# Enhancing Scholarly Impact: A Strategic Guide to Research Indexing for Australian Psychotherapy and Counselling Journals

Written by Google Gemini 2.5 Deep Research on 21 May 2025. As it is AI generated, there may be errors.

## 1. Introduction: Navigating the Landscape of Scholarly Indexing

The decision to pursue indexing in reputable scholarly databases is a strategic imperative for academic journals aiming to enhance their global footprint, bolster research rankings, and increase the citation impact of their published works. Inclusion in major indexes such as Scopus, Web of Science, PsycINFO, and PubMed Central significantly elevates a journal's credibility and makes its content discoverable to a worldwide audience of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers.[1] Furthermore, such listings are often pivotal for authors, as publication in an indexed journal can be a prerequisite for institutional recognition, career advancement, and success in securing research funding.[2] This report provides comprehensive guidance for the *Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA)* and the *Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ)* on navigating the complex landscape of scholarly indexing to achieve these critical objectives.

### Overview of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA)

The *Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA)*, identified by ISSN 2201-7089, is an open access, peer-reviewed publication of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA).[3] Its commitment to open dissemination is evidenced by its policy to adopt a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0) for articles published after October 1, 2024, ensuring content is freely available without financial, legal, or technical barriers.[5] The journal maintains a digital presence at pacja.org.au, which features published articles, a publicly listed editorial board with international members, and dedicated pages for journal policies covering open access, copyright, and the use of artificial intelligence.[3] PACJA utilizes Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for its articles [7] and ensures long-term preservation through archiving in Portico.[9] The "For Authors" section outlines various accepted article types, reflecting an integrative approach to research.[10] The journal also demonstrates an awareness of publication ethics, with references to APA standards for reducing bias in language.[11]

### Overview of the Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ)

The *Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ)*, bearing ISSN 1832-1135, serves as the official research publication of the Australian Counselling Association (ACA).[13] It functions as a peer-reviewed, open-access international online journal, succeeding the *Counselling Psychotherapy and Health (CPH)* online journal.[13] The journal's website, acrjournal.com.au, provides access to its current and past issues, lists its editorial board, and includes an "Instructions for Authors" page.[13] These instructions specify requirements such as an abstract for each article and submission via an online form.[14] ACRJ is noted as being listed with the Australian Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), an older governmental designation whose current relevance in the indexing landscape requires careful consideration.[13]

### Table 1: Current Indexing Status and Key Characteristics of PACJA and ACRJ

| Feature | Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA) | Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ) |
|---|---|---|
| **ISSN** | 2201-7089 (Online) [9] | 1832-1135 [13] |
| **Publisher** | Psychotherapy and Counselling Federation of Australia (PACFA) [3] | Australian Counselling Association (ACA) [13] |
| **Open Access Status** | Yes (CC BY 4.0 from Oct 1, 2024) [5] | Yes (Specific license unclear from available data) [13] |
| **Peer Review Type** | Peer-reviewed (Specific model to be clarified on website) [4] | Peer-reviewed (Specific model to be clarified on website) [13] |
| **Current Known Indexing** | Listed in some A&NZ journal collections [4] | Listed in some A&NZ journal collections [4], DEST (historical) [13] |
| **Digital Archiving** | Portico [9] | Not specified in available data |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **DOI Usage** | Yes [7] | Not specified in available data |
| **Website** | pacja.org.au [3] | acrjournal.com.au [13] |
| **Publication Ethics Policy** | References APA standards; AI policy [5] | Not explicitly detailed in available data |
| **Peer Review Policy** | Implied; details need explicit statement on website | Stated as "supportive review"; details need explicit statement [13] |

The open access nature of both PACJA and ACRJ presents a considerable advantage in the contemporary scholarly publishing environment.[4] This status aligns well with the criteria of specific indexes like the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and generally enhances visibility and citation potential.[15] However, simply being open access is not a panacea; adherence to specific open licensing models, such as the CC BY license adopted by PACJA [5], and clear, public statements regarding these policies are vital for meeting the stringent requirements of bodies like DOAJ.[15] ACRJ, while identified as open access, will need to ensure its licensing terms are explicitly stated and conform to such standards.

Furthermore, the affiliation of both journals with prominent national professional bodies—PACJA with PACFA and ACRJ with the ACA—can serve as an important indicator of their quality, community standing, and commitment to the profession.[3] Some indexing services, such as PsycINFO, explicitly note that "Sponsorship by a psychological association or other scientific or professional society" is a feature that supports acceptance.[19] While not always a direct criterion for all indexes, such affiliations lend substantial credibility and suggest an established network of contributors and readers, indirectly bolstering perceptions of "journal standing" or "prestige," which are considered by indexes like Scopus.[20] This inherent strength should be prominently featured in any communication with indexing bodies.

## 2. Foundational Pillars for Indexing Success: Universal Best Practices

Achieving and maintaining inclusion in reputable research indexes hinges on a steadfast commitment to universal best practices in scholarly publishing. These foundational pillars are not merely suggestions but are increasingly becoming prerequisites for consideration by major indexing bodies. For PACJA and ACRJ, a

thorough internal audit against these standards, followed by diligent implementation of any necessary enhancements, will be paramount.

### Establishing and Showcasing Editorial Excellence

The credibility and perceived quality of a journal are inextricably linked to the rigor and transparency of its editorial processes.

Peer Review: A robust and clearly documented peer-review process is a non-negotiable element for virtually all significant research indexes.2 This policy must be publicly accessible on the journal's website, detailing the type of peer review employed (e.g., double-blind, single-blind, open), criteria for the selection of reviewers, procedures for handling potential conflicts of interest, and typical timeframes for the review cycle.2
For PACJA, while peer review is a stated practice 4, the specifics of the process are not explicitly detailed in the currently available information on its "For Authors" or "Journal Policies" pages.5 This information needs to be comprehensively articulated and made easily accessible.
ACRJ is described as "peer-reviewed" and its "Instructions for Authors" allude to a review process with defined outcomes.13 However, the precise nature of this review (e.g., number of reviewers, blinding process) requires explicit clarification on its website to meet indexing standards.
Editorial Board: A distinguished, academically qualified, and actively engaged editorial board is a hallmark of a reputable journal.2 Indexing bodies expect to see full names, current institutional affiliations, and ideally, the specific areas of expertise for all board members, listed transparently on the journal's website.15 Geographical and institutional diversity among board members is increasingly sought after, as it signals a broader reach and perspective.2 For instance, ERIH PLUS specifies a minimum of three members and, for institutionally published journals, mandates that at least one-third of the board be external to the publishing institution.28 DOAJ recommends an editorial board of at least five editors, with a preference for members not all hailing from the same institution.15
PACJA lists its editorial board with affiliations, including international members 6, which is a positive attribute. An ongoing assessment of its diversity against specific index criteria would be beneficial.
ACRJ also has an editorial board 13; its composition, the public visibility of member details, and its diversity should be reviewed to ensure alignment with international indexing standards.
Adherence to Publication Ethics (e.g., COPE Guidelines): Journals must establish and prominently display clear, comprehensive policies addressing all facets of publication ethics. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism detection and management, criteria for authorship and contributorship, handling of conflicts of interest (for authors, reviewers, and editors), procedures for addressing data fabrication or falsification, and policies for corrections, retractions, and expressions of concern.1 Explicit adherence to the Core Practices of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) is highly recommended and often a direct expectation of indexing bodies.22

PACJA makes reference to APA publication standards and the importance of reducing bias.11 Its "Journal Policies" page 5 should be expanded or supplemented to ensure all areas covered by COPE are thoroughly addressed and easily discoverable.
For ACRJ, the available information does not detail specific publication ethics policies. Developing and publishing such policies, aligned with COPE guidelines, is a critical step.
A recurring and critical theme across nearly all foundational pillars and indexing criteria is **transparency**. This extends beyond merely having policies in place; it necessitates making these policies publicly discoverable, clearly articulated, and easily accessible via the journal's website. Indexing bodies such as Scopus, DOAJ, ERIH PLUS, and PMC explicitly require public availability of key policies, including peer review, editorial board details, and ethics statements.[2] These organizations often use the journal's website as a primary tool for due diligence. A deficiency in transparency can be interpreted as a lack of professionalism or an attempt to obscure practices, potentially leading to a swift rejection. Therefore, a comprehensive audit of both PACJA's and ACRJ's websites for transparency and completeness of information is an essential preparatory action.

### Ensuring High-Quality Scholarly Content

The intrinsic value of a journal is determined by the quality, originality, and relevance of the research it disseminates.

Clear Aims and Scope: A well-defined aims and scope statement is fundamental. It must clearly articulate the subject areas covered by the journal, the types of articles it publishes (e.g., original research, reviews, case studies), and its intended target audience (e.g., researchers, practitioners, policymakers).15 This clarity allows indexing services to accurately assess the journal's relevance to their database and its specific field.27
PACJA's "For Authors" page describes various article types and an "integrative approach".10 This information should be consolidated and expanded into a distinct, prominent "Aims and Scope" statement on the website.
ACRJ's homepage provides a good initial description of its focus on "high quality research in counselling and psychotherapy" and practitioner-driven research.13 This needs to be formalized into a comprehensive and easily identifiable Aims & Scope statement.
**Originality and Significance:** The content published must be predominantly original, making a tangible contribution to the existing body of knowledge within its field. It should also possess a degree of significance that would interest an international readership.[2]

**Scientific Rigor and Clarity:** All published articles must demonstrate methodological soundness appropriate to the research approach. Clarity of language is paramount, particularly for titles and abstracts, which must be in English for most international indexes, even if the full text is published in another language.[1] Adherence to

established scholarly conventions in reporting and presentation is expected. The dominance of English in global scholarly communication is underscored by this requirement from multiple major indexes.[1] For PACJA and ACRJ, which primarily publish in English, ensuring the highest quality and clarity in their English-language titles and abstracts is crucial for effective indexing and search engine optimization.[39]

### Adhering to Robust Publishing Standards

Consistent adherence to recognized publishing standards is a baseline expectation for any journal aspiring to be indexed.

