Medical Archives/Medicinski Arhiv/Archives de Medicine is Finally Indexed in SCOPUS Database

Izet Masic

Medical Archives journal is one of oldest medical journals in Europe, established in the year 1947 as the journal of Society of physicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Društvo ljekara Bosne i Hercegovine). Journal is included in more than 30 indexed or citation databases. The first 10 years of printing (1947-1957) the journal edited 4 famous academicians: Vladimir Čavka, Bogdan Zimonjić, Blagovo Kovačević, and Ibro Brkić. From 1947 until now 12 Editors edited Medicinski Archiv (Vladimir Čavka, Blagovo Kovačević, Bogdan Zimonjić, Miloš Aranicki, Jakob Gaon, Midhat Prcić, Seid Huković, Milođad Tomašević, Irfan Zulić, Mirko Grujić, Izet Hozo and Izet Mašić) in which issues published authors from over 50 countries in the world (1). SCImago rank platform ranking the journal as Scopus journal from 1972 when Medline included Medicinski Arhiv as NLM Catalogue registered and the journal was included in Medline in the same year (2-4). But, in 2008 journal is deposited in PubMed Central database and title of the journal was changed to Medical Archives.

In October 2022 Exaly database published journal rank and Medical Archives categorized at place of 4792nd out of 15,471 Health Sciences journals with top 13% (IF 1.2, extended IF 1.4, H-Index 27, 265 authors, 1,136 papers, 5,477 citations, 2,002 citing journals and 5,230 citing authors - https://exaly.com/journal/32377/medicina-archiv-medical-archives-archives-de-medecine/impact-factor) (5).

A few years (2008-2013) Medical Archives was included as official journal of the Task Force Journals of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and published simultaneously papers from the ESC journals (in that time it was 54 journals (6-11)).

Several years, as Editor-in-Chief of this journal, as a person who published over 1000 papers and over 100 books and monographs, also as Editor-in-Chief of the 6 indexed journals, internationally recognized (12-50), I tried to change the title from Medicinski Archiv (Med Arh) to Medical Archives (Med Arch) with the intention to complete indexing the journals article into Scopus database and SCImago rank (12). Unfortunately professional staff of the Scopus didn’t want to do that and after a lot of letters and requests. Finally, they do that in August of the 2022.

Why the process was slowly and, better to say, unprofessional and unethical discriminated, appropriate or inappropriate persons of Scopus Evaluation Team didn’t recognized what they need to do. But, it is not the situation ONLY with Medicinski Archiv/Medical Archives. Author of this text who is still Editor of several indexed journals tried to improve the process of evaluation with the aim that simillar consequences like with Medical Archives will be prevented and changed, corrected and improved.

Recently, another journal (Materia Socio-Medica) passes the same procedure and editors of Medical Archives and Materia Socio-Medica written an article trying to explain disadvantages of the system of evaluation journals which aplicated unusual, unprofession- al and difficult process of journals quality evaluation by Scopus Evaluation Team. Just, to comment un-ethical assessment of somebody from that team, who from 2018 asking something what is included in instructions to authors who potentialy want to submit their papers to the entioned journals - journals from Bosnia and Herzegovina were rejected for inclusion in a citation database with the unusual qualifications (in the letter from Scopus Team dated in last month by mail to me) that “it is a "parochial journal" and that it "publishes everything it can get its hands on", without explaining such criteria”.

The decision of the citation database to include or not include a journal is not subject to the control of another entity, or the professional public, and there are no internationally established ethical standards that the citation database would have to apply. As a consequence of the absence of control, the already mentioned offensive assessments and arbitrary interpretation of the criteria for journal inclusion appear. Since the inclusion of a journal into the citation database is a condition for its long-term survival, the people who make decisions in the citation databases are given the power to close or revive certain
Scopus is the number one abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed journals which contains more than 80 Million items like scientific articles, conference proceedings, books, chapters, lecture notes, and books. Elsevier B.V. owns Scopus and Elsevier is solely responsible for the content selection policy of Scopus. At the end of August 2022, Scopus accepted 200 journal titles in the list of Scopus-indexed journals. The accepted journals are in the process of being added to the Scopus Index.

New Scopus Indexed Journals – August 2022

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<th>S. No</th>
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<td>Medicinski Arhiv</td>
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<td>Drustvo Izkusa SR Bosne i Hercegovine: &quot;Arhiva&quot; d.o.o</td>
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Figure 1. New SCOPUS indexed journals - August 2022
After depositing article of Masic I. et al. "Operation of Medical Journal Citation Databases Without Control. Dilemma: Are They What They Want to Be in the Eyes of Scientific Community" (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/365024358_Operation_of_Medical_Journal_Citation_Databases_Without_Control_Dilemma_Are_They_What_They_Want_to_Be_in_the_Eyes_of_Scientific_Community), published in Materia Socio-Medica journal (12), a few scientists commented author's opinion - comments and recommendations:

"I agree with authors that decision to include or not include a journal in the citation base is serious ethical issue. It has to be based on clear ethical consideration and not to be lead bay..."
This journal covers the fields/ categories related to Medicine (all). If your research field is related to Medicine (all), then visit the official website of Medicinski Arhiv and send your manuscript.

Tips for publishing in Medicinski Arhiv:

- Selection of research problem.
- Presenting a solution.
- Designing the paper.
- Make your manuscript publication worthy.
- Write an effective results section.
- Mind your references.

Acceptance Rate

Acceptance rate is the ratio of the number of articles submitted to the number of articles published. Researchers can check the acceptance rate on the journal website. Even you can Contact the editor of the journal.

