10 Things to consider
before you choose a rapid publication journal

Planning to choose a rapid publication journal for your research? Before you arrive at a hasty decision about submitting your paper to a rapid publication journal, here are a few things you need to consider:

1. **Rapid publication track:** Many journals follow the conventional publication process but also offer a rapid or accelerated publication track. Therefore, the first step to publishing in a rapid publication journal would be to check if your target journal offers such an option.

2. **Publishing costs:** Do you need to pay any additional fees for choosing a journal's rapid publication track? If yes, check if you would be able to afford them. Also, at what stage you are charged is important. Ideally, you should be charged upon acceptance. If the journal charges you for submission or for screening or processing a paper before a decision is reached, this is an indication for you to be cautious.

3. **Total time to publication:** Check how many days or weeks it will take for your paper to be published after you submit it to the journal. Is it too short? If yes, then be cautious and dig deeper.

4. **Peer review process:** Speed should never compensate for quality. Make sure your target journal conducts a thorough peer review on your paper. If the journal claims that it will be able to review your article within a day or two, this could be a red flag!

5. **Type of peer review:** What peer review process does the journal follow? Many rapid publication journals opt for post-publication peer review. Weigh the pros and cons of this review process against the conventional peer review with regard to your research. If you feel that the latter approach will add more value to your research, opt for the traditional submission route and be patient until you achieve publication success.

6. **Overall journal credibility:** Check all the available information on the journal's website. Can you access any of their previously published papers? Have you read any of them before? Is the journal associated with a reputable publisher or academic/professional society? Do you recognize any of the names on the journal's editorial board?

7. **Contact the editorial board members or authors:** If you've never heard about the journal before, contact the editorial board members and/or researchers who have previously published their paper in the journal. You can also ask them about their rapid publication experience with the journal. This will help you establish its credibility.

8. **Consult a directory or a checklist:** Consider running your journal against a trusted directory, e.g., Cabells Whitelist or Blacklist. Alternatively, follow the Think, Check, Submit checklist to ensure the reliability of the journal.

9. **Prepare for rapid publication:** Once you shortlist a journal, prepare to send a pre-submission enquiry to avoid rejection due to a mismatch between the journal's scope and your research paper. Also, be ready to put together a submission package to save time.

10. **Don't give in to pressure:** You may be under a lot of pressure to publish, but remember that a published paper is directly related to your reputation as a researcher. **WHERE** you publish is even more important than **HOW SOON** you publish your paper. Take your time to establish the reliability of the target journal before you decide to submit your paper to it.

To learn more, read the following posts:
- Publish faster, progress faster: The basics of rapid publication
- A list of journals and publishers that offer rapid publication
- Think Check Submit checklist - Selecting the right journal for your research paper
- 10 Things you must consider before submitting your manuscript