

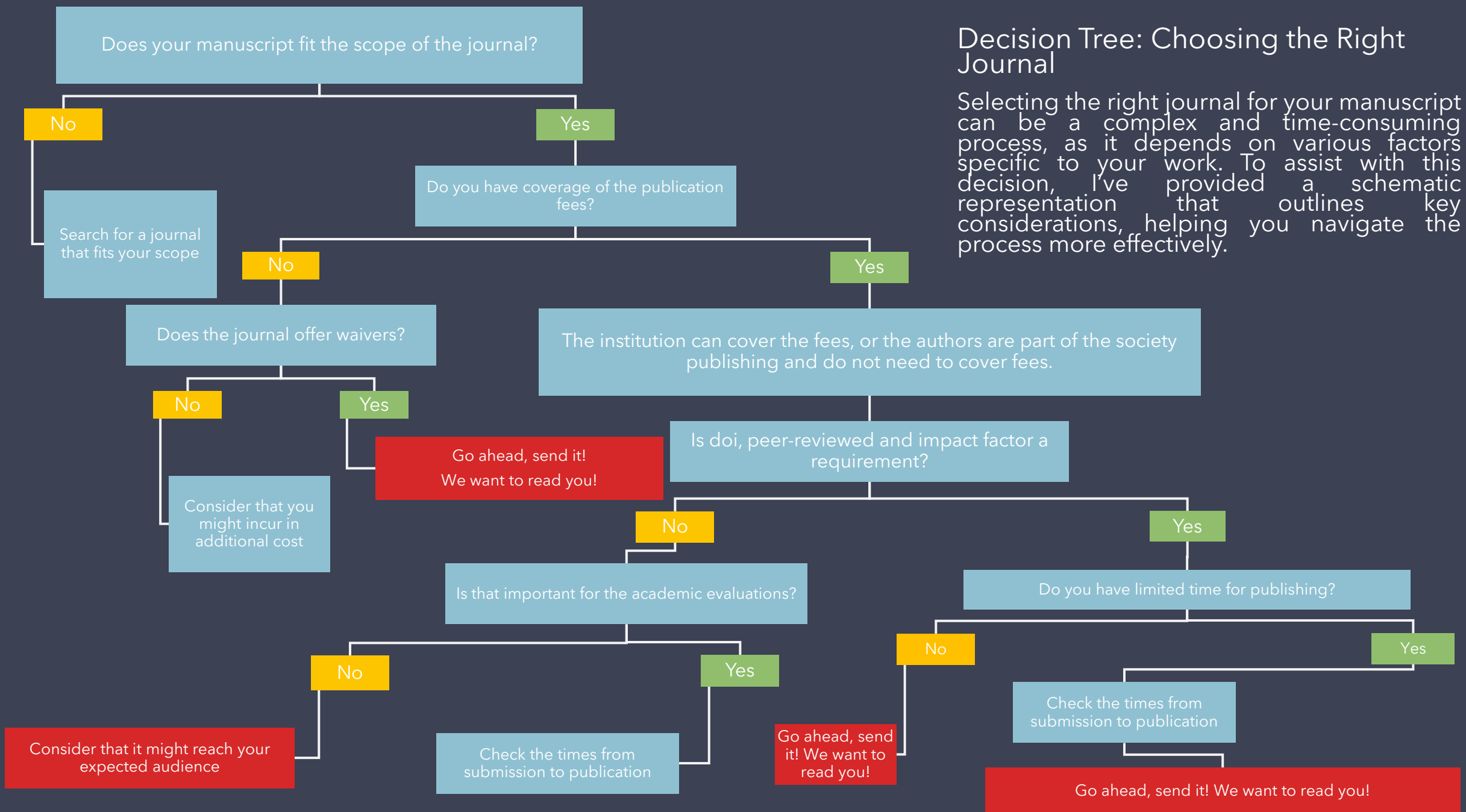
Where to publish?

A guide from by an ornithologist to ornithologists

In this blog post, I provide a decision tree along with that might help you choose the most suitable journal for publishing your research. I'll share tips and useful links to get you started, focusing on key factors such as journal scope, open access fees, impact factor, DOI, peer review process, and publication timelines. I briefly share my own experiences. In addition, I offer a not-extensive list of journals that publish ornithological research, complete with a map to guide your selection.

