

AJG 2018
ACADEMIC JOURNAL GUIDE

METHODOLOGY

March, 2018

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Sources of Journal Metrics

We are very grateful for **Clarivate Analytics** for the permission to use their JCR data, and **Elsevier** for the use of their SNIP, SJR, and IPP metrics powered by Scopus.

INTRODUCTION

The Purpose of the Academic Journal Guide

Welcome to the 2018 iteration of the Chartered ABS Academic Journal Guide (AJG). The AJG is a guide to the range, subject matter and relative quality of journals in which business and management academics publish their research. It is based upon peer review, editorial and expert judgements following from the evaluation of many hundreds of publications, and is informed by statistical information relating to citation.

Our motivation is to provide guidance to scholars working across the diverse fields that constitute Business and Management. The AJG is intended to give both emerging and established scholars greater clarity as to which journals to aim for, and where the best work in their field tends to be clustered.

Whilst recognising that exceptional scholarly work may be found in many places, and that not all articles in top journals are of equal standing, it is a generally held view that good work is more likely to be found in some journals than others. We understand that any guide that seeks to differentiate between journals will naturally be contentious. Some of this will reflect the natural tensions in academia between shared scholarly identity, exchange and debate, and the individual pursuit of very specialised knowledge that, when disseminated, is likely to be only accessible to a very small audience. It will also reflect the tensions between efforts to commodify academic labour time, and the acclaim exceptional bodies of work receive across the scholarly community. We accept that such work tends to be clustered in particular locales and journals, in a process that may reflect both the availability of resources, and accumulated collective human capital. Better journals can be more selective, find it easier to attract top reviewers, have the resources to manage papers efficiently, and, because they are more widely read and cited, will attract some of the most ambitious authors. Identifying such locales is a difficult and fraught process, but we remain convinced that it is better that this is done through the involvement of scholarly experts than without.

The Chartered ABS AJG is distinctive in that, unlike other journal ratings, it is not based purely on some weighted average of journal metrics, or simply ranks journals on the basis of inclusion or not. The AJG reflects the outcomes of consultation carried out by the Scientific Committee of subject experts with expert peers and scholarly associations as to the relative standing of journals in each subject area. As a consequence, there is no mechanistic metrics-based formula that will capture the published ratings.

On occasion, the ratings of some journals, when based purely on such metrics, do not reflect the views of the relevant academic community. Our purpose therefore was to produce a guide that takes into consideration this subjective input.

The AJG is not intended to be a fully comprehensive one, given, *inter alia*, the problems of demarcating what is either business and management research and/or relevant to it, and what is not. Inclusion in the AJG is wholly at the discretion of the Editors and the Scientific Committee, and no undertakings have been made that all journals that may desire inclusion will have been included. Non-inclusion in the AJG should not necessarily be taken as a judgment of journal quality, but may reflect a wide range of factors, ranging from the aims and scope of the journal that lie outside the scope of business and management studies to, quite simply, the Scientific Committee and those they consulted, not encountering sufficient evidence on which to formulate an opinion.

We have made an effort to take to heart of feedback we received on the 2015 edition of the AJG. The 2018 AJG builds on previous editions of the AJG, and we owe a debt of gratitude to the Editors and Scholarly Experts involved in the former.

THE AIMS OF THE 2018 AJG

The 2018 edition is an interim update. The consultation and assessment remit of the 2018 AJG represents a transition to the full review of the 2021 AJG, where these arrangements will be rolled-out comprehensively across all journals. Specifically, the aims were:

