

An update on UGC - List of Journals

The UGC List of Journals is a dynamic list which is revised periodically. Initially the list contained only journals included in Scopus, Web of Science, and Indian Citation Index. The list was expanded to include recommendations from the academic community. The UGC portal was opened twice in 2017 to universities to upload their recommendations based on filtering criteria available at <https://www.ugc.ac.in/journallist/methodology.pdf>. The UGC-approved List of Journals is considered for recruitment, promotion and career advancement not only in universities and colleges but also other institutions of higher education in India. As such, it is the responsibility of UGC to curate its list of approved journals and to ensure that it contains only high-quality journals.

To this end, the Standing Committee on Notification on Journals removed many poor-quality/predatory/questionable journals from the list between 25th May 2017 and 19th September 2017. This is an ongoing process and since then the Committee has screened all the journals recommended by universities and also those listed in the ICI, which were re-evaluated and re-scored on filtering criteria defined by the Standing Committee. Based on careful scrutiny and analysis, 4,305 journals were removed from the current UGC-Approved List of Journals on 2nd May, 2018 because of poor quality/incorrect or insufficient information/false claims.

The Standing Committee reiterates that removal/non-inclusion of a journal does not necessarily indicate that it is of poor quality, but it may also be due to non-availability of information such as details of editorial board, indexing information, year of its commencement, frequency and regularity of its publication schedule, etc. It may be noted that a dedicated web site for journals is one of the primary criteria for inclusion of journals. The websites should provide full postal addresses, e-mail addresses of chief editor and editors, and at least some of these addresses ought to be verifiable official addresses. Some of the established journals recommended by universities that did not have dedicated websites, or websites that have not been updated, might have been dropped from the approved list as of now. However, they may be considered for re-inclusion once they fulfil these basic criteria and are re-recommended by universities.

The UGC's Standing Committee on Notification on Journals has also decided that the recommendation portal will be opened once every year for universities to recommend journals. However, from this year onwards, every recommendation submitted by the universities will be reviewed under the supervision of Standing Committee on Notification of Journals to ascertain that only good-quality journals, with correct publication details, are included in the UGC-approved List.

The UGC would also like to clarify that 4,305 journals which have been removed on 2nd May, 2018 were UGC-approved journals till that date and, as such, articles published/accepted in them prior to 2nd May 2018 by applicants for recruitment/promotion may be considered and given points accordingly by universities.

The academic community will appreciate that in its endeavour to curate its list of approved journals, UGC will enrich it with high-quality/peer-reviewed journals. Such a dynamic list is to the benefit of all.