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Selecting the Right Journal for Submitting Research Articles of Doctoral Students, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

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Abstract

This study aimed to study of selecting the right journal for submitting research articles of doctoral students, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The samples of this study were 30 students from Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The sample size was calculated by the formula of Raosoft (2004). The research instrument was the questionnaires. The data from the questionnaires was analyzed by using descriptive statistics: mean and standard deviation.

The results showed that students select the right journal for submitting research articles by considering a checklist of key factors that the most important were 1) Thai-Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2 ($\bar{x} = 4.40$, $SD = .037$). 2) Objectives and scope of the content ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .827$), and 3) Acceptance/Rejection Rate ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .907$). On the other hand, the least important factors were 1) Publication fee ($\bar{x} = 3.23$, $SD = 1.006$), 2) Impact Factor (IF) ($\bar{x} = 4.00$, $SD = 1.050$), and 3) The speed of peer review, decision-making, and publication. ($\bar{x} = 4.16$, $SD = .791$).

Keywords: selecting the right journal, research articles, submitting research articles

1. Introduction

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University has a clear policy regarding the submission of research articles to journals, emphasizing the publication of students' research in reputable and high-quality journals. The university encourages students to understand the process of selecting the right journal for their research (Graduate School of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, 2023; Research and Development Institute, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, 2025). This policy also focuses on choosing journals that align with the academic field or the research topic, considering various factors such as the Impact Factor, the journal's reputation, and the peer-review process (Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, 2023; 2024; 2025).

In selecting the right journal, students must also consider the journal's specific requirements, such as publication frequency, the type of articles it accepts, and whether it follows an open access model. Furthermore, the university provides training and guidance to ensure that students' research articles are published in high-quality journals that are recognized within the academic community (Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, 2024).

For doctoral students in the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, publishing articles in reputable journals is essential for thesis defense and fulfilling graduation requirements. However, students often encounter significant challenges in selecting

appropriate journals, such as submitting their work to non-indexed journals, choosing journals with low Impact Factors, or targeting journals that do not align with their field of study, which frequently results in the rejection of research articles by both national and international journals. Research on the challenges associated with journal selection further highlights persistent issues, including students' limited understanding of how to appropriately align their research with suitable journals and the criteria used by journals to evaluate submissions (Ventura & Nascimento, 2024). Moreover, unclear publication fees or high publication costs may lead authors—particularly students and early-career researchers—to submit their work to unsuitable or predatory journals due to financial constraints or a lack of transparency regarding publication charges (Borrego, 2023; Madegowda, 2025).

In addition, doctoral students often prioritize submitting their articles to Thai journals indexed in the Thai Citation Index (TCI) Tier 1 or Tier 2, taking into account the journal's Impact Factor and peer-review process. This preference is largely motivated by shorter publication timelines compared to international journals and the requirement that such publications serve as supporting documentation for graduation. Nonetheless, students continue to encounter challenges in identifying and selecting the most appropriate journals for their research (Chuachai, 2024; Juntarachot & Srisawang, 2025; Paliya & Jha, 2025).

Nevertheless, only a few studies have been done in the field of selecting the right journal for submitting research articles. Consequently, the researcher is interested in conducting the current study concerning “Selecting the Right Journal for Submitting Research Articles of Doctoral Students, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University”.

1.1 Research Objective

To study of selecting the right journal for submitting research articles of doctoral students, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

2. Literature review

2.1 Selecting the Right Journals

Journal selection has been widely recognized as one of the most critical and challenging stages in the academic publishing process. Previous research indicates that authors—particularly doctoral students and early-career researchers—often lack sufficient understanding of how to match their manuscripts with appropriate journals based on scope, target audience, and editorial criteria (Ventura & Nascimento, 2024). Misalignment between a manuscript and a journal's aims and scope has consistently been identified as a primary reason for desk rejection during the initial editorial screening process (Saragih et al., 2024). Furthermore, limited experience in academic publishing may lead students to submit manuscripts to journals that are not indexed in recognized databases or that possess low academic credibility. Such decisions significantly reduce the likelihood of acceptance and may adversely affect the visibility, citation potential, and overall academic impact of their research (Smith, 2022).

Moreover, Amoc (2023) proposed checklist for selecting the right journal for submitting research articles : 1) Identifying the target audience, 2) Journal reputation and Impact Factor, 3) Open Access or subscription-based access, 4) Online database availability, 5) Understanding the journal's guidelines for submission, 6) Writing effective titles and abstracts, 7) Responding to reviewers' comments, and 8) Preparing a persuasive cover letter Additionally, Johns Hopkins University (2023) emphasized the importance of the peer-review process in ensuring article

quality, as peer-reviewed journals are considered more credible and help improve articles before publication. Furthermore, Hammad (2024) emphasized that students need to evaluate journal factors such as the scope of the content, Impact Factor, indexing status, and publication fees.

2.2 Journal Quality Indicators: Impact Factor (IF)

Journal quality is commonly assessed through multiple indicators, including indexing status, Impact Factor, peer-review rigor, and editorial transparency. Indexing in established databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, or nationally recognized citation systems is widely regarded as a key marker of journal credibility and scholarly recognition (Tewari, 2022). Although citation-based metrics should not be interpreted as the sole indicators of quality, they remain widely used to evaluate a journal's academic influence and reach (Clarivate, 2025).