- i)** To strengthen the consultation process and documented assessment with review forms. The consultation involved a consistent, transparent, verifiable and robust process with learned societies and additional consultation with peer communities and stakeholders. We have changed the relationship with learned societies for the AJG, meaning that Subject Experts on the AJG Scientific Committee no longer act as representatives of their learned societies, and even if they have a relationship with learned societies they are to act independently of their learned societies. Consultation with learned societies was instilled as a formal part of the process. There are three reasons behind this decision. The first is that some learned societies enthusiastically engaged with the list, and others did not. We did not want to place scholars falling into the latter communities in a position that might prejudice them. The second is that learned societies vary greatly in their scale and scope, and a purely learned society driven list might raise new challenges in assigning weightings to constituencies of variable sizes. The third is that many learned societies publish their own journals, and this may open conflict of interest issues.
- ii)** To reflect the emergence of a large number of new journals that meet good standards for scholarly rigour across the subject areas covered by the AJG, and bring into the fold a number of established existing journals that primarily deal with, or have a strong relevance to, business and management, about which we were in a position to formulate an opinion.
- iii)** To revisit the Journal of Distinction definition while ensuring consistency for journals ranking at the top of the list. The reason for revisiting the Journal of Distinction definition is that for the AJG the decision should therefore no longer rely – at least not in a purely mechanistic way – on lists of elite journals compiled by third parties. It should be added that, while this AJG has attempted to practice transparency and consultation, this cannot be guaranteed for some of the third-party lists.
- iv)** To review a small number of journals that were particularly difficult to classify in the previous edition.
- v)** To invite publishers and editors of journals included in AJG 2015 to submit evidence to be considered for regrading.
- vi)** To transfer, where appropriate, journals across subject areas and to redefine a subject area to include gender and diversity journals.

THE PROCESS

The methodology underpinning the AJG consists of evaluations of journals not based solely on metrics but reflects Subject Experts' views. The approach followed in 2015 built on the previous AJG, published in 2010. We endeavoured to engage more widely with expert peers in producing the 2015 AJG. The 2018 AJG builds on the work of the 2015 AJG through an enlarged and more diverse Scientific Committee and enhanced consultation process.

In detail, the four methodological components are as follows.

First, an open call was issued for applications for journals to be added to those already included in the AJG. Following feedback received for the 2015 AJG, the process was made more transparent, including the creation of a form that journal editors/publishers had to complete.

Second, the Chief Methodologists, using methods detailed below, analysed the data collected on: (i) The Web of Knowledge (WoK) Journal Citation Report (JCR); (ii) the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR); (iii) the Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP); and (iv) the Impact Per Publication (IPP).

Third, evaluations were conducted by Subject Experts. To ensure a consistent and transparent approach to review and assessment, a Journal Review Form was developed and completed by the Subject Experts for the relevant journals within the remit of the 2018 AJG. The information required included:

- The metrics (as provided by the methodologists)
- Summary information of the consultation process and results
- Summary assessment and recommendation based on above information, including Subject Experts' judgement.

The Subject Experts were asked to consult with learned societies, professional associations and/or leading academics in their area, to identify which journals should be included in the AJG. Where applicable, the consultations entailed:

- Subject Area worldwide, regional (e.g. European) and UK based learned societies/scholarly associations
- Relevant Special Interest Groups (SIGs) of General Management worldwide, regional and UK based learned societies
- Additional consultations with eminent scholars in the field, the wider peer communities and other stakeholders

The process of consultation was deliberately wide ranging in order to reduce the issues of bias owing to an over-reliance on a single set of voices. Following this process, the Chief Methodologists, the Chair of the Scientific Committee and the Editors met with the Scientific Committee in London on September 14th, 2017. This allowed the Committee as a whole to review the proposed ratings of the journals under consideration in their entirety.

Fourth, the Editors then moderated the process of compiling the final proposed ratings, informed by further correspondence and consultation with Scientific Committee members, and a further round of evaluation of the metrics. Also, further information was requested to support the proposed rating of particular journals where these were significantly different than implied by metrics. Evaluations were further peer reviewed by the Scientific Committee to provide additional quality control.

Please see Appendix 1 for more detail on the process for assessing and rating new journals and Journals of Distinction.

THE FOUR IMPACT FACTORS RELATING TO CITATION INFORMATION

With regard to the citation information within the second methodological component, it is not the intention of this document to provide a detailed review of the methodologies underlying the four impact factors used. Nevertheless, in what follows we provide a brief description of the four impact factors, including their advantages and drawbacks.

The Web of Knowledge JCR was the impact factor underlying the 2010 version of the AJG. In addition to the JCR, the 2015 AJG used the SJR and the SNIP. The 2018 revision of the AJG also uses a fourth impact factor - the IPP.