Decision Tree: Choosing the Right Journal

Selecting the right journal for your manuscript can be a complex and time-consuming process, as it depends on various factors specific to your work. To assist with this decision, I've provided a schematic representation that outlines key considerations, helping you navigate the process more effectively.



1. Scope of the journal

Limit your search to journals that publish research on your topics of interest, such as conservation, ecology, and ornithology.

Additionally, you may consult your list of references to identify which journals have consistently published on these subjects.

Note that some journals, despite having a history of publishing on certain topics, may have shifted their focus over time and may no longer align with their current areas of interest.

The *Journal of Ornithology* publishes innovative research in ornithological science, with special emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds.

- Official publication of the German Ornithologists' Society, focused on all aspects of ornithology.
- Provides a platform for original papers, reviews, short notes, technical notes, and commentaries.
- Accepts Original papers, Reviews, Short Notes, Technical Notes and Commentaries.
- Holds the distinction of being the oldest existing ornithological journal worldwide (since 1853).

Editor-in-Chief
Franz Bairlein



Journal Impact Factor
1.3 (2023)



Submission to first decision (median)
6 days



5-year Journal Impact Factor
1.5 (2023)



Downloads
432,222 (2024)

2. Open access

Some journals use a hybrid model, while others are fully open access. The primary advantage of open access (OA) is that it allows everyone to access your publication without encountering paywalls, ensuring wider visibility and accessibility of your research.

In the case of open access journals, authors are required to cover the publication fees. These fees can vary significantly, with some journals, such as those published by Springer, charging around €3,000, while others, like Nature, can charge up to €10,000.

Finding an appropriate journal for publication can be challenging if you lack the necessary funding to cover these costs.

The current APC for *Journal of Ornithology* is £2590.00 GBP / \$3990.00 USD /
€2990.00 EUR

2. Open access

If you are in Germany, for example, at [Kiel University](#), this institution is part of the [DEAL project](#), which covers publication fees for certain journals. To the best of my knowledge, these fees are covered using library funds.

Is your institution part of the DEAL project? You can check the lists provided by [Wiley](#) or [Elsevier](#).

If you are from countries in Latin America (like myself), some journals offer waivers or discounts on publication fees. It is advisable to check with [Wiley](#).

Waivers and Discounts

Wiley's partnership with [Research4Life](#) enables research from institutions in low- and middle-income countries and locations to be published open access by providing automatic waivers and discounts on Article Publication Charges (APCs). The full list of countries and locations is below.

If you published after leaving the University, but your work was made during your stay you still [eligible](#). After submitting the paper, the university might contact you just to make sure your work was made while affiliated to Kiel.

2. Open access

Here is a list of the journals covered by the project DEAL:

- [Wiley](#)
- [Elsevier](#)
- [Springer](#) Nature

The provided links allow you to download an Excel sheet containing the list of eligible journals.

Keep in mind that the lists are periodically updated.

3. Impact factor

The use of the impact factor is very debatable. It may provide an indication of the potential audience your paper could reach. As well, it might increase career prospects and academic credibility.



For some academic evaluations, publishing in high-impact journals may be a key consideration. High impact publications increase the chances of securing funding, as funders often evaluate researches based on their success in publishing in these journals.

Many journals have their impact factor in the first page of their webpage.

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	Downloads 432,222 (2024)

4. DOI and Peer-review

A DOI (digital object identifier) is a unique alphanumeric string associated to a document making it easily accessible and identifiable on the internet.

Peer-review is the process where experts from a specific field evaluate the quality of a peer's research assessing their validity and quality. Usually, two or three reviewers are assigned to a manuscript.

Some journals do not have doi, and therefore they might not be considered during academic evaluations, even if they went into peer-review.

If doi is crucial for credibility during academic evaluations, you should consider if the journals has a doi before sending your manuscript.

Foraging ranges of Humboldt Penguins *Spheniscus humboldti* from Tilgo Island: the critical need for protecting a unique marine habitat.

QUISPE, R., LERMA, M., LUNA, N., PORTFLITT-TORO, M., SERRATOSA, J. & LUNA-JORQUERA, G.

2020 Volume 48 (2) Pages 205-208




5. Publication time

The publication frequency of a journal can significantly impact how long you'll have to wait for your paper to be published after submission.

Journals that publish less frequently, such as annually or quarterly, typically have a longer wait time from submission to acceptance and eventual publication.