ISSN (International Standard Serial Number): A registered and confirmed ISSN is a fundamental prerequisite for all major indexing services.2 The ISSN must be clearly and consistently displayed on the journal's website and in its publications.15
PACJA's online ISSN (2201-7089) is registered, confirmed, and displayed on its website.3
ACRJ's ISSN (1832-1135) 13 needs to be verified as confirmed on the official ISSN portal (issn.org) and prominently displayed on its website.
Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs): The assignment of DOIs to all published articles is an increasingly standard practice and a specific requirement or strong recommendation by many indexes, including PsycINFO 19 and general best practice guidelines.40 DOIs provide persistent links to articles, facilitate accurate citation, and aid in tracking research impact.
PACJA currently utilizes DOIs for its articles.7
ACRJ's use of DOIs is not confirmed in the available information. Implementing DOIs, typically through an agency like Crossref, is a critical area for ACRJ to address.
Consistent Publication Schedule (Timeliness): Journals must demonstrate adherence to a regular and clearly stated publication frequency (e.g., quarterly, biannually).2 Irregularity or significant deviations from the stated schedule can be grounds for rejection or de-listing.27
PACJA publishes multiple articles throughout the year.3 Its precise, stated frequency should be clear and consistently met.
ACRJ publishes in issues.45 Maintaining this consistency is vital.
Professional Website and Online Accessibility: A functional, professional, and easily navigable website is indispensable. It serves as the primary interface between the journal and its stakeholders, including indexing services. The website must provide clear and straightforward access to all essential journal information, such as its aims and scope, editorial board details, all editorial and ethical policies, comprehensive author guidelines, and the full archive of published content.15 For most indexes like Scopus and Web of Science, full online accessibility means, at a minimum, freely available metadata and abstracts, even if the full text is behind a paywall.2 For open access indexes like DOAJ, the full text of all articles must be immediately and freely accessible.15
PACJA has an established website (pacja.org.au).3 Its overall functionality, ease of navigation, and the completeness of information against various index criteria should be systematically reviewed.
ACRJ also has a website (acrjournal.com.au).13 A similar review for comprehensiveness,

professionalism, and adherence to technical best practices (e.g., mobile-friendliness, loading speed) is recommended.
Author Guidelines: Clear, comprehensive, and easily locatable instructions for authors are a standard requirement.15 These guidelines should cover all aspects of manuscript preparation, including structure, length limitations, referencing style, figure and table formatting, and the submission process itself.
PACJA provides a "For Authors" page.10 This section should be reviewed to ensure it is exhaustive and up-to-date.
ACRJ offers "Instructions for Authors".13 These also require a thorough review for completeness and clarity.

**Implementing Comprehensive Journal Policies**

Beyond editorial and content quality, clearly articulated operational policies are essential.

Open Access Policy: For journals identifying as open access, the specific OA policy, including the type of license under which content is published (e.g., Creative Commons licenses such as CC BY), must be explicitly and clearly stated on the website.15
PACJA has a defined open access policy, adopting the CC BY 4.0 license from October 1, 2024.5
ACRJ is an open access journal 13, but the specific licensing terms and a formal OA policy statement need to be clearly presented on its website to meet the detailed requirements of indexes like DOAJ.
Copyright Policy: Copyright terms must be transparently stated and must not conflict with the journal's open access policy, if applicable.5 For example, a statement of "All rights reserved" is incompatible with open access content.
PACJA specifies that authors retain copyright and grant PACFA a license to publish.5
ACRJ needs to ensure its copyright policy is clearly articulated and readily accessible.

**Data Sharing and Reproducibility Policies:** While not universally mandated by all indexes yet, policies that encourage or require data sharing and promote research reproducibility are increasingly valued, particularly in medical and some social science disciplines. Adherence to COPE guidelines on data and reproducibility is a strong indicator of best practice.[22]

Digital Archiving Policy: A robust, long-term digital preservation strategy is crucial for ensuring the perpetual accessibility of published scholarly content. This is a firm requirement or a very strong recommendation for many indexing bodies, most notably DOAJ.15 Common archiving solutions include Portico, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, or deposition in national libraries or disciplinary repositories like PubMed Central.
PACJA is archived in Portico, which is a significant strength.9
ACRJ's digital archiving strategy is not mentioned in the available information. Establishing and clearly stating a digital archiving policy is a high-priority action for ACRJ.

### Cultivating International Reach and Readership

For journals aiming for inclusion in global indexes, demonstrating international engagement is key.

**International Scope/Relevance:** The content published should ideally be of interest and relevance to an international academic community, extending beyond purely local concerns.[1]

Diversity of Authors and Editorial Board: Geographic diversity in both authorship and editorial board membership is often an explicit or implicit criterion for indexing.19 Journals that primarily publish work from a single institution or a very limited geographic region (often termed "house organs") may face challenges with indexes like PsycINFO and ERIH PLUS, which have specific rules against predominantly local authorship or editorial boards.19 PACJA's editorial board includes international members 6, which is a positive step. Continued efforts to attract a diverse international pool of authors will be beneficial.
ACRJ should assess the current international diversity of its authors and editorial board and develop strategies to enhance it if necessary.
It is important to recognize that meeting the "minimum" criteria outlined by indexing bodies is a necessary baseline but often not sufficient for inclusion in the more prestigious or selective indexes like Scopus and the primary tiers of Web of Science (SCIE, SSCI, AHCI). These indexes also incorporate evaluations of "journal standing" or "prestige" (Scopus) [20] or "impact" (Web of Science).[21] This implies a tiered evaluation system: foundational quality elements (editorial rigor, ethical conduct, sound publishing standards) are prerequisites for initial consideration by any reputable index. However, higher-level factors, such as citation performance, the scholarly reputation of the editorial board, and the perceived significance of the published content, determine acceptance into the more selective databases or tiers. For PACJA and ACRJ, this means that once all foundational elements are impeccably in place, a concerted, long-term strategy to build reputation and demonstrable impact will become paramount for achieving top-tier indexing.

## 3. Targeting Major International Research Indexes

Gaining entry into major international research indexes requires a nuanced understanding of each body's specific criteria and application procedures. A strategic approach involves prioritizing indexes based on relevance, the journal's current readiness, and the potential benefits of inclusion.

### Table 2: Comparative Overview of Key Selection Criteria for Major International Indexes

| Criteria Category | Scopus (Elsevier) | Web of Science (Clarivate) | PsycINFO (APA) | PubMed Central (NLM) | DOAJ | ERIH PLUS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Peer Review** | Rigorous, transparent, policy public [1] | Rigorous, transparent, policy public, quality assessed [21] | Rigorous, expert review for originality, significance, rigor; policy public [19] | Rigorous, policy public; scientific & editorial quality assessed [22] | Policy public, min. 2 reviewers; details on website [15] | External peer review (or other quality control); policy public [23] |
| **Editorial Policy** | Clear policy, diverse Ed Board & authors [2] | Ed Board composition, validity of statements, content relevance [21] | Diverse reviewers/authors (no house organs); psychologists on Ed Board a plus [19] | Ed Board diversity & independence [30] | Ed Board listed with affiliations (min. 5 rec.); diverse institutions rec. [15] | Academic Ed Board (min. 3, affiliations listed, 1/3 external if institutional) [23] |
| **Content Quality/Scope** | Relevant, clear English abstracts, contribution to field [1] | Scholarly content, English titles/abstracts, clarity, relevance to scope [21] | Relevant to behavioral sciences, international interest, original, empirical/substantiated [19] | Primarily biomedical/life sciences; original research, reviews, case reports [30] | Scholarly research, any subject; min. 5 articles/year [15] | Humanities & Social Sciences; min. 5 research articles/issue [26] |
| **Publication Ethics** | Ethics & malpractice statement public [1] | Ethics statements public; adherence to community standards | Publication ethics considered [19] | Adherence to ethics (COPE, ICMJE); policies on COI, human/animal rights, | Adherence to Principles of Transparency and Best Practice; | Ethics, copyright, plagiarism policies public [28] |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | (e.g., COPE) [21] | | informed consent [22] | plagiarism check rec. [15] | |
| **Publishing Standards** | ISSN, regular schedule, English titles/abstracts, online presence [1] | ISSN, timeliness, English titles/abstracts, Roman script biblio, functional website [21] | ISSN, regular schedule, English titles/abstracts/keywords, unlocked PDFs, DOIs a plus [19] | Registered ISSN, immediate content access for NLM, min. 25 articles published, technical XML quality [30] | Registered ISSN, dedicated website with specific info, OA license, copyright terms, author charges clear [15] | Valid ISSN, timeliness, English abstracts, author affiliations, functional website with specific info [23] |
| **Internationality** | International relevance, diverse Ed Board/authors [2] | International author/Ed Board diversity, content significance [21] | International audience interest; diverse reviewers/authors [19] | Ed Board/author diversity reflecting scope [30] | International audience (implied by scope) | European relevance; national/international authorship (not local) [26] |
| **Open Access Requirements** | Not mandatory for Scopus; online availability is key [2] | Not mandatory for WoS; online access to metadata essential | Not mandatory; OA can be a plus | Not mandatory for initial application, but PMC is an OA archive | Fully OA (no embargo, no registration to read), clear OA statement & license (CC rec.) [15] | OA policies must be described if applicable [28] |
| **Archiving** | Not explicitly a primary criterion, but good | Not explicitly a primary criterion, but good | Not explicitly a primary criterion, but good | PMC itself is an archive; long-term preservati | Archiving policy highly recommended (e.g., | Not explicitly a primary criterion, but |