The IPP (Impact Per Publication) is the average number of citations in a particular year (e.g. 2015) for papers published in the journal during the previous three years (e.g. 2012, 2013 and 2014). Essentially, this is the numerator of the SNIP.

An immediate advantage of using all four impact factors other than just the JCR is that the SJR, the SNIP and the IPP are available for a much larger number of journals whereas the JCR is more selective. The reader should refer to González-Pereira et al. (2010) for more information on the SJR, and Moed (2010) for more information about the SNIP and how it compares to the SJR. The main advantages and disadvantages of the four impact factors are as follows (see Colledge et al. 2010 for a much more detailed comparison).

The JCR is the most widely used impact factor. Its main disadvantage is that it does not adjust for differences in the number of citations across subject areas. In particular, it tends to generate much lower values for journals in social sciences.

The SJR's main advantages are that it adjusts for differences in the number of citations across subject areas and also adjusts for the prestige of a journal. However, the fact that it adjusts for prestige also creates a drawback as sources that are cited in more prestigious journals in turn are given more prestige. This may result in self-perpetuating lists of so called prestige journals.

The SNIP's (the IPP is the SNIP's numerator) main advantage is that it normalises citations across subject areas and that it does so without relying on classifications of subject areas that in turn would create limitations.¹ However, as the SNIP does not adjust for the percentage of reviews published in a journal it tends to have higher values for journals publishing reviews. It is also more prone to editorial "game playing" via journal self-citations.

Bearing in mind that all four impact factors have advantages as well as drawbacks – i.e., neither impact factor is perfect – a strong case can be made for the need to consult all four impact factors (wherever available) when assessing the quality of a journal. This is the approach adopted for the AJG. The impact factors were standardised across each subject area in a similar way to the 2010 and 2015 editions of the AJG.

¹ Effectively, its subject areas are 'tailor-made' (Moed 2010: 274) which is an advantage when dealing with cross- and multi-disciplinary journals.

The 2010 AJG used the 2008 two-year JCR (which is the number of 2008 citations of papers published in a given journal during 2006-7) and the five-year mean citation impact factor (which is the five-year mean impact factor for 2004-8). The 2018 AJG uses the mean JCR impact factor based on the average of the five-year impact factors for the years 2011 to 2015.² This average is then standardised by subtracting the average for the subject area and dividing this difference by the standard deviation:

$$\text{Standardised Impact Factor} = \frac{\text{Journal Impact Factor} - \text{Mean Impact Factor for Subject Area}}{\text{Standard Deviation of Impact Factor for Subject Area}}$$

Similarly, the 2010 AJG used standardised JCRs. The equivalent standardised impact factors are also calculated for the SJR, the SNIP and the IPP. It should be noted, however, that the standardised mean JCR, SNIP and IPP are based on the three-year impact factors rather than the five-year impact factors³ as the latter are not available.

The reason why the AJG focuses on the five-year JCR (and the three-year SJR, SNIP and IPP) rather than the two-year JCR is that the impact factors can be highly volatile across years.

It should be noted that there can be considerable variability between and across impact factors. Hence, these should not be used mechanically and uniquely as a means of distribution. Crucially, this variability underlines the importance of adopting a four-step methodology. More specifically, the SJR tends to be more volatile (with a higher standard deviation) across journals than the JCR and SNIP (IPP), but this depends on the subject area (e.g., this pattern is more pronounced for Finance than Accounting). The Subject Experts are also provided with the other metrics and data items, such as the percentage of articles not cited and the percentage of reviews per journal, to help them rate the journals in their subject area. The Subject Experts are asked to rate the journals from 4 to 1. A further distinction (Journal of Distinction) is made in respect of a small number of journals amongst those with a rating of 4. This carries over the range of ratings from the old AJG.

² The five-year JCR impact factor for 2015 states the 2015 citations to a journal of papers it published during the five previous years, i.e. 2010-2014.

³ For example, the 2011 SNIP states the citations to a journal of papers it published in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

RATING DEFINITIONS

In Table 1, the definitions of the journal ratings are set out. This draws on the previous iterations of the AJG. The reader should note that, as afore-mentioned, the definition of the Journal of Distinction rating has been amended for the 2018 revision of the AJG.

