesia	2.1
20	Preventive Medicine	2.4
21	Social Science & Medicine	2.8
22	BMC Public Health	1.6
23	Synapse	2.9
24	Journal of Neurochemistry	4.3
25	Neuropharmacology	3.9

*=Also listed as an addiction specialty journal in Table 2.1

Furthermore, the chances of publishing an article on an addiction-related subject are sometimes reduced if a journal does not have reviewers or editors who are familiar with the topic. If a particular disciplinary journal rarely publishes articles on addiction, it is advisable to contact the editor before submitting a paper. In addition, if a disciplinary journal has a large circulation and a high Impact Factor, authors should make sure that the article is likely to be seen as important before submitting it for review. In the remainder of this chapter, we discuss the relative merits of publishing in addiction specialty journals, as those journals offer a range of opportunities to prospective authors comparable to those available in the disciplinary journals.

4. REVIEW THE JOURNAL'S CONTENT RANGE AND GENERAL CULTURE

Every journal has a culture of its own, sometimes developed over many years of serving a particular professional society, or through the influence of editors who have placed their own particular imprint on the journal. The best way to understand that culture is to review several issues of the journal in their entirety, including editorials, letters to the editor, and scientific papers. A visit to the journal's homepage, if available, will accomplish the same purpose. Prospective contributors should also read the journal's mission statement (most of the mission statements for the journals listed in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 are summarized at www.parint.org), which often describes the focus, goals, preferences, and audience of the journal. Although these statements are sometimes dated and often written in general terms, they should provide a broad outline of the journal's traditions, image, priorities, and aspirations. Tables 2.1 and 2.2, provide information about the major substances and areas of interest that each journal considers to be part of its purview. Some journals (e.g., *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*) are interested in one particular substance, while others are quite generic (e.g., *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*). The topical areas covered by a journal are also an important consideration. Some specialize in treatment research, others in biological effects or mechanisms, and still others in prevention or policy. The less a particular article meets a journal's priority substance and content areas, the more likely it is to be rejected. Even when the editors consider an article to be scientifically sound and relevant to the addiction field, they may reject it because it does not meet the journal's current priorities and stated mission. It is therefore important for authors to narrow their choice of journals to those whose history and current contents demonstrate an interest in (or at least an openness to) the article's topic and scope. Another point to consider is the type of article you have written. For example, very few journals will accept unsolicited literature reviews, and many do not accept case reports or historical studies. When in doubt, it is always a good idea to talk with colleagues and communicate with journal editors. By asking someone with experience in publishing for advice, younger or less experienced authors can obtain up-to-date information about the priorities and preferences of particular journals and their editors.

5. EVALUATE THE JOURNAL'S EXPOSURE

One of the most important goals of scientific publication is to reach one or more specific audiences, such as the scientific community, clinical practitioners, or policymakers. A journal's ability to provide exposure to these audiences is determined by its circulation (print and electronic) and its dissemination capabilities, as determined by access to abstracting and indexing services. Tables 2.1 and 2.2 summarize information relevant to these two aspects of exposure for addiction specialty journals.

Print circulation refers to the number of copies printed for the journal's subscribers as well as those who receive free copies. Scholarly journals have two major types of subscribers: libraries and members of professional organizations. In addition, there are smaller numbers of personal and institutional subscribers. Before the Internet, the number of journal copies in circulation provided a good indicator of a journal's exposure.

Given the increasing availability of articles on the World Wide Web, it is likely that the number of times articles are downloaded from a journal will be as important a consideration as the journal's Impact Factor. Some journals now report their average monthly downloads on their websites. As you can see from Tables 2.1 and 2.2, some journals have many more online subscriptions than they do print subscriptions, while other journals deal strictly in print copies.

