

MDPI – Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute

General information about the publisher

MDPI is one of the first publishers to publish open access. It is based in Basel, Switzerland. All publications in the currently 433 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.

See also : <https://www.mdpi.com/>

Controversy

In February 2014, the publisher was deemed to be dubious (Jeffrey Beall, critic of the "uncontrolled growth" of open access). This assessment was revised in November 2015 after objections to the irresponsible and unfounded criticism came from various quarters. An investigation by the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA, <https://oaspa.org/>) found that MDPI complied with the standards of its organization.

Information from the Helmholtz Working Group on Library and Information Management (20./21.4.2021)

The assessment of MDPI's publishing practices in the working group is divided. Disadvantages are seen 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
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Situation at the UFZ

At the UFZ, the (not comprehensive) opinion on MDPI is also divided. In order to help every scientist to make an assessment, some facts about MDPI are given here.

The number of UFZ publications in MDPI journals:

<i>Year of publication</i>	<i>Total share of MDPI-UFZ journal articles</i>	<i>Total number of UFZ journal articles</i>
2020	97 → 10%	968
2021	101 → 9%	1071
2022	107 → 10%	1096
2023	79 → 8%	1027

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

Of the current total of 321 MDPI publications, 275 were published in journals with an impact factor (IF ranging from 0.942 to 4.717 [one publication in Cancer with IF=6.126]).

A critical point to note here is that the impact factor does not generally provide a basis for evaluating scientific management. However, this indicator is regularly queried in internal and external reporting and is therefore listed here.

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

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

The fees for Open Access publications in MDPI journals are covered by the central budget of the UFZ library. Before each new application for a central fund to support OA fees, the facts regarding MDPI are reassessed.

Ilka Rudolf, 10.06.2024