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | practice | practice | practice | on is inherent | Portico, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS) [15] | website archive of last 2 years required [28] |
| **Impact/Standing** | Journal standing/prestige, citations, editor reputation [2] | Citation analysis for SCIE/SSCI/AHCI; content significance [21] | Sponsorship by psych association, indexed elsewhere are plus factors [19] | Scientific quality and relevance to NLM/PMC scope [30] | Not based on impact factors; focus on OA best practice and quality control [15] | Focus on quality standards for SSH; no explicit citation metrics for initial inclusion [23] |
| **Publication History** | Generally 2 years [1] | Implied need for stability and volume | Regular publication schedule [19] | Publisher generally 2 years in life sciences; journal min. 25 articles [30] | >1 year or 10 OA articles for new/flipped journals [15] | Min. 2 years active [28] |

### 3.1 Scopus (Elsevier)

Scopus is a large multidisciplinary abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature.
Selection Criteria:
Journals seeking inclusion in Scopus must first meet several minimum criteria: they must publish peer-reviewed content, maintain a regular publication schedule with a registered ISSN, ensure that article titles and abstracts are provided in English, have a publicly available publication ethics and malpractice statement, and generally possess a publication history of at least two years.1
Beyond these prerequisites, Scopus evaluates journals based on five main categories:

1. **Journal Policy:** This includes the clarity and appropriateness of the editorial policy, the type of peer review employed, and the diversity (particularly international) of the editorial board and contributing authors.[2]
2. **Content:** Assesses the academic quality of published articles, the clarity and informativeness of English abstracts, and the journal's overall contribution to its field.[2]
3. **Journal Standing/Prestige:** Considers factors such as citations received from

other journals already indexed in Scopus and the reputation of the journal's editor(s).[20]

4. **Regularity of Publication:** The journal must adhere to its stated publication frequency.[20]
5. **Online Availability/Visibility:** This involves a well-functioning website that provides access to the journal's content (full text or, at minimum, abstracts and cited references).[20] A strong emphasis is placed on the international relevance and readability of the content, and references must be presented in Roman script.[2]

Application Process:
Publishers or editors can suggest titles for Scopus evaluation. This is typically done by filling out the Scopus Title Suggestion Form available online 40 or by initiating contact via the "Contact Us" section on the Scopus website, selecting "Content Suggestion" or "Journal Suggestion".25 The evaluation is conducted by the Scopus Content Selection and Advisory Board (CSAB), an independent body of subject experts.2 The application requires detailed information, including the journal title, ISSN, publisher details, website URL, a sample issue (often in PDF format), and potentially a link to the journal's page for requesting indexing.25 The evaluation process can be lengthy, potentially taking 6 to 12 months.40
Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
Both journals should focus on meticulously demonstrating consistent high quality in their published content, actively working to broaden the international scope of their authorship and readership, and ensuring their websites are comprehensive, professional, and fully transparent regarding policies and processes. If either journal can demonstrate citations from articles already indexed in Scopus, this should be highlighted.

### 3.2 Web of Science (Clarivate Analytics) - Core Collection

The Web of Science Core Collection is a highly esteemed group of citation indexes, including the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI), Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI), and the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).
Selection Criteria:
Web of Science employs a rigorous multi-stage evaluation process:

1. **Initial Triage:** Checks for fundamental requirements such as a valid ISSN, clear journal title and publisher identification, a functional journal URL, access to content for evaluation, a stated peer review policy, and contact details.[21]
2. **Editorial Triage:** Assesses the journal for scholarly content, availability of article titles and abstracts in English, bibliographic information in Roman script, clarity of language, timeliness and consistency of publication volume, website functionality and journal format, presence of ethics statements, and clear editorial and author affiliation details.[21]
3. **Editorial Evaluation (Quality):** This is a more in-depth review focusing on the composition and expertise of the editorial board, the validity of statements made

by the journal (e.g., about its peer review process), the rigor of the peer review process itself, the relevance of published content to the journal's stated scope, details of grant support where applicable, adherence to community standards (such as COPE guidelines [33]), the distribution and diversity of authors, and the appropriateness of citations to the literature.[21] Journals that successfully pass this quality evaluation are typically accepted into the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI).

4. **Editorial Evaluation (Impact):** For inclusion in the more selective indexes (SCIE, SSCI, AHCI), an additional impact evaluation is conducted. This involves comparative citation analysis (how the journal's citation performance compares to others in its field), author citation analysis (the citation impact of the journal's authors), editorial board member citation analysis, and an assessment of the overall content significance.[21] Journals in ESCI are continuously monitored, and those demonstrating sufficient impact may be elevated to SCIE, SSCI, or AHCI without needing to reapply.[21] Key publishing standards include timeliness, a primary focus on original scholarly material, English language for all article titles, and a functional, informative website providing access to essential information such as editorial board details, author instructions, peer review policies, and ethics statements.[31]

Application Process:
Journal submissions to Web of Science are managed exclusively by publishers through the Web of Science Publisher Portal.31 Publishers must first create an account on the Clarivate website and then request access to the Publisher Portal.31 Editors of self-published journals can also gain access to the portal to submit their journal.52 The application requires detailed information, including ISSN, language of publication, journal details (name, URL, publisher information, frequency, volume, first year of publication, disciplinary focus), links to ethics and peer review policies, information on plagiarism detection, content access details, and contact information.31
If a journal is rejected at the initial triage or editorial triage stage, re-submission is generally possible without an embargo. However, if a rejection is based on quality or impact criteria, a two-year embargo period typically applies before re-submission is permitted.21
Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
For both journals, achieving inclusion in ESCI would be a significant first step and a more realistic initial target than the highly selective SCIE or SSCI. This requires perfecting all aspects of editorial rigor, international diversity of contributors and editorial board members, and unwavering adherence to ethical best practices. Building a strong and demonstrable citation record over time is crucial for potential elevation to the more impactful indexes.

### 3.3 PsycINFO (American Psychological Association - APA)

PsycINFO is the premier abstracting and indexing database for psychology and the behavioral sciences.

Selection Criteria:
The primary criterion for inclusion in PsycINFO is the relevance of the journal's content to psychology and the behavioral sciences.19 Additionally, journals must be of a quality and scope that is of interest to an international audience.19 A rigorous peer-review process is mandatory, where knowledgeable peers evaluate submitted manuscripts for originality, significance, and scientific rigor.19
Essential publishing standards include possessing a valid ISSN, using either serial pagination or unique article IDs for each article within an issue, and adhering to standard conventions for scholarly journals. This means having an informative journal title and descriptive article titles, including unambiguous current affiliations for all authors and contact information for corresponding authors, providing abstracts and keywords, and ensuring that references are current, from quality sources, and appropriate in number for the type of article.19 For indexing purposes, journals must provide unlocked PDF files of their articles.19 Usable tables of contents, abstracts, titles, and keywords must be in English.19
PsycINFO looks for diversity among reviewers and authors and does not accept "house organs" (journals predominantly publishing content from their own institution).19 The content should consist mostly of original articles that are substantiated by empirical data or other scholarly means; student-run journals are not accepted.19 A regular publication schedule appropriate for the established frequency of the journal is also required.19
Features that can support acceptance include sponsorship by a psychological association or another scientific/professional society, the presence of psychologists among editorial board members and authors, existing indexing in other reputable databases, the use of DOIs, and the provision of transliterated references if applicable.19 PsycINFO typically selects original research reports, literature reviews, meta-analyses, surveys, case studies, theoretical reviews, and substantive comments/replies.38
Application Process:
To have a journal evaluated for PsycINFO coverage, publishers need to submit three consecutive recent issues or a minimum of 20 recently published articles (access to content on the journal's website is acceptable). Additionally, a completed Editor's Survey (available from APA) and an Indexing Coverage Agreement must be submitted.19 These materials should be emailed to the Journal Content Coordinator at APA, with "New Journal Submission" in the subject line.19 The APA PsycInfo Content Development staff will then evaluate the journal based on their established Journal Coverage Criteria.19
Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
Both journals should clearly emphasize their relevance to psychology and the broader behavioral sciences. Highlighting their respective affiliations with PACFA and ACA, and ensuring that abstracts are of high quality and meet APA's detailed requirements for structure and content 54, will be crucial. The presence of psychologists on their editorial boards and among their authors should also be underscored.

### 3.4 PubMed Central (PMC) (U.S. National Library of Medicine - NLM)

PubMed Central (PMC) is a free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature.