It is worth taking a moment here to address the topic of open-access (OA) journals. While many journals offer online as well as print subscriptions, some journals do not bother with subscriptions at all, allowing free online access to their articles, reports, reviews, letters, etc. (Box 2.2). Rather than selling print or online subscriptions, OA journals generate revenue through dissemination fees charged to authors as well as the sale of auxiliary products and services. Some researchers are reluctant to submit articles to OA journals, preferring print journals that offer rigorous peer review, copyright protection, greater prestige, and the knowledge that one's article is preserved on paper in libraries around the world. In fact, OA journals can offer the same prestige, peer review, and protection as print journals, with the added incentive of a much wider potential readership (Suber 2002). The Budapest Open Access Initiative (2002) stresses the importance of peer review in scientific journals, an emphasis reiterated in later OA statements such as the Bethesda Statement and the Berlin Declaration. Researchers should assess OA journals just as they would print journals, paying particular attention to the journal's mission statement, archiving strategies, alignment with relevant OA initiatives, and commitment to peer review.

Some print journals, recognizing the power of open access, have now developed hybrid approaches to publishing, allowing open access to some or all of their articles once a prescribed period of time has passed or allowing authors to self-archive their articles (deposit digital versions of their articles in a publicly accessible website) either pre- or post-printing. Such approaches can significantly boost an article's potential exposure to the scientific community -- for example, *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* averages over 26,000 downloads per month.

One issue currently under scrutiny regarding OA journals is whether open access -- and researchers' reliance on a small number of easy-to-use databases -- encourages convenience citation, which is citation of the easiest material to find rather than the most relevant material (De Groote and Dorsch 2003; Antelman 2004; Harnad and Brody 2004; Eysenbach 2006). Convenience citation is discussed at greater length in Chapter 7.

BOX 2.2 DEFINITION OF AN OPEN ACCESS PUBLICATION

An Open Access Publication[1] is one that meets the following two conditions:

- A. The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship[2], as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.
- B. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in a suitable standard electronic format is deposited immediately upon initial publication in at least one online repository that is supported by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, interoperability, and long-term archiving (for the biomedical sciences, PubMed Central is such a repository).

Notes:

1. Open access is a property of individual works, not necessarily journals or publishers.
2. Community standards, rather than copyright law, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now.

Excerpted from the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing, 2003

Putting aside the question of open access, if an article is relevant to the members of a particular learned society (e.g., the British Society for the Study of Addiction to Alcohol or Other Drugs), professional group (e.g., the Canadian Medical Association), and scientific organization (e.g., the Research Society on Alcoholism), then it might make sense to submit the manuscript to a journal sponsored by that organization. Many of the journals listed in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 are sponsored by professional organizations or learned societies that provide free subscriptions or reduced rates to their members. For example, *Alcoologie et Addictologie (Alcohol and Addiction Studies)* is sponsored by the French Society of Alcohol and Addiction Studies, which distributes free copies of the journal to its 1,400 members. *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* is published by the American Psychological Association, which makes the journal available to its members at a reduced subscription rate.

The number of library subscriptions also affects a journal's range of exposure. Libraries, especially university libraries, guarantee exposure to students and scholars, thereby providing direct access to perhaps the most important audience for any scientific communication.

Library subscriptions are the main conduit by which a publication reaches a broader audience than the members of a particular learned society. The world of library science and informatics is rapidly changing, with electronic subscriptions supplementing or replacing print copies available on the library shelf. University libraries and other large information sources have begun to pool resources to increase the electronic availability of full-text journals. Moreover, OA journals are available to any library or individual with Internet access, free of charge.

Beyond the journal's print circulation and subscriber base, an article's exposure is now determined to a far greater extent than before by the electronic databases that index the published literature by author, topic, and bibliographic reference, and that provide abstracts of articles for potential readers in search of particular types of information. Appendix 2.1 lists some of the main abstracting and indexing services used by the addiction specialty journals listed in Tables 2.1 and 2.2. These secondary information sources provide a variety of important services that dramatically increase an article's potential exposure. In general, these databases are available in both print and electronic versions. Electronic databases have become the information source of choice for those who search for topical information via the Internet. They are comprehensive, rapid, and often inexpensive or free. They permit searches of the current and past literature according to author, title, and keywords, often providing the author's abstract for review.