Empirical evidence demonstrates that articles published in well-established and indexed journals tend to achieve higher citation rates and greater academic visibility than those published in lesser-known or questionable journals (Stephen, 2023). Accordingly, selecting journals with strong reputations and rigorous peer-review processes is essential for ensuring both research quality and scholarly impact.

2.3 Journal Selection in the Thai Academic Context (Thai Journal Citation Index)

Within the Thai academic context, journals indexed in the Thai Journal Citation Index (TCI) play a central role in academic evaluation and graduate education. Publications in TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2 journals are commonly required as supporting evidence for thesis defense and degree completion. Previous studies emphasize that selecting TCI-indexed journals with clearly defined scopes, transparent peer-review systems, and established editorial standards significantly increases the likelihood of manuscript acceptance (Juntarachot & Srisawang, 2025; Chuachai, 2024).

In addition, open-access journals within the TCI system have been recognized for enhancing research visibility and citation potential by enabling broader access to scholarly outputs (Open access research outputs receive more diverse citations, 2024). Reputable journals further contribute to research quality by providing clear submission guidelines, robust peer-review mechanisms, and transparent publication practices (Paliya & Jha, 2025).

3. Methodology

Participants

The participants in this study were 30 foreign students from the doctoral student of philosophy program in Visual Arts and Design, Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Research Instrument

This study consisted of an instrument, namely selecting the right journal for submitting research questionnaire.

Selecting the right journal for submitting research questionnaire aimed to explore 2 aspects of selecting the right journal: 1. checklist for selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (6 lists); 2. the average level of importance in selecting the right journal for submitting

research articles.

Checklist for selecting the right journal for submitting research articles are classified on a five-point Likert scale from 5 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

Level 5 = This level indicates the highest degree (most) to which selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (average 4.21–5.00)

Level 4 = This level indicates the second highest degree (more) to which selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (average 3.41–4.20)

Level 3 = This level indicates a moderate degree (moderate) to which selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (average 2.61–3.40)

Level 2 = This level indicates a low degree (low) to which selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (average 1.81–2.60)

Level 1 = This level indicates a lowest degree (lowest) to which selecting the right journal for submitting research articles (average 1.00–1.80)

Data Analysis

The data from the questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively for descriptive statistics such as average and standard deviation

4. Results

The results of this research were a part as follows:

Table 1. Checklist for selecting the right journal for submitting research articles

(n=30)

Checklist for selecting the right journal for submitting research articles	Average level	
	\bar{x}	SD
1. Thai-Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2	4.40	.037
2. Objectives and scope of the content	4.26	.827
3. Impact Factor (IF)	4.00	1.050
4. Acceptance/Rejection Rate	4.26	.907
5. The speed of peer review, decision-making, and publication.	4.16	.791
6. Publication fee	3.23	1.006

From table 1., the results showed that students select the right journal for submitting research articles by considering a checklist of key factors that the most important were 1) Thai-Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2 ($\bar{x} = 4.40$, $SD = .037$), 2) Objectives and scope of the content ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .827$), and 3) Acceptance/Rejection Rate ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .907$). On the other hand, the least important factors were 1) Publication fee ($\bar{x} = 3.23$, $SD = 1.006$), 2) Impact Factor (IF) ($\bar{x} = 4.00$, $SD = 1.050$), and 3) The speed of peer review, decision-making, and publication. ($\bar{x} = 4.16$, $SD = .791$).

5. Conclusion and discussion

The results showed that students selected the right journal for submitting research articles by considering a checklist of key factors that the most important were 1) Thai-Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2 ($\bar{x} = 4.40$, $SD = .037$). 2) Objectives and scope of the content ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .827$), and 3) Acceptance/Rejection Rate ($\bar{x} = 4.26$, $SD = .907$). On the other hand, the least important factors were 1) Publication fee ($\bar{x} = 3.23$, $SD = 1.006$), 2) Impact Factor (IF) ($\bar{x} = 4.00$, $SD = 1.050$), and 3) The speed of peer review, decision-making, and publication. ($\bar{x} = 4.16$, $SD = .791$).

The results of this study, which reveal that doctoral students are required to submit manuscripts for publication in journals indexed in the Thai Journal Citation Index Centre: TCI Tier 1 or Tier 2, in order to obtain timely acceptance letters used as supporting documents for thesis defense applications and to fulfill the graduation requirements stipulated by the graduate school. These institutional requirements function as extrinsic motivators that significantly influence students' journal selection and publication practices. This perspective is consistent with the review of related studies indicates that extrinsic motivation plays an important role in shaping academic behaviors, including decision-making related to learning activities, performance outcomes, and goal attainment in higher education. Extrinsic motivation refers to engagement in academic tasks driven by external rewards, pressures, or requirements, such as grades, foundation, degree completion, recognition, or institutional regulations (Howard et al., 2022; Ryan & Deci, 2023; Wongcharoenporn et al., 2025). Recent empirical studies have demonstrated that students who are primarily extrinsically motivated tend to direct their efforts toward activities that yield tangible academic outcomes and instrumental benefits, particularly in structured academic environments where external evaluation criteria are emphasized (Huang et al., 2023; Xu, 2024). Moreover, extrinsic motivation has been shown to influence strategic academic behaviors, as students engage in specific actions to achieve desired and worthwhile outcomes within institutional constraints (Ryan & Deci, 2023).

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