Selection Criteria:
PMC primarily focuses on journals within the biomedical and life sciences.29 Therefore, psychotherapy and counselling journals with a strong clinical research component, particularly those involving medical or biological aspects of mental health, may be considered. A cornerstone of PMC's evaluation is scientific and editorial quality. This includes a rigorous peer-review process with a clearly stated and publicly available policy.22 The editorial board should demonstrate diversity and editorial independence.29 Adherence to high ethical standards, such as those promoted by COPE and ICMJE, is critical, with clear policies on conflicts of interest, human and animal research ethics, and informed consent.22 The use of established reporting guidelines (e.g., CONSORT, PRISMA) and registration of clinical trials are strongly encouraged.22
From a publishing standards perspective, journals must have a registered ISSN, provide NLM with immediate access to their content, and have published a minimum of 25 peer-reviewed articles in their final form.29 Generally, NLM expects applying publishers to have at least a two-year history of quality scholarly publishing in the life sciences, although exceptions may be considered if the editorial leadership has demonstrable experience in comparable roles.29 Technical quality is also paramount; submitted content (usually in XML format) must meet PMC's specific Document Type Definition (DTD) and style requirements, ensuring an accurate and error-free representation of the version of record.29
Application Process:
The application process for PMC is multi-staged:

1. **Pre-Application Requirements Check:** Journals and publishers must first meet the basic eligibility criteria.[29]
2. **Submission:** Applications are submitted via the PMC Publisher Portal. Required information includes journal title, ISSN, publication frequency, website URL, links to editorial board information and all relevant policies (editorial, peer review, ethics), and publisher details.[29]
3. **Screening:** NLM screens the application for completeness and adherence to scope and journal requirements.
4. **Scientific Quality Review:** A thorough review of the journal's information, policies, and content is conducted to assess scientific quality.
5. **Technical Evaluation:** If the journal passes the scientific quality review, a technical evaluation is performed. This involves the publisher submitting sample article files (XML, PDF, images, supplementary data) for assessment against PMC's technical specifications.
6. **Pre-Production:** If technically sound, the journal is set up in PMC's systems, a participation agreement is signed, and back content is supplied.
7. **Live Release:** Following successful pre-production and publisher approval, the journal content goes live on the PMC public site.[29] If a journal does not meet the scientific quality standard, it may be eligible to reapply after 24 months.[29]

Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
Inclusion in PMC would be most relevant if the journals publish research with significant clinical, neurobiological, or other biomedical dimensions related to psychotherapy and counselling. If this is the case, they must be prepared to demonstrate exceptionally high scientific rigor, transparent ethical practices, and the capacity to meet demanding technical XML requirements.

### 3.5 Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

DOAJ is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high-quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.
Selection Criteria:
To be indexed in DOAJ, a journal must be fully open access, meaning all content is freely available immediately upon publication without any embargo period, and users are not required to register to read content.15 A clear open access statement and transparent licensing terms (Creative Commons licenses, particularly CC BY, are preferred) must be displayed on the journal's website.15
Stringent publishing standards include having a registered ISSN and a dedicated journal website that provides comprehensive information. This includes: aims and scope, full editorial board details with affiliations, detailed instructions for authors, a clear description of the peer-review process, licensing terms, copyright policy, and full disclosure of any author charges (or a clear statement if there are no charges).15 The publisher's name and physical address, along with contact information, must also be easily found.
Quality control measures are paramount. Journals must have an editor and an editorial board (DOAJ recommends at least five members, preferably from diverse institutions). All research articles must undergo peer review (with a minimum of two reviewers recommended per article). While not mandatory, the use of plagiarism detection software is highly encouraged. DOAJ also has policies regarding endogeny (self-publication by editorial board members or reviewers), setting a limit of no more than 25% of articles in recent issues.15
Journals must publish at least five research articles per year. Newly launched journals or those that have recently "flipped" to open access generally need to demonstrate a publishing history of more than one year or have published at least ten open access research articles before applying.15 Adherence to the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing, often a collaborative effort by COPE, DOAJ, OASPA, and WAME, is expected.15 DOAJ explicitly states that it does not use Impact Factors for quality assessment but permits the display of widely recognized metrics.15
Application Process:
Applications are submitted via the DOAJ website. Publishers need to create an account and then meticulously complete a detailed online application form.15 The DOAJ team reviews each application thoroughly, a process that can take up to three months or potentially longer, depending on the volume of applications and the need for clarification.15 If an application is rejected, there is typically a waiting period of six months before a journal can reapply, unless the rejection was due to easily correctable issues like an unconfirmed ISSN or insufficient published content.15

Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
DOAJ indexing is crucial for any journal positioning itself as a reputable open access publication.
PACJA, with its existing open access model, recent adoption of a CC BY 4.0 license 5, and Portico archiving 9, is well-positioned for DOAJ. The primary focus should be on ensuring that all required information (policies, editorial board details, peer review process, etc.) is comprehensively and transparently presented on its website in full alignment with DOAJ's detailed criteria.
ACRJ, also an open access journal 13, must prioritize establishing and clearly stating its specific open access license, implementing a digital archiving solution, and ensuring all its policies (peer review, ethics, copyright, author fees if any) are explicitly detailed on its website to meet DOAJ's stringent requirements.

### 3.6 European Reference Index for the Humanities and the Social Sciences (ERIH PLUS)

ERIH PLUS is an index specifically for academic journals in the humanities and social sciences (HSS) that aims to increase the visibility of HSS research, particularly from Europe.
Selection Criteria:
The primary focus is on HSS journals demonstrating relevance to European research or researchers. This can be established if the editorial board includes scholars affiliated with European institutions, if the journal publishes articles by authors from European institutions, if the submitting entity is European, or if the journal's scope directly addresses issues pertinent to the European scientific community.26
Quality control mechanisms are essential. Journals must have explicit procedures for external peer review (though other forms of quality control may be accepted for some established high-quality journals). An academic editorial board is required, with at least three members whose affiliations are publicly listed; if the journal is published by an institution, at least one-third of the board members should be external to that institution.23
Standard publishing practices must be met: a valid ISSN confirmed by the ISSN International Centre, timeliness of publication, abstracts in English for all original research articles, and clear indication of author affiliations. Authorship should be national or international, not predominantly local (defined as more than two-thirds of authors in the last two years being from the same institution).23
The journal must have been active for at least two years, and each issue should generally contain at least five research articles.28 A functional website is mandatory, containing the ISSN, a description of the peer-review process, a complete list of editorial board members with affiliations, the journal's aims and scope, an archive of at least the last two years of publications, stated publication periodicity, and clearly described guidelines concerning ethical publishing, copyright, plagiarism, and open access policies.28
Application Process:
Submissions to ERIH PLUS are typically made by publishers, editorial board members, or individuals officially affiliated with the journal. Applications are submitted by creating an account and filling out a submission form on the "My Page" section of the ERIH PLUS

website.28
Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
To be successful with ERIH PLUS, both journals will need to clearly articulate their relevance to European research or researchers. This could be through highlighting any European members on their editorial boards, showcasing articles by European authors, or framing aspects of their scope to resonate with European HSS concerns. Ensuring their websites are fully compliant with ERIH PLUS's extensive transparency requirements is also vital.
The application processes for these major international indexes are increasingly formalized, often requiring submissions through dedicated online portals.[15] This underscores the necessity for journals to be exceptionally meticulous with the information they provide, as inconsistencies or incomplete data are common reasons for rejection.[27] A pre-submission internal audit against the target index's specific criteria is therefore an indispensable step for both PACJA and ACRJ.

Furthermore, while "impact"—often measured by citations—is a key differentiator for inclusion in the top tiers of Web of Science (SCIE/SSCI) and a contributing factor to "journal standing" in Scopus, it is crucial to understand that foundational quality criteria must be met first by *all* journals seeking indexing. This applies even to "emerging" or less selective indexes like ESCI or ERIH PLUS.[2] This means that PACJA and ACRJ should prioritize perfecting their editorial rigor, ethical frameworks, and publishing standards. Building demonstrable impact is a subsequent, longer-term strategy that follows once these fundamental elements are solidly established.

Finally, the common requirement for at least a two-year publication history by indexes like Scopus [1], ERIH PLUS [28], and PMC (for publishers) [30], along with similar expectations for stability and consistent output from others like DOAJ [15], indicates that journals should not rush their applications. Instead, they must focus on building a solid, consistent, and high-quality publication record to demonstrate longevity and operational stability before seeking inclusion in these databases. For PACJA, established in 2012 [9], this is less of a concern. ACRJ, which succeeded CPH [13], will need to ensure its continuous publication history under the ACRJ banner is clearly presented and robust.

## 4. Leveraging Australian Research Indexes

While international indexing is a primary goal for maximizing global exposure, inclusion in key Australian research indexes offers significant benefits for local visibility, readership, and relevance within the national research ecosystem.