Table 1: Definitions of journal ratings

Rating	Meaning of Quality Rating
4*	Journals of Distinction. Within the business and management field, including economics, there are a small number of grade 4 journals that are recognised world-wide as exemplars of excellence. As the world leading journals in the field, they would be ranked among the highest in terms of impact factor. The initial paper selection and review process would be rigorous and demanding. Accepted papers would typically not only bring to bear large scale data and/or rigour in theory, but also be extremely finely crafted and provide major advances to their field.
4	All journals rated 4, whether included in the Journal of Distinction category or not publish the most original and best-executed research. As top journals in their field, these journals typically have high submission and low acceptance rates. Papers are heavily refereed. These top journals generally have among the highest citation impact factors within their field.
3	3 rated journals publish original and well executed research papers and are highly regarded. These journals typically have good submission rates and are very selective in what they publish. Papers are heavily refereed. These highly regarded journals generally have good to excellent journal metrics relative to others in their field, although at present not all journals in this category carry a citation impact factor.
2	Journals in this category publish original research of an acceptable standard. For these well regarded journals in their field, papers are fully refereed according to accepted standards and conventions. Citation impact factors are somewhat more modest in certain cases. Many excellent practitioner-oriented articles are published in 2-rated journals.
1	These journals, in general, publish research of a recognised, but more modest standard in their field. A 1 rating is a useful indicator in that it indicates the journal meets normal scholarly standards, including a general expectation of peer review. Papers are in many instances refereed relatively lightly according to accepted conventions. Few journals in this category carry a citation impact factor.

Why is that Journal Awarded that Rating?

Readers/users are not likely to agree with the rating of every journal. The Editors and the Scientific Committee have spoken to many individual scholars and scholarly associations and there is a remarkable general consensus concerning most journals, albeit with a relatively small number of difficult or contentious cases. One or two ratings may still appear unusual to readers/users, but it is worth considering that the Scientific Committee includes many experts who are party to a wide range of information, that not all may be similarly aware of. More broadly speaking, we have simply awarded journal ratings, and any conclusions as to the worth of the journal the reader/user reaches are her/his own. Reviewing the AJG, a critical reader/user may conclude that it is only the 4 rated journals (or even the JOD category) that are worth considering for his/her work; others may feel that a 2 rating is what matters, as it sets these journals apart from those that are rated 1. Still others may find that a 1 rating is a useful indicator in that it indicates the journal meets normal scholarly standards, including a general expectation of peer review.

It is important to note that the average number of articles carried by a journal within a particular issue will affect how much work is published in 3 or 4 rated outlets in a particular field. In terms of categorising research in a particular national context, the proportion of work by local scholars typically carried by that journal is an important considering factor; many journals are dominated by contributors from one nationality, and not another. A note of caution is also urged in looking at the proportion of 3 and 4 rated journals in a particular field; again, the proportion of 3s and 4s will to a large extent be a product of the number of 1 rated journals included. In very large areas, there is likely to be a large number of journals with low ratings. Hence, readers of the AJG are cautioned against simply counting the number of 3 and 4 rated journals in a particular field, and comparing the result with other fields. Any conclusions that do not take these issues into account might be misleading.

OUTCOMES

Following the review, the main change to the 2018 AJG is the addition of new journals. The list comprises 1582 journals, up from 1402 journals in the 2015 AJG, i.e. a 13% increase in journals (see Table 2). Those journals that applied for inclusion were initially reviewed by the Editors and Methodologists. After a limited number of journals were filtered out on the specific grounds of scope, lack of suitable basic information available, and relevance, they were referred to the relevant subject experts, along with, where applicable, supporting metrics. Again, they were reviewed for relevance to business and management studies, the degree of information available and peer knowledge of the journal, and quality in line with the methodology.

Almost all new journals typically entered the list with a 1 or 2 rating, reflecting their emerging or focused status. Only in very exceptional cases did journals enter the list with a 3 rating. Finally, the only journal that entered with a rating of 4 was an omission from previous iterations of the list. That journal was *Academy of Management Annals*, which is a clear top journal in its field (its previous non-inclusion reflected that some classified it as a book series; its publisher, Routledge continues to do so in some of its materials, but it has an ISSN number).

