



Letter to the Editor

Strengthening Libyan Medical Journals Through International and National Indexing

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Indexing services are universally recognized as a cornerstone of scholarly publishing. They determine the visibility, credibility, and impact of medical journals. As Singhal et al. note, “Indexing of a journal reflects its quality, reputation, reach, and, consequently, its impact on journal articles” [1]. Without proper indexing, even the most rigorous research may remain unheard, diminishing its visibility and limiting its impact on scientific advancement.

For Libyan medical journals, inclusion in reputable international databases such as MEDLINE, PubMed Central (PMC), Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Embase, Scopus, and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) is essential. These platforms ensure adherence to international publishing standards, including ISSN registration, DOI assignment, peer-review transparency, ethical statements, and long-term digital preservation [1]. The DOAJ, in particular, is highly relevant for Libya, as it promotes open-access visibility and democratizes access to medical knowledge globally [2].

Equally important is the Directory of Online Libyan Journals (DOLJ), which provides an annual classification of Libyan scholarly journals. The DOLJ highlights journals that meet higher editorial and scientific standards, offering a roadmap for editors to improve quality and achieve international recognition [3]. For example, the Open Veterinary Journal, published by the University of Tripoli, is indexed in Scopus, PubMed, Web of Science (ESCI), and DOAJ, serving as a model for other national journals [4]. Similarly, the Libyan Journal of Medicine, published by Taylor & Francis, is indexed in Scopus, PubMed, and Web of Science, with an Impact Factor of 1.7 [5]. Other notable outlets include the Libyan International Medical University Journal (indexed in DOAJ and published by Thieme) [6] and the AlQalam Journal of Medical and Applied Sciences, published by the University of Tripoli Alahlia, indexed in DOAJ [7].

The DOLJ classification system is a strategic tool for bringing Libyan journals into compliance with international standards, not just a local project. Journals can enhance editorial transparency, peer-review rigor, and ethical compliance by implementing the DOLJ's recommendations [8]. Libyan medical research is guaranteed both international visibility and local

credibility thanks to this dual strategy, which combines national consolidation through DOLJ with global indexing through DOAJ, Scopus, and SCIE. Nevertheless, challenges remain—ranging from sustaining rigorous editorial standards and expanding research output to overcoming infrastructural and funding limitations that can hinder long-term growth. Some journals continue to rely on questionable platforms such as Index Copernicus, which has been widely criticized for predatory practices and misleading indicators [1]. To safeguard their credibility, Libyan medical journals should avoid such tools and instead prioritize indexing services that genuinely enhance reputation and visibility, such as DOAJ, Scopus, and SCIE.

Beyond visibility, indexing is essential for institutional prestige and academic advancement. Like many other nations, Libya bases its evaluation of academics and researchers on their contributions to indexed journals. By strengthening Libyan journals with DOLJ and international databases, local academics can publish in national publications without compromising their ability to advance in their careers. This strengthens the national research identity and lessens reliance on international journals.

Another factor is regional and international collaboration. Indexed Libyan journals will be an attractive platform for researchers in Africa, the Middle East, and other regions. Indexed journals in Libya will be able to act as bridges for collaborative research, especially in areas such as public health, tropical medicine, and community research, which are very applicable in this region. In addition, indexing will promote research integrity and ethical publishing. Indexed journals in DOLJ and other international databases must be able to prove evidence of transparent peer review processes, ethical publishing, and long-term electronic preservation. This ensures that research from Libya is not only taken seriously globally but also protected from unethical publication practices. When research journals in Libya are indexed, they will be able to reach policymakers, clinicians, and global health organizations. This ensures that research in this region is able to influence national and international debates on key issues in medicine.

Conflict of interest. Nil



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