### Informit (RMIT)

Informit, a service of RMIT University, is a major online database platform providing

access to a wide array of Australasian and Asia-Pacific research content. This includes academic journals, conference proceedings, books, and reports across various disciplines.[55] Key collections relevant to PACJA and ACRJ include the Australian Public Affairs Full Text (APAFT), Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS), Humanities & Social Sciences Collection, and Health Collection.[55] APAIS, in particular, indexes scholarly articles in the social sciences and humanities that are either published in Australia or focus on Australian topics, making it highly pertinent.[55]

Content Selection Criteria for Informit:
Informit's content selection is guided by three primary criteria:

1. **Relevance:** The content must be relevant to the Australian and New Zealand region and/or have an Asia-Pacific focus.[57]
2. **Quality and Peer-Review:** The material should be of high quality, and for academic journals, peer review is a key consideration.[57]
3. **Identified Need:** There should be an identified need for the content within the specific subject area it covers.[57] Currently, Informit can accommodate content provided in PDF format.[57]

Application Process for Informit:
Publishers interested in having their content indexed by Informit should initiate contact by expressing their interest directly to Informit's curation team.57 The expression of interest should include: the publication name, publisher name, whether the content is open access or behind a paywall, examples of the content (or links to where it can be viewed online), contact details for the journal/publisher, and any other relevant information.57
Informit's team will then assess the submitted content for suitability. If accepted, Informit offers partnership agreements that can either be royalty-based (for paywalled content) or an open access agreement where content is made freely available via their platform without royalties paid to the publisher. These agreements are non-exclusive, and there is no cost to the publisher for hosting and indexing the publication in Informit's collections.57 New content partnerships can typically see content appearing on the platform within two to six weeks, with large archives being indexed progressively.57
Strategic Considerations for PACJA and ACRJ:
Given their Australian focus and their subject matter (psychotherapy, counselling, and related social sciences), both PACJA and ACRJ are exceptionally well-suited for inclusion in several Informit collections, including APAFT, APAIS, the Humanities & Social Sciences Collection, and the Health Collection.55 Their open access status aligns perfectly with Informit's open access agreement option.
Currently, an article published in the Gestalt Journal of Australia and New Zealand (which is indexed in Informit) references PACJA 62, and an article from Pacific Journalism Review (also indexed in Informit) mentions ACRJ.64 This indicates an indirect presence or citation within Informit-indexed content. However, direct indexing of PACJA and ACRJ themselves should be actively pursued to maximize their discoverability within this key regional platform. The explicit

focus of Informit on "relevance to the Australian and New Zealand region and Asia-Pacific focus" 57 transforms the Australian identity of PACJA and ACRJ from a simple characteristic into a distinct strategic advantage for this particular index. Unlike global indexes where they compete with thousands of journals worldwide, for Informit, their Australian context and content are precisely what the platform seeks. This suggests that applying to Informit should be a high-priority action for both journals to achieve immediate and significant local and regional impact.

**Table 3: Key Selection Criteria for Relevant Australian Indexes (Focus on Informit)**

| Index/Collection Name | Key Selection Criteria | Application Process |
|---|---|---|
| **Informit (General)** | Relevance to Aus/NZ/APAC region; Quality & Peer-Review; Identified subject area need; PDF format [57] | Expression of interest to Informit curation team with specified publication details and content examples [57] |
| **Informit APAIS** | Scholarly articles in social sciences/humanities published in Australia or on Australian topics [55] | Via general Informit application process; ensure content aligns with APAIS scope. |
| **Informit Health Collection** | Content relevant to nursing, general, specialist, and allied health [56] | Via general Informit application process; highlight relevance to health disciplines. |
| **Informit Humanities & Social Sciences Collection** | Unique and specialized content from Australian and international HSS publishers [56] | Via general Informit application process; emphasize HSS contributions. |

## Consideration of Other National Ranking Systems/Lists

While direct government-maintained journal lists like the former Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) list are no longer active, the Australian research landscape is still influenced by various metrics and systems.

AD Scientific Index: This index ranks individual scientists and institutions based on metrics such as H-index and citation counts derived primarily from Google Scholar profiles.65 It is not an abstracting and indexing database in the traditional sense but rather a platform for assessing scholarly impact. Inclusion in major indexes that feed into Google Scholar (such as DOAJ, PMC, and others that ensure web crawlability) will indirectly influence a journal's and its authors' visibility on the AD Scientific Index. Therefore, it is more of an outcome measure

influenced by primary indexing efforts rather than a direct indexing target itself.
Australian Research Council (ARC): The ARC does not currently maintain its own prescriptive list of approved journals for grant application purposes. However, ARC grant guidelines and evaluation processes often require applicants to demonstrate the quality and impact of their publication venues. Being indexed in internationally recognized and reputable databases such as Scopus or Web of Science serves as a strong, objective indicator of a journal's quality and standing.67 The University of Queensland Library, for instance, notes that Scopus can be used for publication metrics relevant to ARC Discovery Projects, Future Fellowships, and DECRA grants.67 This creates a powerful, albeit indirect, incentive for Australian journals to seek and achieve inclusion in these major international databases. Such indexing not only boosts their global visibility but also enhances the competitiveness of their Australian-based authors in securing prestigious ARC funding. This dual benefit should serve as a strong motivation for PACJA and ACRJ to pursue indexing in Scopus and Web of Science.
The Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List is another national ranking system, but its scope is primarily focused on business, economics, information systems, and commercial law disciplines.68 While there might be some peripheral relevance if articles touch upon areas like "Other commerce, management, tourism and services" or related Fields of Research (FoR), it is generally less directly applicable to the core domains of psychotherapy and counselling.

## 5. Strategic Recommendations for PACJA

The *Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA)* possesses several strengths that position it favorably for enhanced indexing. However, a systematic review and targeted enhancements are necessary to meet the rigorous criteria of a broader range of major indexes.

Assessment against Key Indexing Criteria:
Based on available information, PACJA's current standing includes:

- **Strengths:** A confirmed ISSN (2201-7089) [9]; publication by a recognized professional body (PACFA) [3]; an established open access model, transitioning to a CC BY 4.0 license [3]; consistent use of DOIs for its articles [7]; a reliable digital archiving solution through Portico [9]; a publicly listed editorial board that includes international members [6]; a dedicated "Journal Policies" page on its website [5]; clear copyright policies where authors retain copyright [5]; and a forward-thinking Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy.[5] The journal also references APA ethical standards in its discourse.[11]
- **Areas for Review and Enhancement:**
    - **Peer Review Policy:** While peer review is an established practice [4], the specific *process* (e.g., type of blinding, number of reviewers, detailed procedures for handling conflicts of interest, appeals) needs to be explicitly, comprehensively, and publicly documented on the journal's website. The "For

Authors" [10] and "Journal Policies" [5] pages are logical locations for this, but current information lacks this detailed articulation.

- **Comprehensive Publication Ethics Statement:** Although APA standards are mentioned [11], a more comprehensive, standalone publication ethics statement that explicitly addresses all COPE Core Practices [35] should be easily accessible. This includes detailed policies on handling allegations of misconduct, authorship and contributorship criteria, complaints and appeals processes, conflicts of interest for all parties, data sharing and reproducibility, ethical oversight (consent, vulnerable populations, etc.), and intellectual property.
- **Aims and Scope Statement:** The information currently available on the "For Authors" page regarding article types and the journal's "integrative approach" [10] should be consolidated and refined into a very clear, distinct, and prominently displayed "Aims and Scope" statement on the website. This statement is critical for indexing bodies to quickly understand the journal's focus.
- **Author Guidelines:** These guidelines should be exhaustive, covering all aspects of manuscript preparation including detailed structure requirements, the specific referencing style to be used (presumably APA, but this must be explicitly stated and detailed), formatting for figures and tables, and a clear outline of the manuscript submission process.
- **Website Completeness and Transparency:** A thorough audit of the PACJA website (pacja.org.au) should be conducted against the detailed informational requirements of target indexes, particularly DOAJ [15] and ERIH PLUS [28], to ensure all necessary policies and information are present, accurate, and easily discoverable.
- **Internationality of Authorship:** While the editorial board has international representation [6], PACJA should actively develop strategies to attract a more diverse and international base of contributing authors to further strengthen its global standing.

PACJA's existing strengths, such as its Portico archiving, established DOI usage, affiliation with PACFA, and its updated open access policy featuring a CC BY 4.0 license [3], position it well for achieving relatively quick successes with indexes like DOAJ and potentially PsycINFO. DOAJ, for example, prioritizes clear open access licensing and robust archiving [15], both of which PACJA addresses. PsycINFO values affiliation with professional psychological associations [19], which PACFA represents. The primary remaining tasks for these specific indexes appear to revolve around meticulously documenting and transparently presenting these existing good practices

on the journal's website, ensuring full compliance with the detailed informational requirements of these indexing bodies. This suggests a strategic approach of leveraging existing assets by significantly improving their external presentation and policy articulation.

**Specific, Actionable Steps for PACJA:**

- **Priority 1 (Foundational Enhancements - to be completed in the short term, e.g., 1-3 months):**
    1. **Develop and Publish Detailed Peer Review Policy:** Document the type of peer review (e.g., double-blind), number of reviewers, review criteria, process for handling conflicts of interest, and typical review timelines. Publish this clearly on the website.
    2. **Develop and Publish Comprehensive Publication Ethics Policy:** Create a detailed policy explicitly referencing adherence to COPE Core Practices, covering all key ethical areas (misconduct, authorship, complaints, COI, data, IP, etc.). Make this easily accessible.
    3. **Create a Clear "Aims and Scope" Page:** Draft a concise yet comprehensive Aims and Scope statement detailing subject focus, types of articles, and target readership.
    4. **Thoroughly Update "Author Guidelines":** Ensure guidelines are exhaustive, covering manuscript structure, referencing (specify APA 7th ed.), figure/table preparation, submission procedures, and ethical requirements for authors.
    5. **Conduct Full Website Audit:** Review the entire website against the transparency and informational requirements of DOAJ, Scopus, and Web of Science (ESCI) criteria. Ensure all policies and essential information are present and easy to find.
- **Priority 2 (Strategic Indexing Applications - to commence upon completion of Priority 1 actions):**
    1. **Target DOAJ:** Given PACJA's open access status, CC BY license, and Portico archiving, this should be a primary target once all policy documentation is impeccable and publicly available.
    2. **Target Informit (APAIS, Health, HSS collections):** Leverage Australian relevance for a high likelihood of acceptance.
    3. **Target ERIH PLUS:** Clearly articulate European relevance through editorial board composition, authorship patterns, or specific scope elements.
    4. **Target PsycINFO:** Emphasize the journal's relevance to behavioral sciences and its affiliation with PACFA. Ensure abstract quality meets APA standards.
    5. **Target Scopus & Web of Science (ESCI initially):** Pursue these after foundational elements are perfected, a consistent high-quality publication

record is maintained, and visibility begins to grow through other indexes.