A journal's ability to provide a listing of its articles and abstracts to these secondary information sources greatly increases an article's exposure to scholars and students throughout the world. The greater the number of indexing and abstracting services a journal belongs to (as indicated in Tables 2.1 and 2.2), the more likely it is that an article will reach its intended audience. Although many of the non-English language journals indicate minimal coverage in abstracting and indexing databases, this situation is changing rapidly, and most of these journals now provide English abstracts, an important first step in reaching an international audience.

6. EVALUATE YOUR PROBABILITY OF ACCEPTANCE

A major consideration in the choice of a journal is the likelihood of acceptance of your article. Journals vary tremendously in the criteria they use to select articles for publication, and in the competition that a given article will encounter in relation to other authors seeking to claim the same journal space. Some journals have high acceptance rates and are often looking for articles to publish. Other journals have a surfeit of submissions, making it necessary to reject articles that would nevertheless be worthy of publication in less competitive journals. A journal's acceptance rate provides a rough estimate of an author's chances of eventual acceptance, but the rates listed in Tables 2.1 and 2.2 are subject to a number of limitations. First, some journals do not know or choose not to reveal their acceptance rate. Second, several journals (e.g., *Alcohol Research and Health*, *Journal of Addiction Science and Clinical Practice*) operate primarily by commissioning authors to write papers on a topic or theme, which accounts for their high acceptance rates.

Beyond a journal's acceptance rate, an author's chances of acceptance depend on many other considerations, some of them scientific, some stylistic, others administrative. As discussed in Chapter 5, scientific considerations include the importance of the findings, the originality of the ideas, the sophistication of the research methods, the appropriateness of the data analyses, and the implications of the results. Stylistic factors include the quality of the writing and the way in which the data are presented. If the article is poorly written or organized, reviewers might see this as a limitation and not recommend the article for acceptance; similarly, editors might be reluctant to take the time to work with authors to bring the article up to the journal's standards. Some journals have more resources for editorial assistance than others. Administrative factors include the length of the article, the amount of revision required, and the appropriateness of the topic to the journal's mission. If an article is too long, it may lose out to a more concise article on the same topic. If the article is not appropriate to the journal's current priorities or mission statement, it might be rejected even before it is sent out for peer review. Finally, the number of articles published by a journal could affect the chances of acceptance. Journals that are published monthly or weekly accept more articles than journals that publish less frequently. But journals that publish more frequently also tend to be more competitive.

7. CONSIDER, BUT DON'T BE FOOLED BY, IMPACT FACTORS

The so-called Impact Factor attempts to provide an objective measure of the extent to which a scientific author's work is cited by other authors. Such a measure can also be used to determine how often the articles from a specific journal are cited. Thus, the impact of a journal on a field of study is assumed to be a function of the extent to which a journal's articles are cited by authors publishing in that and other indexed journals. In 1962, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) began publishing the Science Citation Index (SCI). By the early 1990s, 3,200 journals belonged to the "core" or citation journals of SCI (Seglen 1998). Since 1972, ISI has also published the Journal Citation Reports. These reports give information about different journal impact factors, of which the standard Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is the one most followed. It is presented as a figure that indicates the average citation frequency of the articles in the journal. It is based on the average number of times in a given year that the articles appearing in the two preceding years received citation in other SCI-indexed journals (Rydholm 1998).

The JIF was originally developed to compare the quality of journals. Increasingly, however, the data used to calculate impact factors have been used as a shortcut to compare and rank individual articles, researchers, and research groups. The JIF has been criticised almost from its inception (Seglen 1998; Stenius 2003) for a number of reasons. The ISI's databank covers only a small share of the world's scientific journals. Different research fields have different coverage in the database. The database has a clear preference for English-language journals (particularly those based in the USA). National or regional journals in other languages are not well represented (Seglen 1998), as indicated by the fact that none of the journals listed in Table 2.2 has an Impact Factor.

