

The Publishing Navigator Glossary

A tool created by Kamil Gerónimo López, PhD, MSW

www.kamilgeronimo.com

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This glossary explains every category included in the Publishing Navigator database. It is designed to help readers understand the purpose of each field, how to interpret it, and how to use the information strategically when choosing where to publish.

ID

A unique number assigned to each journal in the list to keep entries organized and easily sortable. The number does not represent rank or quality.

Journal Title

The official name of the academic journal where articles can be submitted for publication. Journals are sometimes known by abbreviations or shortened titles in the field.

Year Founded

The year the journal was first established or published. This often signals the journal's history, stability, and academic longevity; long-running journals tend to be more established, while newer ones may be more experimental or open to emerging approaches.

Field / Category

The primary academic field or category that the journal contributes to, such as adult education, comparative education, qualitative methods, community development, or participatory research. This helps authors quickly identify scope and fit.

Reputation Rating (1–5)

A general evaluation of the journal's academic influence and selectivity, where 1 indicates a more accessible venue and 5 indicates high prestige or competitiveness. This rating supports strategic decision-making based on your goals and stage as a scholar.

Mission / What They Stand For

A brief explanation of the journal's focus, values, theoretical commitments, and the type of scholarship it prioritizes. Understanding a journal's mission is essential for avoiding desk rejections (rejections made before peer review due to lack of fit).

Types of Articles Accepted

The kinds of manuscripts the journal publishes, such as empirical studies, theoretical articles, case studies, methodological contributions, or practice-oriented reflections. Matching your manuscript type to the journal's expectations significantly increases your chances of review.

Open Call for Papers (Y/N)

Indicates whether the journal accepts submissions at any time ("Yes") or only during specific windows tied to special issues, themed calls, or editorial cycles ("No").

Frequency of Calls

Shows how often the journal announces themed issues or special invitations for manuscripts. Journals with “rolling” submissions accept work year-round; journals with “themed” cycles only accept work tied to specific topics.

Submission Deadlines

Any listed due dates for special issues, themed calls, or annual cycles. Journals with rolling submissions have no deadlines, which gives authors flexibility in planning.

Formatting Requirements

Required manuscript formatting rules, including APA or Chicago style, journal templates, heading structures, reference formats, and guidelines for tables or figures. Many journals desk reject manuscripts that do not follow these requirements.

Word Count Range

The typical length range for full research articles. Some journals are flexible; others have strict limits. Knowing this early helps shape the scope of your argument and literature review.

Citation Style

The reference format required for manuscripts. Most education journals use APA; some require Chicago or journal-specific styles. Accurate citation formatting is essential to meeting submission standards.

Peer Review Model

Describes how manuscripts are evaluated:

- **Double blind:** both authors and reviewers remain anonymous
- **Single blind:** reviewers know the authors, but authors do not know reviewers
- **Editorial review:** editors evaluate the manuscript without external reviewers

Understanding this helps authors anticipate expectations and review dynamics.

Review Turnaround Time

How long the journal typically takes to complete peer review.

- “Fast” may mean 1–3 months
- “Moderate” may mean 3–6 months
- “Slow” often means 6–12 months or longer

Selectivity, prestige, and reviewer availability all influence timing.

Acceptance Rate

An indicator of competitiveness.

- “Selective” means low acceptance rates
- “Moderate” indicates mid-range acceptance patterns
- “Low” suggests higher acceptance rates

This can help authors choose journals based on their timeline, goals, and readiness.

Publication Fees / Open Access

Indicates whether the journal charges fees:

- **No fees**
- **APCs (Article Processing Charges)** for open access
- **Hybrid open access**, where authors choose whether to pay for open access

These costs influence accessibility for community scholars and emerging researchers.

Editorial Team

Information about who leads the journal — whether internationally diverse, university-based, practitioner-led, or student-edited. Editorial composition can signal epistemological orientation and review expectations.

Publisher

The publishing house responsible for the journal, such as SAGE, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, Springer, Emerald, or university presses. Publisher identity shapes submission systems, policies, and distribution.

Indexing (Scopus, ERIC, etc.)

Lists the academic databases where the journal is indexed.

- **SSCI** and **Scopus** are strong indicators of scholarly legitimacy
- **ERIC** is particularly important for education journals

Indexing affects how easily your work will be discovered, cited, and integrated into the field.

Impact Factor

Indicates how frequently articles from the journal are cited, according to major indexing services. Impact factor is one measure of influence but should not be the only indicator of quality, especially in critical, community-based, or niche scholarship.

Submission Portal Link

The direct URL where authors submit manuscripts and access author guidelines. This is your first stop when preparing a submission.

Notes

A flexible category for additional commentary, including:

- relevance to your research
- strengths and fit
- competitiveness
- considerations for timelines
- alignment with methodology or political commitments

This allows you to personalize your publishing strategy as you use the Navigator.