**Table 4: Action Plan Checklist for PACJA**

| Action Item | Responsibility | Target Index(es) Benefitted | Timeline | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Develop Detailed Peer Review Policy | Editor, Ed. Board | All Major Indexes (Scopus, WoS, PsycINFO, PMC, DOAJ, ERIH+) | 1-3 Months | To Do |
| Develop Comprehensive Publication Ethics Policy | Editor, Ed. Board | All Major Indexes | 1-3 Months | To Do |
| Create Clear "Aims and Scope" Page | Editor | All Major Indexes | 1 Month | To Do |
| Update "Author Guidelines" Exhaustively | Editor | All Major Indexes | 1-2 Months | To Do |
| Conduct Full Website Audit & Content Update | Editor, Web Admin | All Major Indexes | 1-2 Months | To Do |
| Apply to DOAJ | Editor | DOAJ | 3-4 Months | To Do |
| Apply to Informit | Editor | Informit (APAIS, Health, HSS) | 3-4 Months | To Do |
| Apply to ERIH PLUS | Editor | ERIH PLUS | 4-6 Months | To Do |
| Apply to PsycINFO | Editor | PsycINFO | 4-6 Months | To Do |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prepare for Scopus & WoS (ESCI) Application | Editor, Ed. Board | Scopus, WoS (ESCI) | 6-12 Months | To Do |
| Strategize to Increase International Authorship | Ed. Board, Editor | Scopus, WoS, PsycINFO, ERIH PLUS | Ongoing | To Do |

## 6. Strategic Recommendations for ACRJ

The *Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ)*, as an open access, peer-reviewed publication of the Australian Counselling Association, has a solid foundation. However, to achieve broader indexing and enhance its scholarly impact, several critical areas require focused attention and development.

Assessment against Key Indexing Criteria:
Based on available information, ACRJ's current standing includes:

- **Strengths:** It is explicitly peer-reviewed [13]; operates on an open access model [13]; is the official journal of a professional body (ACA) [13]; has a listed editorial board [13]; provides "Instructions for Authors" [13]; and possesses an ISSN (1832-1135).[13]
- **Areas for Review and Enhancement (Potentially significant gaps):**
  - **DOI Implementation:** There is no mention in the available snippets of ACRJ consistently assigning Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) to its articles. This is a critical deficiency, as DOIs are fundamental for persistent linking, citation tracking, and are expected or required by most major international indexes.[19] Implementing DOIs via Crossref should be an immediate priority.
  - **Digital Archiving Policy:** The available information does not indicate that ACRJ has a long-term digital archiving solution in place (e.g., Portico, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS). This is a major requirement for indexes like DOAJ and a crucial component of responsible scholarly publishing ensuring perpetual access.[15]
  - **Comprehensive and Transparent Policies:** There is a lack of clearly stated, publicly accessible, and detailed policies covering:
    - **Peer Review Process:** Beyond stating it is "peer-reviewed" [13] and offers "supportive review" [13], the specific model (e.g., double-blind), number of reviewers, criteria, and handling of conflicts of interest are not detailed.
    - **Publication Ethics:** No explicit, comprehensive publication ethics policy (e.g., aligned with COPE Core Practices) is evident from the snippets. This

is a fundamental requirement for all reputable indexes.
        - **Open Access License:** While ACRJ is open access [13], the specific license under which its content is published (e.g., a Creative Commons license) is not clearly stated. This is essential for DOAJ.
        - **Copyright Policy:** A clear statement on copyright ownership and terms is needed.
    - **Aims and Scope Statement:** The current description on the homepage [13] provides a good starting point but needs to be developed into a formal, detailed, and distinct "Aims and Scope" statement that clearly defines the journal's remit, the types of articles it seeks, and its target audience.
    - **Website Professionalism and Completeness:** The ACRJ website (acrjournal.com.au) requires a thorough audit to ensure it meets the professional standards and informational requirements of target indexes (e.g., DOAJ's comprehensive list of required online information [15]; ERIH PLUS criteria [28]). This includes ensuring all policies are easily findable, editorial board information is complete, and the site is user-friendly and functional.
    - **Internationality:** An assessment of the current geographic diversity of contributing authors and editorial board members is needed, followed by active strategies to enhance international representation if required by target indexes.
    - **DEST Listing:** The mention of ACRJ being "listed with DEST" [13] refers to the former Department of Education, Science and Training. This designation is historical and likely holds no currency with current international or national indexing bodies. The focus must be on meeting contemporary indexing criteria.

ACRJ appears to face more substantial foundational groundwork compared to PACJA, particularly concerning the implementation of DOIs, securing a digital archiving solution, and developing comprehensive, transparent policy documentation. While its affiliation with the ACA [13] is a notable strength that can be leveraged (especially for indexes like PsycINFO which value professional society sponsorship [19]), this cannot substitute for the essential technical and policy infrastructure required by modern indexing standards. The path to comprehensive indexing for ACRJ will likely be more extensive, requiring dedicated effort to build these fundamental components.

**Specific, Actionable Steps for ACRJ:**

- **Priority 1 (Critical Foundational Developments - to be addressed urgently):**
    1. **Implement DOIs:** Register with Crossref (or a similar DOI registration agency) and begin assigning DOIs to all currently published and future articles.

2. **Secure a Long-Term Digital Archiving Solution:** Investigate and implement a recognized digital archiving service (e.g., Portico, CLOCKSS, a national library solution).
3. **Develop and Publish Comprehensive Policies:**
    - **Detailed Peer Review Policy:** Clearly document the peer review model, number of reviewers, review criteria, COI management, and timelines.
    - **Publication Ethics Policy:** Draft and publish a policy explicitly aligning with COPE Core Practices.
    - **Open Access Policy:** Define and clearly state the specific open access license used (e.g., CC BY).
    - **Copyright Policy:** Articulate the copyright terms for published articles.
4. **Create a Detailed "Aims and Scope" Page:** Formalize and expand the journal's aims, scope, article types, and target audience.
5. **Thoroughly Revise and Expand "Author Guidelines":** Ensure they are comprehensive, covering all aspects of manuscript preparation and submission.
6. **Confirm ISSN Registration:** Verify that the ISSN 1832-1135 is confirmed at issn.org and ensure it is clearly and consistently displayed on the website.
7. **Website Overhaul/Audit:** Conduct a comprehensive review of the website for professionalism, completeness of all required information (policies, Ed Board details, contacts, etc.), and user-friendliness/functionality.

- **Priority 2 (Strategic Indexing Applications - to commence once Priority 1 actions are substantially completed and embedded):**
    1. **Target DOAJ:** This will be a key early target once all critical foundational elements (especially OA license, archiving, comprehensive policies, and DOI implementation) are firmly in place.
    2. **Target Informit (APAIS, Health, HSS collections):** Leverage Australian relevance and ACA affiliation.
    3. **Target ERIH PLUS:** If European relevance can be established or enhanced through editorial board/authorship or scope.
    4. **Target PsycINFO:** Emphasize ACA affiliation and relevance to counselling psychology and behavioral sciences.
    5. **Target Scopus & Web of Science (ESCI initially):** This should be viewed as a longer-term objective, pursued after a sustained period of publishing high-quality, DOI-assigned, archived content under transparent and robust editorial policies, and after gaining traction in other indexes.

**Table 5: Action Plan Checklist for ACRJ**

| Action Item | Responsibility | Target Index(es) Benefitted | Timeline | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Implement DOIs for all Articles (via Crossref) | Editor, Publisher | All Major Indexes (esp. DOAJ, Scopus, WoS, PsycINFO) | 1-3 Months | To Do |
| Secure Long-Term Digital Archiving Solution | Editor, Publisher | DOAJ, All Major Indexes (Best Practice) | 2-4 Months | To Do |
| Develop & Publish Detailed Peer Review Policy | Editor, Ed. Board | All Major Indexes | 1-3 Months | To Do |
| Develop & Publish Comprehensive Ethics Policy | Editor, Ed. Board | All Major Indexes | 1-3 Months | To Do |
| Develop & Publish Clear OA & Copyright Policies | Editor, Publisher | DOAJ, All Major Indexes | 1-2 Months | To Do |
| Create Detailed "Aims and Scope" Page | Editor | All Major Indexes | 1 Month | To Do |
| Revise & Expand "Author Guidelines" | Editor | All Major Indexes | 1-2 Months | To Do |
| Confirm ISSN & Ensure Website Display | Editor | All Major Indexes | 1 Month | To Do |
| Conduct Full Website Audit & | Editor, Web Admin | All Major Indexes | 2-4 Months | To Do |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Overhaul | | | | |
| Apply to DOAJ (post Priority 1 completion) | Editor | DOAJ | 4-6 Months | To Do |
| Apply to Informit (post Priority 1 completion) | Editor | Informit (APAIS, Health, HSS) | 4-6 Months | To Do |
| Strategize to Increase International Profile | Ed. Board, Editor | Scopus, WoS, PsycINFO, ERIH PLUS | Ongoing | To Do |
| Prepare for ERIH PLUS, PsycINFO Apps. (post P1) | Editor | ERIH PLUS, PsycINFO | 6-9 Months | To Do |
| Long-term: Prepare for Scopus & WoS (ESCI) App. | Editor, Ed. Board | Scopus, WoS (ESCI) | 12-24 Months | To Do |

Both PACJA and ACRJ, by virtue of their Australian base and focus on counselling and psychotherapy, have a compelling case for inclusion in Informit's relevant collections.[57] Given that Informit's primary criteria revolve around regional relevance and peer review [57]—both of which the journals clearly meet [4]—and its relatively straightforward "expression of interest" application process [57], this platform represents an ideal "low-hanging fruit." Pursuing Informit indexing should be an early and concurrent activity for both journals to rapidly enhance their national visibility while they undertake the more demanding preparations required for major international indexes.