Research Policy and the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, while not new additions to the AJG, were upgraded from a 4 rating to JoD status following overwhelming support to do so from learned societies in the field as well as the Scientific Committee. The Psychology and General Management subject area received its first Journal of Distinction, with Psychological Science being upgraded from a 4 rating to JoD status. Similarly, the Organisational Psychology subject area was granted its first journal with JoD status, the *Journal of Applied Psychology*. For both subject areas, a large number of eminent individuals had been consulted about the proposed new Journal of Distinction and all had supported, on the basis that it was the best journal in the subject, with a high impact score.

With regards those journals already featured in AJG 2015 that submitted cases for review, the Editors and methodology team reviewed the evidence submitted. A key distinction was made between an overwhelming case for regrading, and general proof of journal quality and incremental progress. One journal was subsequently regraded as 4. Apart from these highlights, there was no general regrading in this round.

A number of journals were also transferred across subject areas. For example, *Public Money and Management* was transferred from the Accounting subject area back to the Public Sector subject area, its home for previous iterations of the list. *Gender, Work and Organization* moved from HRM subject area to the General Management, Ethics, Gender and Social Responsibility subject area.

The fields of Gender and Diversity have been amalgamated within General Management and Ethics/CSR. This brings the main gender and diversity journals for business and management scholars together in one place in the AJG. This confirms it as an area of importance in business and management studies, and assists those who might be less familiar with gender and diversity journals in finding them.

Table 2: Data on Subject Areas

		Distribution of Journals across Ratings				
		4	3	2	1	Total
ACCOUNTING	AJG 2018	6	21	34	27	88
	AJG 2015	6	21	30	23	80
BUS HIST	AJG 2018	2	5	13	8	28
	AJG 2015	2	5	12	7	26
ECONOMICS	AJG 2018	23	67	122	124	336
	AJG 2015	23	68	120	108	319
ENTREPRENEURSHIP	AJG 2018	3	5	9	13	30
	AJG 2015	3	5	5	7	20
FINANCE	AJG 2018	8	29	40	35	112
	AJG 2015	8	29	38	30	105
GENERAL MAN	AJG 2018	8	12	28	36	84
	AJG 2015	7	10	12	15	44
HRM	AJG 2018	5	9	22	18	54
	AJG 2015	5	10	17	16	48
IB & AREA	AJG 2018	2	7	18	28	55
	AJG 2015	2	7	14	17	40
INFO MAN	AJG 2018	4	17	34	39	94
	AJG 2015	4	17	31	27	79
INNOVATION	AJG 2018	2	2	14	15	33
	AJG 2015	2	2	14	11	29
MDEV & EDU	AJG 2018	1	3	17	26	47
	AJG 2015	1	3	16	23	43
MARKETING	AJG 2018	8	12	21	29	70
	AJG 2015	8	12	21	25	66
OPS & TECH	AJG 2018	3	9	11	40	63
	AJG 2015	3	9	11	36	59
OR & MANSCI	AJG 2018	5	22	17	22	66
	AJG 2015	5	22	16	22	65
ORG STUDIES	AJG 2018	5	4	14	9	32
	AJG 2015	5	4	13	7	29
PSYCHOLOGY (OB)	AJG 2018	7	13	20	29	69
	AJG 2015	7	13	19	30	69
PSYCHOLOGY (GEN)	AJG 2018	9	12	11	24	56
	AJG 2015	8	13	11	24	56
PUBLIC SECTOR	AJG 2018	3	11	14	13	41
	AJG 2015	3	10	11	9	33
REGIONAL STUDIES	AJG 2018	2	12	10	5	29
	AJG 2015	2	12	8	2	24
SECTOR STUDIES	AJG 2018	5	10	39	55	109
	AJG 2015	5	10	34	44	93
SOCIAL SCIENCES	AJG 2018	9	27	26	6	68
	AJG 2015	9	27	23	3	62
STRATEGY	AJG 2018	1	3	5	9	18
	AJG 2015	1	3	5	4	13
ALL SUBJECT AREAS	AJG 2018	121	312	539	610	1582
	AJG 2015	119	313	481	490	1402

