

DOING DUE DILIGENCE WITH FIDELIOR™

FIDELIOR™'S DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

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#CitationRiskManagement
#TrustInScholarlyPublishing

#CitationPollution
#CitationContamination

PART 1 - FIDELIOR™'S DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

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<https://fidelior.com/due-diligence-support/>

FIDELIOR™'S DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

Fidelior™ checks references as listed in uploaded manuscripts and creates a report that flags questionable and reputable journal titles. A Fidelior™ report provides information to help the user carry out a due diligence assessment.

Receiving and interpreting a Fidelior™ report for the first time may be a daunting experience:

“ What do I make of the orange flags?
How do I interpret contradictions between green and orange flags?
Are there possible issues with journal list data that I need to investigate further?
Where do I study the inclusion or exclusion criteria used by various journal sources? How can I carry out a better due diligence assessment using a Fidelior™ report? ”

There are numerous considerations that can help researchers to interpret how a journal title features on a variety of journal lists and citation databases.



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The following due diligence assessment questions (**Fidelior™'s Due Diligence Checklist**) can guide the researcher in making informed decisions on a journal's quality and standing:

- ① What are the available stated reasons for including or excluding a title on a journal list?
- ① What are the criteria for including or excluding titles on a particular journal list or citation database?
- ① Have you investigated and read about the inclusion/exclusion criteria of a particular list?
- ① Is a title delisted or removed from a citation database or journal list? What are the available stated reasons and assessment processes?
- ① Have you studied the purpose of the journal list or citation database?
- ① Is a title rated or ranked on a journal list? What are the ratings and/or ranking criteria and assessment processes according to the list compilers?
- ① Have you queried the date when a title has been included/excluded from a list?
- ① Is it possible that a title has been removed/delisted for reasons not related to quality, e.g., a status change or changing from open access to closed access?
- ① Does a title appear on more than one vetted disciplinary list, accredited list, or citation database? How should this be interpreted given the purpose of the list and inclusion criteria?
- ① Is there possible conflict, contradiction, or disagreement between journal lists, e.g., an approved country list has a title that has been removed from another journal list or citation database?
- ① Is a title possibly questionable? If included on a questionable journal list, what are the available stated reasons?
- ① Are there known reasons why a title does not appear on any journal list?
- ① Have you read about possible problems with journal lists, e.g., mistakes with list data, data accuracy, whether list updates are done effectively and timeously, or possible penetration by predatory journals?
- ① Is it difficult or time-consuming to establish whether a journal is reputable or questionable/predatory? (Normally reputable journals are easily verified.)

No due diligence process or checklist is infallible. Additional approaches might include speaking to colleagues, librarians, or experts in the field about their experiences with certain journals or publishing houses.

Also ensure that individual articles have not been retracted (see Retraction Watch: <https://retractionwatch.com/>).



HOW TO USE FIDELIOR™'S DUE DILIGENCE CHECKLIST

Through its propriety Metadatabase, Fidelior™ facilitates user access to available journal sources in the public domain. Should a title be flagged as appearing in any of the sources, it is the user's responsibility to check and assess the quality, journal metrics, and journal ratings of the flagged journal, and then carefully clarify the reasons for the inclusion of a citation in a particular manuscript.

A Fidelior™ report is merely a tool to assist the user. No software tool or journal list can replace peer review, due diligence, and individual assessment of a journal or paper.

The Fidelior™ report summary

A Fidelior™ report starts with information about the scanned manuscript, a visual summary of green/orange flags, and numbers of matches for each journal source represented in the report (see example below).

This summary offers users an overview of the Fidelior™ report.

Appendix A of a Fidelior™ report has detail on all journal sources included in the scanning.

Journal Sources represented in this report:

List	Number of matches
WoS-SCIE	9
DOAJ	7
ERIM-EJL	6
IBSS	5
MEDLINE	4
GEOREF	4
WoS-ESCI	3
DOAJ-Rem	3
LATINDEX	3
CORE	3
SCOPUS-DISC	1
STOP-PJ-IND	1

For Journal Source Information see [Appendix A](#)



Orange lists categorise any list of journal titles that are identified as possibly questionable, dubious, or pseudoscientific – typically journal titles that are incorporated in ‘blacklists’.

It also includes uncategorised or re-categorised titles, and discontinued or removed titles, as indicated by the compilers of the various journal sources.

A title that appears on an orange list is, therefore, not necessarily ‘predatory’ or ‘blacklisted’ and is duly flagged for further consideration.

Green lists categorise reputable journals lists vetted by organisations, countries, or discipline-specific bodies.



FOR EXAMPLES OF HOW TO USE FIDELIOR™ REPORTS, FIND OUR COMPLETE SERIES OF DOCUMENTS ON “**DOING DUE DILIGENCE WITH FIDELIOR™**”

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Fidelior 
Enhancing trust in scholarly publishing

For an **overview & demo** of Fidelior™’s core services
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