## 7. Advanced Strategies for Maximizing Exposure, Rankings, and Citations

Beyond meeting the baseline criteria for indexing, journals can employ several advanced strategies to significantly enhance their visibility, attract a wider readership, increase citation counts, and ultimately improve their research rankings. These efforts are crucial in a competitive scholarly landscape.

Search Engine Optimization (SEO) for Journal Websites and Articles:
In the digital age, ensuring that journal content is easily discoverable through search engines is paramount. Effective SEO can dramatically increase the likelihood of articles being found, read, and cited.

- **Keyword Optimization:** Strategically incorporate relevant keywords into article titles, abstracts, keyword lists, and throughout the body of the text where appropriate. Tools like Google Keyword Planner or analysis of terms used in highly cited papers within the field can help identify impactful keywords.[18] Keywords should appear early in titles and abstracts for maximum impact in search engine results pages.[39]
- **Metadata Enhancement:** Provide rich and structured metadata for each article. This includes accurate journal titles, full author details (including affiliations and ORCID iDs), comprehensive abstracts, and carefully chosen keywords. Using JATS XML for article metadata is a best practice that facilitates machine readability by indexers and search engines.[42]
- **Website Crawlability:** Ensure the journal's website is technically structured to be easily crawled by search engine bots (like Google Scholar's) and indexing services. This includes using appropriate HTML meta tags and ensuring no technical barriers prevent access to content pages.[42]
- **Image and Link Optimization:** Optimize images by using descriptive alt text and filenames that include relevant keywords. Strategic linking is also important: cite relevant, high-quality existing work to build credibility, and encourage other reputable sites and authors to link back to the journal's articles, which can improve search engine ranking and perceived authority.[39]

Enhancing Online Presence and Author Engagement:
A journal's online presence extends beyond its own website. Actively engaging with the broader scholarly community can significantly amplify reach.

- **Persistent Identifiers:** Strongly encourage or mandate the use of persistent identifiers for authors, such as ORCID iDs.[42] This helps to disambiguate authors and accurately link them to their work across different platforms, improving citation tracking and author metrics.
- **Social Media and Academic Networks:** Encourage authors and the editorial team to share published articles on relevant social media platforms (e.g., X (formerly Twitter), LinkedIn) and academic networking sites (e.g., ResearchGate, Academia.edu). This can drive traffic, increase downloads, and lead to earlier citations.[18] Tracking altmetrics can provide insights into this broader engagement.[18]
- **Website User Experience:** Ensure the journal website is mobile-friendly, loads quickly, and provides an intuitive user experience. A poor user experience can

deter readers and negatively impact search engine rankings.
- **Content Strategy:** Consider publishing review articles and thematic special issues focused on emerging or high-interest topics within psychotherapy and counselling. Review articles, in particular, tend to attract a higher number of citations as they synthesize existing knowledge and serve as key reference points for researchers.[18] Engaging early career researchers, perhaps through targeted calls for papers or workshops, can also bring fresh perspectives and build loyalty.[18]

Monitoring Impact and Adapting Strategies:
The pursuit of enhanced visibility and impact is an ongoing process that requires continuous monitoring and adaptation.

- **Track Key Metrics:** Regularly monitor available journal metrics. If indexed in Scopus, track CiteScore; if in Web of Science, track the Journal Impact Factor (JIF) and other citation indicators. Monitor download and usage statistics from the journal's hosting platform and altmetrics to gauge broader engagement.[18]
- **Analyze Citation Patterns:** Investigate which articles are receiving the most citations, from which sources, and in which geographic regions. This analysis can provide valuable insights into the type of content that resonates most with the scholarly community and can inform future editorial strategy.
- **Stay Informed on Indexing Criteria:** The selection criteria for major indexes are not static; they evolve over time. Journal editors and publishers must stay informed about any changes to these criteria and adapt their practices accordingly to maintain existing listings and qualify for new ones.[27]

Effective SEO and proactive online promotion are no longer optional extras but are fundamental to a journal's success in the current digital-first scholarly publishing ecosystem. These activities directly influence how easily potential readers and, crucially, citing authors can find a journal's articles.[18] Even the highest quality content or the most liberal open access policy will have limited impact if the articles themselves are not readily discoverable through common search tools like Google Scholar (which itself relies on website crawlability [42]). Therefore, a dedicated and ongoing approach to SEO and digital dissemination is essential for PACJA and ACRJ to fully capitalize on the value of their published research.

Furthermore, building a vibrant community around the journal by actively engaging with authors—particularly early career researchers who may be seeking publication venues and are often highly active online [18]—and by encouraging the sharing of research through various digital channels can create a self-reinforcing cycle. When authors feel supported, see their work actively promoted, and connect with a

responsive editorial team, they are more likely to submit their best work, cite the journal in their future publications, and recommend it to their peers. This "network effect" can significantly elevate a journal's profile, submission quality, and ultimately its citation impact over time, which is a critical factor for achieving and maintaining standing within the more selective tiers of major indexing services.

## 8. Conclusion: A Roadmap to Sustained Growth and Impact

The journey towards comprehensive indexing in major research databases is a significant undertaking for any scholarly journal, demanding a strategic, meticulous, and sustained commitment to quality and best practices. For the *Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia (PACJA)* and the *Australian Counselling Research Journal (ACRJ)*, achieving these listings will unlock enhanced global visibility, contribute to improved research rankings for their authors and affiliated institutions, and ultimately lead to increased citation impact, thereby solidifying their contributions to the fields of psychotherapy and counselling.

**Summary of Key Recommendations:**

For **PACJA**, the path forward involves leveraging its existing strengths—such as its open access status, Portico archiving, and DOI usage—by enhancing the transparency and comprehensiveness of its online policies and documentation. Key priorities include publishing a detailed peer review policy, a comprehensive publication ethics statement aligned with COPE, a clear Aims and Scope statement, and exhaustive author guidelines. With these foundational elements polished, PACJA is well-positioned to target DOAJ, Informit, ERIH PLUS, and PsycINFO, followed by Scopus and Web of Science (ESCI).

For **ACRJ**, more substantial foundational work is required. Immediate priorities include implementing DOIs for all articles, securing a long-term digital archiving solution, and developing and publishing comprehensive, transparent policies on peer review, publication ethics (COPE-aligned), open access licensing, and copyright. A thorough website audit and potential overhaul to ensure professionalism and completeness of information are also critical. Once these fundamental building blocks are firmly in place, ACRJ can strategically target DOAJ and Informit, followed by other relevant international indexes as its profile and adherence to standards strengthen.

Achieving and, importantly, maintaining indexed status is not a one-time project but an ongoing commitment. The landscape of scholarly publishing is dynamic, and the criteria for inclusion in reputable indexes evolve. Indexing bodies like PsycINFO, Web of Science, and Scopus conduct periodic re-evaluations of indexed journals.[2] This

means that initial inclusion is not a guarantee of permanence; journals must continuously uphold and improve their standards to retain their indexed status and to potentially progress to more selective or higher-impact tiers within these databases. This reality underscores the need for both PACJA and ACRJ to establish robust internal review processes, regularly assessing their practices against current indexing criteria and broader benchmarks of journal quality.

**Long-Term Vision for Journal Development:**

The pursuit of indexing should be viewed as an integral part of a broader, long-term vision for journal development. This vision encompasses a continuous cycle of quality improvement, proactive adaptation to evolving publishing standards, and sustained engagement with the national and international scholarly community. Success in indexing is a reflection of a journal's overall health, credibility, and its value to the research ecosystem.

The journey to comprehensive indexing and high impact is indeed a marathon, not a sprint. It requires a strategic, phased approach, beginning with the meticulous establishment of foundational quality in all aspects of journal management and publication. Gradually, through consistent effort, journals can build their reputation, expand their reach, and demonstrate their scholarly significance. The multi-stage evaluation processes employed by services like Web of Science and Scopus [1], the typical two-year publication history requirements [1], and the often-extended timeframes for evaluation [40] all attest to the long-term nature of this endeavor. Attempting to bypass these stages or aiming for the most selective indexes without first solidifying fundamental elements and building a consistent track record is unlikely to yield positive results.

For PACJA and ACRJ, this implies setting realistic, phased goals and celebrating incremental successes—such as achieving DOAJ listing, then securing inclusion in Informit, followed by ERIH PLUS or ESCI—as important milestones on the path towards broader international recognition and impact. By embracing this strategic, long-term perspective, both journals can navigate the complexities of scholarly indexing successfully and make increasingly significant contributions to the advancement of knowledge in psychotherapy and counselling.