Check the journal's website for details on the average time to acceptance and publication. Usually, you can find the information of [days to acceptance](#) on the journal page.

This can help you set expectations and plan accordingly, especially if you're working on a tight timeline.

Journal metrics		
 Usage	 Citation metrics	 Speed/acceptance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 74K annual downloads/views	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0.9 (2023) Impact Factor• 1.3 (2023) 5 year IF• 2.0 (2023) CiteScore (Scopus)• 0.490 (2023) SNIP• 0.407 (2023) SJR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 54 days avg. from submission to first decision• 80 days avg. from submission to first post-review decision• 37 days avg. from acceptance to online publication• 44% acceptance rate

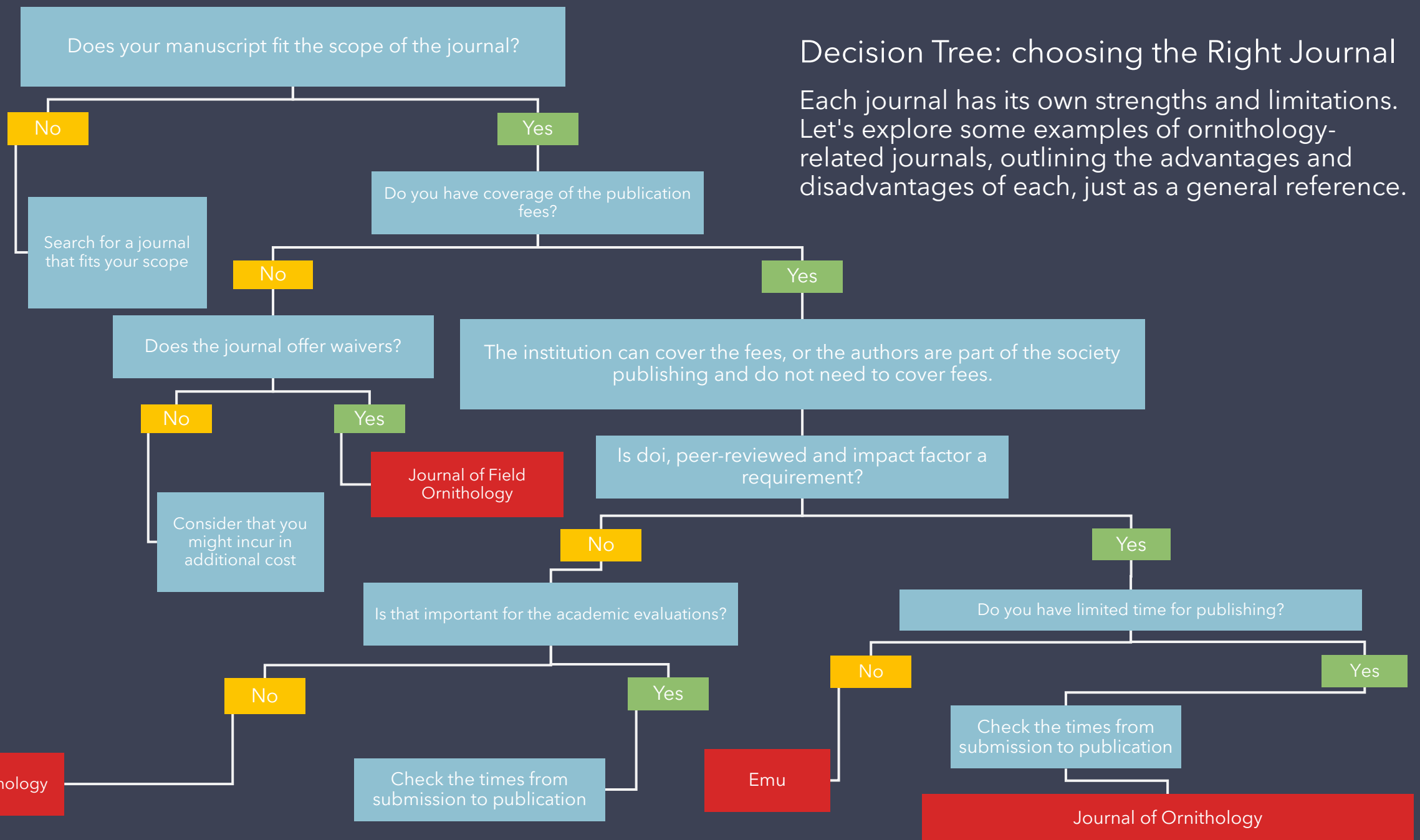
Personal experience

1. **Scope:** Based on the topic, I have targeted journals in Ornithology, Ecotoxicology, Physiology, or Ecology.
2. **Open access:** I prefer open access when the institution covers it. If this is not possible, I have asked for waivers (particularly on Latin American studies). If this is not possible, submitting to a journal that has no publication fees is also an option – although it might be behind a pay-wall once published.
3. **Doi, peer-review and impact factor:** I prefer journals that offer doi. Peer-review is a must. For impact factor, most ornithological journals are very specific and therefore have a small impact factor.
4. **Times:** The time for submission to acceptance varies greatly, some manuscripts have taken more than one (almost two) years to be published. Patience is key.

Journal	Manuscript	IF	Situation
Ardea	Brown booby	1.08	Behind paywall
Waterbirds	American oystercatcher	0.86	Behind paywall
Bulletin Environmental Contamination and Toxicology	Blue-footed booby: Hg	1.22	Behind paywall
Journal of Sea Research	Blue-footed booby: Zn	1.72	Behind paywall
Marine Biology	Masked booby: ENSO, Rapa Nui	2.39	Open access
Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology	Masked booby: Breeding stage	2.38	Open access
Marine Ornithology	Humboldt penguins: tracking	0.89	Accessible
Journal of Comparative Physiology B	Blue-footed booby: Metabolites	2.14	Open access
Emu	Humboldt penguins: physiology	1.43	Behind paywall
Ecology and evolution	Masked and Red-footed booby: stable isotopes	3.17	Open access

Decision Tree: choosing the Right Journal

Each journal has its own strengths and limitations. Let's explore some examples of ornithology-related journals, outlining the advantages and disadvantages of each, just as a general reference.



List of journals

Below is a list of journals. The list includes the columns: Journal (including the link); Project deal (Y-covered, N- not covered); OA (Open access) fee; Scope of the journal. Please use this list as reference. Agreements are constantly changing, as well as the OA fees and the Impact factors. Please always check at the journal webpage.

Journal	Project Deal	OA fee	IF	Scope and notes
Journal of Field Ornithology	N - option for waiver	1250 €	1.86	Especially interested in the Neotropics and those involving participation by nonprofessional ornithologists.