In this round of the review we have taken on board the findings of an independent survey of business academics (Walker et. al, 2015). Specifically, we have expanded the size and composition of the Scientific Committee as well as the diversity of subjects examined. Specifically, the number of subject experts on the Scientific Committee has expanded by 14 to 47 and includes two dedicated experts in gender, and incorporates a wider range of international expertise. The proportion of women on the committee has also risen from below 10% of the committee to more than 25%. Subject experts are identified by the Editors and Methodologists working as a team, with appointments approved by the AJG Management Committee. Members are selected on the basis of their standing in the scholarly community and their experiences of getting published in differing areas of management. The process was broadly similar to that through which top journals appoint eminent scholars to their boards.

As well as expanding the scope and deepening the extent of expertise of the Subject Expert group, we have further codified the process of evaluation based on clear consultation with the wider academic community through subject experts. Subject experts have utilised their subject specific knowledge to examine a broad array of indicators at the journal level by reviewing the journal content, editorial composition and other factors. We consider that the examination of a wide array of journal indicators will lead to a fairer evaluation framework, in which values such as diversity, transparency and accuracy are valued as well as scholarly impact.

We are conscious that in some instances journals engage in questionable behaviours (Martin, 2016) and some are predatory by nature. The blend of qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods underlying the list's construction means that it is not reliant entirely on metrics that can be 'gamed'. Having experts close to the 'coal face' of each field we are well placed to be able to highlight areas where there are such issues. Although there is much debate around what constitutes a predatory journal, we have grave concerns about journals that do not follow normal scholarly criteria of peer review, and link publication to payment of significant publication or related fees; we do not list such journals in the AJG. At the same time, we would stress that non-inclusion in the AJG does not necessarily denote predatory status.

CONCLUSION

We hope that the AJG will – as was the case with the 2015 iteration – stimulate further dialogue with the peer community at large. No journal rating guide is ever definitive and should not be used in isolation when assessing journal quality. The supposed objectivity and superiority of purely metrics-based ratings is perhaps an illusion. The AJG is based – also – on the conviction that the expertise and experience of successful researchers provides rich grounds for including scholarly judgement in the rating of academic journals.

Our intention is to update the AJG every three years with a major review to be conducted for the 2021 edition where we will also be looking at how to encompass relevant interdisciplinary journals. We intend to continue the progress made on the composition of the Scientific Committee to increase the balance of female academics and to widen representation from international scholars.

We hope that the process will, over time, become even more representative and inclusive, taking account of the feedback across the community of business and management scholarship, whilst retaining the principle of differentiation in research outputs and evading a tragedy of the commons.

APPENDIX 1:

Process of rating journals that are new to AJG 2018

After deletion of so-called 'predatory' journals, Subject Experts assessed the journals as to their scope for inclusion and whether in cases of 'young' journals there was sufficient information/knowledge on a journal to be assessed for the 2018 AJG. Thereafter a two-pronged approach was applied. A shortened review process applied to journals where Subject Experts proposed a journal rating less than 3, with journals proposed for a rating of 3 having undergone a full review process. The review processes were as follows:

New journals with proposed rating of less than 3

Having consideration of the metrics (if available) and other relevant information that may be available, such as editorial set-up, review process, journal content, etc., Subject Experts propose a 0 (zero) rating (i.e. where a journal falls short of the 1 rated criteria under the definition of the AJG, and non-inclusion in the 2018 AJG), a 1 rating or a 2 rating.



