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Open Access Policy of Jacobs University Bremen

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**Recommendations of Jacobs University Bremen to Avoid Publishing
with “Predatory Publishers” and Participation at Conferences of
Questionable Scientific Standing**

Version	Decision	Details	Valid as of
Version 1	Academic Senate 2019/09/25	Entire document	2019/09/25

Open Access Policy of Jacobs University Bremen

1. Jacobs University supports the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities of October 22nd, 2003, that was signed, among others, by Wissenschaftsrat, Hochschulrektorenkonferenz, Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, Wissenschaftsgemeinschaft Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz e.V., and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft.
2. Jacobs University encourages its researchers to publish their work as open access publications. The final decision, and responsibility, on the form and medium of publication rests with the researcher.

Recommendations of Jacobs University Bremen to Avoid Publishing with “Predatory Publishers” and Participation at Conferences of Questionable Scientific Standing

1. To maintain the individual’s and the University’s reputation and to support academic discourse of highest quality, Jacobs University recommends to its researchers to publish their research preferably in established high-quality journals.
2. Before submitting a manuscript to another journal, particularly new or open-access journals, Jacobs University recommends to its researchers to ensure high scientific and ethical standards for publishing, for example, by checking that the journal
 - a. has a transparent and thorough peer review process,
 - b. belongs to (rather than simply “supports” or “follows the guidelines of”) the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE),
 - c. is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ),
 - d. is published by a publisher that belongs to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers’ Association (OASPA).The checklist provided at “Think – Check – Submit”¹ and information by Quality Open Access Market (QOAM) may serve as a guide.
3. Similar care should be taken when attending conferences. The checklist provided at “Think – Check – Attend”² may serve as a guide.
4. University funding of publication fees or open access charges requires evidence for high scientific quality and approval by the Provost or the Deans or equivalent functions.
5. In case authors realise that past publications occurred in a journal now regarded as not meeting the criteria of (2) above, the University encourages them to critically review their decision and take appropriate action. As the market is diverse and dynamic and there may be more than one author involved, there can be no prescribed action. Action can range from retracting or withdrawing the article, to demoting it on the personal list of publications (e.g., from peer-reviewed to other articles), to no action (e.g., if a journal didn’t exactly meet all criteria but was still seen as an appropriate outlet for a particular contribution).
6. In general, the role of commercial publishers in the dissemination of knowledge is being debated. Jacobs University encourages its members to critically review their own decisions on publication and to contribute to the discussion in the academic community both inside and outside the University. Experienced researchers have a responsibility to guide and support new researchers in this area.
7. The University is committed to not set incentives for publication in questionable journals, e.g., such publications should not be featured in internal press releases or receive any other form of coverage.
8. The University’s Code of Academic Integrity and Guidelines to Ensure Good Academic Practice apply to all academic activities.
9. Fostering good scientific practices involves also training early career researchers – Ph.D. students and post-docs – to be aware of these issues and to act accordingly. Jacobs University encourages such training in structured Ph.D. programs and for individual Ph.D. students.

¹ <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/> (18.09.2019)

² <https://thinkcheckattend.org/> (18.09.2019)