All journals from a field that is under-represented will receive low JIFs. In addition, the use of citations varies among different research fields. Thus, it is not acceptable to compare JIFs for journals from different fields. A journal representing a field that typically favours large numbers of references will automatically receive a higher Impact Factor, especially if the field is growing. Research fields that get references from related disciplines earn higher JIFs. This explains why basic science journals have higher values. The humanities are in a particularly unfavourable position. Disciplines where national or regional research is important, as well as publications in local languages, tend to get lower JIFs as well (Rousseau 2002).

As a measure of impact, the JIF, with its two-year time frame, is more appropriate for quickly developing research fields, such as molecular medicine. Applied, clinical, and social sciences do not fare as well with the two-year window (Mäkelä 2000; Andersen 1998; Luukkonen 1994). Non-English language journals or bilingual journals (for instance Japanese-English), even if included in SCI, will on average receive a lower JIF.

Finally, it is important to note that a citation is not necessarily an indication of research quality. Every researcher knows that there are numerous reasons (apart from quality) for citing a scientific publication. Authors may cite or quote for polemical reasons, to flatter their readers, or to promote their own research (or that of their friends, colleagues or patrons). West and McIlwaine (2002) studied 79 articles published in *Addiction* between 1995 and 1998 and found no correlation between citation frequency (up to the year 2000) and an independent quality rating. Interestingly, they also found that articles from the developing world received fewer citations than the quality ranking would have led them to expect. (See Chapter 7 for further discussion of citation procedures)

In conclusion, Impact Factors should be treated with caution. Until the deficiencies in the system have been corrected and its limitations better understood, the JIF remains a relatively crude index of the value of a particular journal. According to Jones (1999), authors should not overemphasize the Impact Factor of a journal. Rather, they should give more consideration to the speed and efficiency of the editorial handling of their manuscripts, and to the quality and timeliness of the peer review (as covered below in Step 8). In a time when electronic publishing has become more common, the quick (and often free) availability of research results on the Internet might, in many cases, compete with measures of impact such as the Impact Factor.

8. OTHER PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are several other factors authors should take into account when selecting a journal. One is the lag time to publication. Some journals take longer than others to process their manuscripts. Most journals do not reveal how long it takes to arrive at a decision, however, and even when this information is available, the average time is affected by the number of manuscripts that are rejected before being sent out for peer review. Another factor is the time between the acceptance of a revised manuscript and its final publication. This will depend in part on the number of issues published by the

journal per year, the number of accepted manuscripts, and the efficiency of the publisher. In general, journals that publish more frequently are likely to have a shorter lag time to publication. The best way to obtain information about the review process is to consult the journal's instructions to authors or the journal's Web site. It is best not to rely on hearsay, anecdote, or the journal's reputation.

SUMMARY

Journals differ in the quality of articles they publish, the exposure they provide to an author's work, and their subject matter. Once an author has a clear idea of the results of a particular study or project, he or she should conduct a preliminary review of the journals most likely to publish an article on that subject. As indicated in Tables 2.1 and 2.2, there are many peer-reviewed addiction specialty journals to choose from, and possibly over 1,000 disciplinary and multidisciplinary journals. The careful selection of a journal, taking into account both scientific and practical considerations, is clearly worth the effort. Not only is the process likely to save valuable time for authors, peer reviewers, and journal editors, but it will also increase the likelihood that an article will contribute as much to science as it does to the author's curriculum vitae.

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APPENDIX 2.1 A SELECTION OF ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING SERVICES USED BY ADDICTION SPECIALTY JOURNALS

Addiction Abstracts is a quarterly journal published simultaneously in print and online editions. This international abstracting service covers all addictive substances as well as other compulsive behaviours. It reviews approximately one hundred journals from such areas as psychology, psychiatry, public health, medicine, health behaviour, treatment, and prevention.

AGORA (Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture) provides free or low cost online access to over 1,100 journals in agriculture and related biological, environmental and social sciences to public institutions in eligible developing countries. Users can search for articles by subject area or publisher. Major subject areas include biology, biotechnology/applied microbiology, chemistry/biochemistry/physics, economics/social science, food science/nutrition, and multidisciplinary subjects. The URL for AGORA is <http://www.aginternetnetwork.org/en>.

