

## MDPI – Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute

### Information regarding the publisher

MDPI is one of the first publishers to publish open access. It is based in Basel, Switzerland. All publications in the current 331 peer-reviewed journals are published under a CC By license. MDPI is a member of COPE - a forum for research ethics, publication ethics and good practice guidelines, among others. Siehe auch : <https://www.mdpi.com/>

### Controversie

The publisher was assessed as unserious in February 2014 (Jeffrey Beall, critic of the "uncontrolled growth" in open access). This assessment was revised in November 2015 after objections came from various sides to the irresponsible criticism, which was not substantiated with facts. An investigation by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA, <https://oaspa.org/>) finds their organization's standards met by MDPI.

### Information from the Helmholtz Working Group *Bibliotheks- und Informationsmanagement* (20./21.4.2021)

The assessment of MDPI's publishing practices in the working group is divided. Disadvantages are rated as advantages by other centers.

#### Disadvantages:

- Aggressive promotion of publication in MDPI journals in some cases.
- Reference to other scientific institutions that have also published in MDPI to "encourage" publication.
- Call for Special Issues
- Very fast turnaround on manuscript submissions

#### Advantages:

- Possibility to publish Special Issues
- Very fast processing of manuscript submission
- Rewards reviewers when they complete reviews in a short period of time
- Very good, detailed reviews in some cases

### Situation in the UFZ

At the UFZ, the (not comprehensive) opinion on MDPI is also divided. In order to give every scientist some guidance for evaluation, some facts about MDPI are given here.

The number of UFZ publications in MDPI journals is increasing:

<i>Publicationyear</i>	<i>Number of publications</i>
2020	98
2019	64
2018	50
2017	17
2016	15

In the current year (as of 26.4.2021), 30 publications have already appeared in MDPI journals.

It should be critically noted that the increasing number of publications at MDPI could also be due to the fact that publication fees are centrally funded and do not have to be borne by departmental budgets. The questioning of the reasons for a publication can only lie with each scientist him/herself.

From the current 318 MDPI publications, 275 have been published in journals with an impact factor (IF ranging from 0.942 to 4.717 [one publication in *Cancer* with IF=6.126]).

It should be critically noted here that the impact factor generally does not provide a basis for the evaluation of scientific management. However, this indicator is regularly queried in internal and external reporting and is therefore listed here.

MDPI journals are listed in the DOAJ (independent) Directory of Open Access Journals (<https://doaj.org/about/>).

The standards of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA, <https://oaspa.org/>) are met by MDPI.

The fees for open access publications in MDPI journals are covered by the central budget of the UFZ library. Prior to any new application for a central fund to support OA fees, the evidence base regarding MDPI will be reassessed.

Ilka Rudolf, 27.4.2021