Journal Review Time

Journals usually ask reviewers to provide their reviews within 3-4 weeks. However, few journals have a mechanism to enforce the deadline, which is why it can be hard to predict how long the peer review process will take.

The review time also depends upon the quality of a research paper.


Final Summary

- It is published by Drutvo ljekara SR Bosne i Hercegovine : Avicena d.o.o.
- The journal is indexed in UGC CARE, Scopus.
- The (SJR) SCImago Journal Rank is 0.315.
- The Medicinski Arhiv is a reputed research journal.

Sources:

https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/33944

Figure 2. Important Metrics of Medicinski Arhiv Journal

various interests. This is necessary to avoid monopolization of (already existing?) scientific communication and exclusion less affluent part of scientific world”. (Professor Zvone Sosic, University of Zagreb Croatia).

"An important article that speaks boldly about the chronic and important topic of database citations. I fully agree that the cause is the absence of internationally established ethical standards that the citation database would have to apply. People who make decisions in the citation database based on personal preferences really decide the fate of the journal, which makes it a dangerous phenomenon”. (Professor Nabil Naser, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina).

"Thanks for drawing attention to this serious problem, which affects not only publishers and editors but also researchers and people worldwide. The society needs access to both diverse and reliable sources of medical information. The major question is now: who should establish principles of ethical behavior of
Dear Prof. Izet Masic,

The title mentioned above has been evaluated for inclusion in **** by the Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB). The review of this title is now complete and the CSAB has advised that the title has been rejected and will not be included in **** at the present time. For your information, the reviewer comments are copied below:

"This is a parochial regional open access journal from Bosnia with a "catch all" policy of publishing anything with a remotely medical orientation.

As such, the content is of poor quality and unfocussed. On the positive side, the editors have taken the decision to publish in English, which brings the content to a wide readership and authorship.

I suggest that the Editors and Publishers reconsider their strategy towards a more focused and specialist publication.

The editors and publishers are invited to read the documents on the **** website for further suggestions and ideas as to how to develop an institutional and a regional journal, as set out in the Advice to Journal Editors and Publishers at www.****.com

A formal, readily accessible and comprehensive Publication Ethics policy statement is now a condition of acceptance to ****, and publishers and editors are directed to our advisory texts on the **** website.

The editors might wish to explore a co-hosting arrangement with one of the major international academic publishers to secure the professional, presentational and distribution skills and infrastructure of such organizations. If in the future these comments are addressed, you may decide to submit a new application at any time after the following date: May 2017. At that time, you will be required to upload a cover letter detailing how the above comments have been addressed.

Yours sincerely,
Scopus Evaluation Team

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Please note that above points are informative and should not be copied as a whole – the statement should reflect the journal's actual editorial policy.

If you wish to revise your text, then please send us confirmation of your title's recognized PEMS (including an updated URL where the statement is displayed). We will then add the URL to your evaluation record, after which we will resume the Scopus evaluation process as soon as possible.

With this information I hope to have informed you sufficiently. Should you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Regarding cited instructions sent to me by letter from SCOPUS Evaluation Team I am few time tried to explain with arguments that almost all requests are included in Instructions to authors on the main screen of the journals and correctly discarded in the tekst deposited in links which are visible on journal's websites.

“Procedure for online submission

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In conclusion: Medical Archives journal (established in 1947 and in Medline since 1972) is one of official journals of the Academy of Medical Sciences of Bosnia and Herzegovina which members are authors of the Sarajevo Declaration on Integrity and Visibility of Scholarly Journals (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335026098_Sarajevo_Declaration_on_Integrity_and_Visibility_of_Scholarly_Publications_In_Russ) (14) and Guidelines for Science Editing and Publishing (https://www.researchgate.net/publication/347996711_Guidelines_for_Editing_Biomedical_Journals_Recommended_by_Academy_of_Medical_Sciences_of_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina-AM NuBiH) (13), which have been translated into several languages and, also, considered as a rule for writing scientific articles in the field of biomedicine. And yet, these journals of Academy (Medical Archives and Materia Socio-Medica) for long time could not find their place in certain citation databases.

There are many more examples of discrimination and unethical behavior towards journals in small and poor countries, and towards small publishers.
The example of the journal Folia Medica Facultatis Medicine Universitatis Saraviensis (https://www.foliamedica.mf.unsa.ba/index.php/FM) (2), which does not exist at all, because it is registered in the SCOPUS database as if it were published in Zagreb (Croatia), is one of the proofs of this claim.

Apparently, the list is phallic in the segment that the main thing was left out, and that is to divide the number of citations for each author by the number of authors per article - only then it would be realistic, but then half of the authors would drop out of the existing Stanford bibliometric list, published in Biology Plos journal in October 2020.

There are a few other journals in Bosnia and Herzegovina accepted into *** without checking facts when and how they were established, commonly as local journals by their own faculties or universities and these journal published papers with suspicious quality of authors from mentioned owners.

My opinion and opinions of the academic and scientific persons with their comments attached in this Editorial, regarding the way and methods how evaluate journals quality during assessment of the journals, which will or not to be indexed in databases, MUST or should be taking into account the current and appropriate criteria of citation databases for the inclusion of journals described in Sarajevo Declaration and mentioned Guidelines of AMNuBiH Sarajevo (2, 13, 14).

Some questionable decisions, our proposal is to urgently establish the principles for the ethical conduct of citation databases at the global level and find ways to ensure compliance with such principles.

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REFERENCES