**Works cited**

1. Scopus Journal FAQs: Helping to improve the submission & success process for Editors & Publishers, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://assets.ctfassets.net/o78em1y1w4i4/1F7TRuno8t45wSx5xRZIyb/3d75dbaa5

e06e333848508f9ef72a7f6/Scopus_FAQ-content-selection-process_2023Nov.pdf
2. Scopus-Indexed Journals: A Guide for Researchers - Editage USA, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.editage.us/blog/scopus-indexed-journals-a-guide-for-researchers/
3. Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/
4. Counselling Journals | Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology (NMIT), accessed on May 21, 2025, https://library.nmit.ac.nz/home/research-databases-and-websites/databases-and-websites-by-programme-area/social-sciences/counselling-journals
5. Journal Policies | Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/pages/440-journal-policies
6. Editorial Board | Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/editorial-board
7. Psychotherapy Practice, Education, and Training During the Coronavirus Pandemic: Members of the Editorial Board of the Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia Share Their Experiences | Published in Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/article/71231-psychotherapy-practice-education-and-training-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic-members-of-the-editorial-board-of-the-psychotherapy-and-counselling-j
8. Balancing Ethics and Opportunities: The Role of AI in Psychotherapy and Counselling, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/article/129884-balancing-ethics-and-opportunities-the-role-of-ai-in-psychotherapy-and-counselling
9. ISSN 2201-7089 (Online) | Psychotherapy and counselling journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://portal.issn.org/resource/ISSN/2201-7089
10. For Authors | Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/for-authors
11. Disrupting professional myths about “the mainstream”: Diversity, inclusivity, and bias reduction are paramount in conventional publication standards, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/article/71214-disrupting-professional-myths-about-the-mainstream-diversity-inclusivity-and-bias-reduction-are-paramount-in-conventional-publication-standards.pdf
12. Editor's note - Psychotherapy and Counselling Journal of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pacja.org.au/api/v1/articles/71213-editor-s-note.pdf
13. Australian Counselling Research Journal, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.acrjournal.com.au/
14. Author Submission Guidelines - Australian Counselling Research Journal, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.acrjournal.com.au/author-submissions
15. Guide to applying – DOAJ, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://doaj.org/apply/guide/
16. DOAJ: A Guide to Open Access Journals - Brieflands, accessed on May 21, 2025,

https://brieflands.com/posts/doaj-a-guide-to-open-access-journals
17. DOAJ Use Guidelines: Tips for Researchers - Editverse, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://editverse.com/doaj-use-guidelines-tips-for-researchers/
18. How to Increase Journal Impact: Strategies for Growing Readership and Citations, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.econtentpro.com/blog/how-to-increase-journal-impact/362
19. Journal Coverage Information for Publishers, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/publishers/journals
20. Indexing your journal in Scopus - centre Mersenne, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.centre-mersenne.org/en/indexing-your-journal-in-scopus/
21. Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria - Kobson, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://kobson.nb.rs/upload/documents/oNamaPredavanja/Serbia_Journal_Eval_Process_2021_ENG.pdf
22. Selecting a Journal for Publication: Criteria to Consider - PMC - PubMed Central, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6913840/
23. ERIH criteria | ERIH PLUS, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://kanalregister.hkdir.no/publiseringskanaler/erihplus/about/erih_criteria
24. Scopus Journal FAQs: Helping to improve the submission & success process for Editors & Publishers - ECSAC-Korea, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://ecsac-korea.kcse.org/file/Scopus_FAQ-content-selection-process_2023Nov.pdf
25. How to Get Your Journal Indexed in Scopus: A Comprehensive Guide, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.tamilmanam.in/how-to-get-your-journal-indexed-in-scopus-a-comprehensive-guide/
26. ERIH PLUS - Wikipedia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ERIH_PLUS
27. How to Get Your Journal Indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, and Beyond, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://ojs-services.com/journals-publication-indexing/how-to-get-your-journal-indexed-in-scopus-web-of-science-and-beyond/
28. Criteria for Inclusion - erih+, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://hkdirerih-prod.azurewebsites.net/informationarticles/criteria-for-inclusion
29. How to Include a Journal in PMC - PMC - PubMed Central, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/addjournal/
30. How to Include a Journal in PMC - PubMed Central, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pub/addjournal/
31. Index your journal in the Web of Science - centre Mersenne, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.centre-mersenne.org/en/index-your-journal-in-the-web-of-science/
32. Web of Science Core Collection: Web of Science Categories - Clarivate Support, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/article/Web-of-Science-Core-Collection-Web-of-Science-Categories?language=en_US

33. Web of Science Journal Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria - NAUKA, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://nauka.gov.ua/en/information/web-of-science-journal-evaluation-process-and-selection-criteria/
34. Publication in ERIH PLUS (European Reference Index for the Humanities) - Научные публикации Big Time, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://big-time.pro/en/publication-in-erih-plus/
35. Core practices | COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics - Phcog.Net, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://phcog.net/archives/core-practices.html
36. Core Practices | COPE - Committee on Publication Ethics, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://publicationethics.org/about/what-we-do/our-story/core-practices
37. Selecting a journal for publication in Scopus: criteria to be considered - Блог spubl.az, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://spubl.az/en/blog/selecting-a-journal-for-publication-in-scopus-criteria-to-be-considered
38. Journal Article Selection Criteria - American Psychological Association, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/publishers/journal-article
39. Enhance your article's visibility: a guide to SEO for journal authors - Wiley, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.wiley.com/en-us/network/publishing/research-publishing/preparing-your-article/enhance-your-articles-visibility-a-guide-to-seo-for-journal-authors
40. How do I get my journal indexed in SCOPUS? - Scholar9, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://scholar9.com/question/how-do-i-get-my-journal-indexed-in-scopus
41. Web of Science - PKP Docs - Simon Fraser University, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://docs.pkp.sfu.ca/indexing-guide/en/web-of-science
42. The Ultimate Guide to Academic Journal Indexing - ConductScience Publishing, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://publish.conductscience.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-academic-journal-indexing/
43. Why DOIs are Important and Where They are Assigned | Open Economics Guide of the ZBW, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://openeconomics.zbw.eu/en/knowledgebase/why-dois-are-important-and-where-they-are-assigned-od/
44. What is a DOI, and why is it important for academic publications? - Scholar9, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://scholar9.com/question/what-is-a-doi-and-why-is-it-important-for-academic-publications
45. The ACR Journal - Australian Counselling Research Journal, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.acrjournal.com.au/journals
46. accessed on January 1, 1970, https://www.acrjournal.com.au/author-submissions/
47. Home - Digital Preservation Services - CLOCKSS, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://clockss.org/
48. Archiving and Preservation - Edinburgh University Press, accessed on May 21, 2025,

https://www.euppublishing.com/customer-services/librarians/archiving-and-preservation
49. Web of Science - Wikipedia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_of_Science
50. CLARIVATE INDEX JOURNAL HOW TO PUBLISH PAPER SECURELY NEW, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://researchpublications.info/clarivate-index-journal-how-to-publish/
51. Fastest Way to Get Journals Indexed in Scopus - Blog - IFERP, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.iferp.in/blog/2025/02/22/fastest-way-to-get-journals-indexed-in-scopus/
52. All Journal Submissions will be through Web of Science Publisher Portal - Clarivate Support, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://support.clarivate.com/ScientificandAcademicResearch/s/article/Web-of-Science-Core-Collection-All-Journal-Submissions-will-be-through-Web-of-Science-Publisher-Portal?language=en_US
53. The Web of Science: Journal selection process - Clarivate, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://discover.clarivate.com/journalselection
54. Requirements for APA PsycInfo Abstracts - American Psychological Association, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.apa.org/pubs/databases/psycinfo/publishers/requirements
55. Informit (database) - Wikipedia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informit_(database)
56. Informit Explore | FAQ's, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://support.informit.org/knowledge-base/informit-explore-faqs
57. Partnership Expressions of Interest - Informit, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://support.informit.org/knowledge-base/partnership
58. Find journal articles - Australian Indigenous Architecture, Place-making & Design, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://unimelb.libguides.com/c.php?g=403254&p=2740658
59. Media Databases - Informit, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://search.informit.org/database
60. Informit - Databases - ECA Library & Learning Support at Education Centre of Australia, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://eca.libguides.com/c.php?g=961822&p=6985270
61. Browse databases and websites - Search | Eresources | State Library of NSW, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://eresources.sl.nsw.gov.au/subject/social-sciences
62. Beyond phenomena: Facing the reality of the social world - Informit, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://search.informit.org/doi/pdf/10.3316/informit.995118167366354?download=true
63. Beyond phenomena: Facing the reality of the social world - Informit, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.995118167366354
64. When safe is not enough: An exploration of improving guidelines on reporting

mental illness and suicide - Informit, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://search.informit.org/doi/pdf/10.3316/informit.T20240717000018901092882229?download=true
65. Australia 10,218 Scientists H-Index Social Sciences and Humanitie, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.adscientificindex.com/h-index-rankings/?tit=Social+Sciences+and+Humanities&con=&country_code=au&subject=
66. Australia 233 Scientists H-Index Social Sciences / Social Science Rankings - AD Scientific Index, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://www.adscientificindex.com/h-index-rankings/?tit_sub=Social+Sciences+%2F+Social+Science&country_code=au&tit=Social+Sciences
67. Publication metrics for the Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Project, Future Fellowship and DECRA grants: Individual journal ranking - UQ Library guides - The University of Queensland, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://guides.library.uq.edu.au/for-researchers/metrics-arc-discovery-future-fellowship-decra/journal-ranking
68. ABDC Journal Quality List - Australian Business Deans Council, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://abdc.edu.au/abdc-journal-quality-list/
69. How to increase the visibility of your research? - Guides at University of Pittsburgh, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://pitt.libguides.com/researchvisibility
70. Getting Indexed - V.O.L. Journals Guide - Research Guides, accessed on May 21, 2025, https://libguides.utk.edu/VOL_Journals/getting_indexed