Journal of Animal Ecology	Y – Wiley list 2025		5.60	Generate ecological insights beyond the specific study system, or address broad or pressing ecological questions
Pacific Science	N		1.80	Multidisciplinary research on the biological and physical sciences of the Pacific basin , such ecology
Ornithology	N ¹	3718 \$	2.00	Ornithological studies and advances our understanding of living or extinct bird species
Wilson Journal of Ornithology	N ¹	2990 \$	0.40	Behavior, physiology, population and community ecology, evolution, biogeography, taxonomy, and conservation
Acta ornithologica	N		1.05	Covers all fields of ornithology .
Ornithological applications	N ¹	3718 \$	2.60	Scientific theory, ornithological knowledge, and methods to the conservation and management of birds
Ornithologia Neotropical	N	70 \$	0.29	Ornithological research in the Neotropical region, which includes from Mexico south to Argentina and Chile
Tropical Zoology	N		0.70	Ecology and conservation of all terrestrial and aquatic animal Phyla from tropical and subtropical areas
Journal of Ornithology	Y ² – Springer list 2025		1.47	Research in ornithological science , with emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds
Austral ecology	Y – Wiley list 2025	2780 €	1.71	Fundamental and applied ecology in the Southern Hemisphere , such as Chile
Marine ecology	Y – Wiley list 2025	2970 €	1.73	International marine biology includes many species.
Oecologia	Y ² – Springer list 2025	2890 €	3.01	International journal dedicated to publishing innovative ecological research
Ornithology research	Y ² – Springer list 2025	2690 €	1.40	Focusing on the biology of birds and new methodologies in the field. Brazilian society of Ornithology.
Ecosphere	Y – Wiley list 2025	1970 €	3.34	Research relating to every area of ecology
Oikos	Y – Wiley list 2025	2730 €	4.25	Empirical and theoretical research that spans across diverse taxa, systems, and disciplines
Ecology	Y – Wiley list 2025	3310 €	6.43	For ecologists, by ecologists
Ecology letters	Y – Wiley list 2025	4400 €	17.60	Broad-scope ecology consider all taxa , in any biome and geographic area
Bird study	N		0.70	Bird Study concentrates on birds that occur in the Western Palearctic
Ibis	Y – Wiley list 2025	3750 €	1.94	Ornithological science , with special emphasis on the behaviour, ecology, evolution and conservation of birds
Bird Conservation International	N ²	2970 €	1.85	Worldwide research and action for the conservation of birds and the habitats upon which they depend.
Ardeola	N ³		1.47	Trabajos originales sobre todos los campos de la ornitología y noticias ornitológicas
Avian Research	N ⁴		1.60	The journal was previously published under the title Chinese Birds, now covering all aspects of ornithology
Movement ecology	Y – Springer list 2025	2290 €	4.62	Any taxa and any movement phenomena (e.g. foraging, dispersal and seasonal migration)
Journal of Avian Biology	Y – Wiley list 2025		2.48	Innovative, hypothesis-driven research on the biology of birds
Marine Ecology Progress Series	N	2500 €	2.82	Worldwide forum for all aspects of marine ecology , fundamental and applied
The Auk - Now Ornithology	Deprecated			Now Ornithology
The Condor - Now Ornithological applications	Deprecated			Now Ornithological applications