CSA Sociological Abstracts provides an index and abstracts of journal articles from the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioural sciences. Its database is drawn from over 1,700 serial publications. Major subject areas include evaluation research, family and social welfare, health law, substance abuse, and addiction.

Current Contents provides access to bibliographic research information from articles, editorials, meeting abstracts, and other sources gathered from more than 8,000 scholarly journals, with separate editions for clinical medicine, life sciences, and social and behavioural sciences. Current Contents Connect provides Internet access.

DrugScope is a British-based independent centre of expertise on drugs. DrugScope Information Service allows access to a multi-disciplinary library of over 80,000 documents from around the world (see <http://www.drugscope.org.uk/about/home.asp>).

EMBASE is a comprehensive index of the world's literature on human medicine and related disciplines. EMBASE classifies and indexes each record using terms and synonyms that assist the process of searching for specific subjects. Subject coverage includes AIDS, drug dependence, psychiatry, and public health. EMBASE provides access to articles from more than 2,900 journals from 110 countries.

ETOH refers to the Alcohol and Alcohol Problems Science Database, a comprehensive online resource covering all aspects of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. It was produced and supported by the US National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism until 2004. ETOH contains both abstracts and bibliographic references to journal articles and other information sources that cover medicine, biochemistry, psychology, psychiatry, epidemiology, sociology, anthropology, treatment, prevention, education, accidents and safety, legislation, criminal justice, public policy, and health services research.

Each ETOH reference is assigned one broad subject heading (i.e., genetics and biological behavioural determinants, incidence and prevalence, medical consequences, metabolism, neuroscience, occupational and workplace issues, pregnancy, prevention, psychological and developmental determinants, public policy, socioeconomic aspects, social consequences, special populations, and treatment). These 'keywords' are designed to facilitate the search for particular types of information by means of the ETOH Web site (<http://etoh.niaaa.nih.gov/>).

HINARI (Health InterNetwork Access to Research Initiative) is a WHO initiative that provides free or low cost online access to over 3,000 journals in the biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries. Eligible institutions include national universities, research institutes, professional schools (e.g., medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, dentistry), teaching hospitals, government offices and national medical libraries. Users can search for articles by journal title, publisher, subject area, or language. Access this site via <http://www.who.int/hinari/en>.

MEDLINE (Medical Literature, Analysis, and Retrieval System Online) is the US National Library of Medicine's bibliographic database. It contains over 12 million references to journal articles in the life sciences with a concentration on biomedicine, including nursing, allied health, and pre-clinical sciences such as biology and chemistry. It can be searched free of charge in most libraries through the Internet via PubMed or the home page of the National Library of Medicine (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov>). Currently, MEDLINE documents citations from over 4,600 journals published in 30 languages, although nearly 89% of the cited articles are published in English. Approximately 76% of English abstracts are printed verbatim from published articles. For over 3,000 journals, there is a link from a MEDLINE reference to the publisher's Web site to access the full article.

PsycINFO is the electronic version of Psychological Abstracts. It contains summaries (abstracts, bibliographic information, and indexing) of English-language articles from journals originating in more than fifty countries. It is available through libraries and to members of the American Psychological Association. It covers more than 1,800 journal titles, with articles selected for their psychological relevance.

SCOPUS is a large abstract and citation database of research literature and web sources. Updated daily, it covers 15,000 peer-reviewed journals (including open access journals, trade publications, and conference proceedings), 33 million abstracts, 386 million scientific Web pages, and 21 million patent records. SCOPUS differentiates itself from other indexing services by emphasizing the size of its database and its easy-to-use interface. Access SCOPUS through <http://info.scopus.com>.

TOXIBASE is a French language database designed to provide access to scientific information and documentation dealing with psychoactive drugs and addiction. It is part of the French Réseau National d'Information et de Documentation, a national network of information and documentation centres with partners in France and other countries. It is available at <http://www.toxibase.org>.