Editors, Methodologists and Chair of Scientific Committee: review



Put forward to Scientific Committee with view of agreed recommended journal grade



Editors, Methodologists and Chair of Scientific Committee: review and put forward recommendation to AJG Management Committee

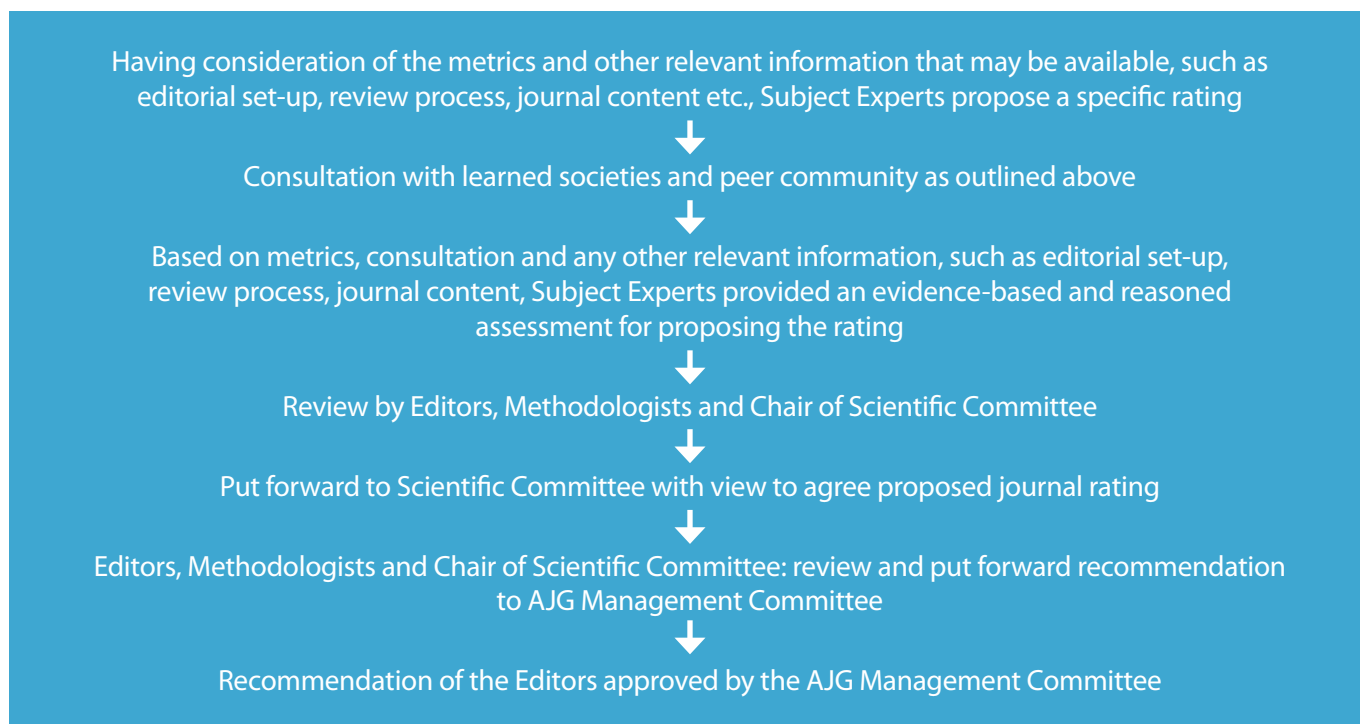


Recommendation of the Editors approved by the AJG Management Committee

(Note: Throughout the process the Editors engaged in consultation and feedback with Subject Experts and sought further information and clarification where warranted).

New journals with proposed rating of 3

As per modus operandi of the 2015 edition, we closely scrutinise new journals entering the AJG. As most are still establishing their reputation and/or are relatively peripheral to the field of business and management studies, it is likely that they will enter the Guide at no higher a rating than 3, which will then be reviewed in the next full review of the AJG in 2021.