¹Society members can publish fee or charge; ²For articles that are not published Gold Open Access, APCs (Article processing charges) do not apply; ³Sin coste para los autores; ⁴Authors do not need to pay an APC, fees are covered by sponsors.

Geographical scope

Selecting the scope also involves considering the location of your research.

Read in the journal scope if they have geographic preferences.



Rejection

- Do not feel discouraged if your paper gets rejected, rejection is common.

Do not take it personally.

Rejection might not reflect the quality of the work but rather the journal's scope, or specific reviewers' feedback.

Check that your paper fits the scope of the journal (and if you can, see if you can identify a pattern in the research topics that the journal is currently publishing).

If the manuscript includes reviewer's comments, consider that they can really improve the manuscript and present questions not considered before.

You might need to publish to finishing your degree, keep your funding, or maintain your position. Rejection might set you back, but persistence might pay off at the end. Be careful to not fall into predatory journals.

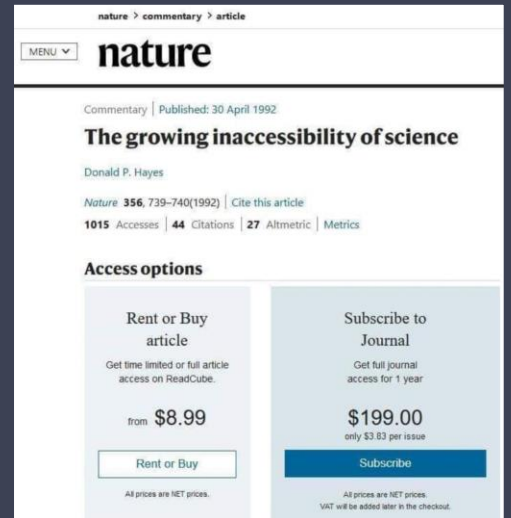
Keep reading

- That I am not complaining here about publications fees and paywalls; doesn't mean I don't have an opinion.

It is discouraging not to be able to publish because of the fee; or not being able to read your own paper afterwards because is behind a paywall.

To keep informing your self:

- The cost of publishing
- It is an industry like no other, with profit margins to rival Google
- A business model that has become unsustainable
- Put your publication money where your mouth is
- Writing and publishing a scientific paper
- Changes in scientific publishing and possible impact on authors' choice of journals



The screenshot shows the top portion of a Nature journal article page. At the top, it says 'nature > commentary > article'. Below this is a 'MENU' button and the 'nature' logo. The article title is 'The growing inaccessibility of science' by Donald P. Hayes, published on 30 April 1992. It shows metrics: 1015 Accesses, 44 Citations, and 27 Altmetric. Under 'Access options', there are two columns. The left column is for 'Rent or Buy article' with a price of 'from \$8.99' and a 'Rent or Buy' button. The right column is for 'Subscribe to Journal' with a price of '\$199.00' (only \$3.83 per issue) and a 'Subscribe' button. Both columns have a note at the bottom: 'All prices are NET prices. VAT will be added later in the checkout.'

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