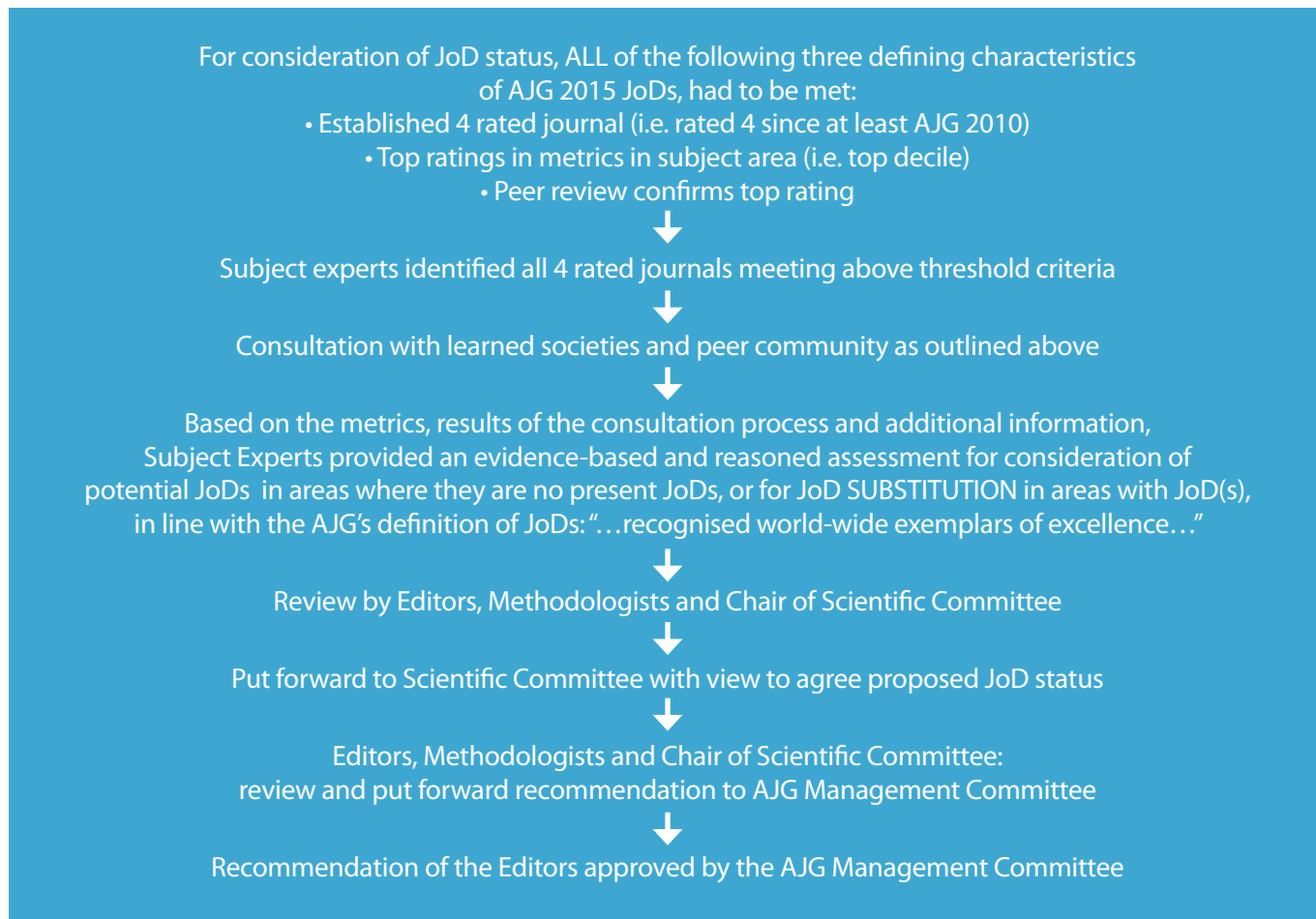


(Note: Throughout the process the Editors engaged in consultation and feedback with Subject Experts and sought further information and clarification where warranted).

Process of reviewing Journals of Distinction (JoDs)

Within the remit of the 2018 AJG, Subject Experts revisited the 2015 edition's JoDs in their Subject Area to review if this status is still warranted in the 2018 AJG in terms of metrics, peer esteem, etc., including propositions of a limited amount of substitution or deflationary adjustments if the reasons were sufficiently robust. Furthermore, in Subject Areas without a JoD in the 2015 edition, we countenanced a single JoD proposition by the relevant Subject Experts if the reasons were sufficiently robust and if, according to the AJG's JoD definition, the journal is a "recognised world-wide exemplar of excellence".

Process and criteria for proposition of JoD in Subject Areas without JoDs and/or JoD substitution in Subject Areas with JoD(s)



(Note: Throughout the process the Editors engaged in consultation and feedback with Subject Experts and sought further information and clarification where warranted).

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