



Journal Selection for MEDLINE® Indexing at NLM

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What's the Difference Between MEDLINE[®] and PubMed[®]?

MEDLINE is the largest component of PubMed (<http://pubmed.gov/>), the freely accessible online database of biomedical journal citations and abstracts created by the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM[®]). Approximately 5,400 journals published in the United States and more than 80 other countries have been selected and are currently indexed for MEDLINE.



How do I get a print journal title reviewed?

- Any editor or publisher who would like to request a journal review should use the "MEDLINE Review Application Form" at <http://wwwcf.nlm.nih.gov/lstrc/lstrcform/med/index.html> (requires registration)
- *If the journal title is published three or more times a year, the LSTRC needs four issues for the review; twice a year or irregularly, three issues; once a year, two issues. Only published issues (i.e., not "proofs", unbound issues, or photocopies) are accepted for the review process.
- It would be especially helpful if, following the receipt of the required number of recent issues, a complementary subscription was received up until the time of the scheduled review.



How do I get an electronic journal reviewed?

- The same review process used for print journals also applies to electronic journals. Once an electronic journal has been accessible for at least six months, an editor or publisher may request that the journal be reviewed for possible indexing if at least 20 articles have been published and made available online.
- You must also be able to submit the bibliographic citation data electronically in XML format. See [XML Help for PubMed Data Providers](#) for more information.



MEDLINE Policy on Indexing Electronic Journals

Once an electronic journal has been selected for MEDLINE indexing (see [MEDLINE Journal Selection fact sheet](#)), it must meet three other conditions in order to be included in MEDLINE. It must:

1. Provide NLM with XML-tagged data of its bibliographic citations.
2. Provide robust current access to all of its content.
3. Have an acceptable arrangement for permanent preservation of, and access to, the content.



Preferred arrangement for access and preservation

The preferred means for a journal to satisfy conditions 2 and 3 is to deposit all its content in PMC under a [full participation agreement](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/pubinfo/#pmcagree) (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/pub/pubinfo/#pmcagree>), which includes permission to redistribute the content to PMC International (PMCI) centers. Participation in PMC involves submission of full-text XML for all content at time of publication.



Optional arrangement for access and preservation

- If a journal chooses not to participate in PMC, it may satisfy conditions 2 and 3 above by doing ALL of the following:
- Provide NLM with immediate access to its content at a publisher or third-party site under a license that allows *efficient* support of NLM operations, onsite services, and interlibrary loan (without delivery method or geographic restrictions).
- Submit a PDF/A copy of each article to NLM along with the XML-tagged citation data. NLM will use these PDFs only for internal operations such as journal indexing.
- Promptly deposit tagged, full-text content in a *certified*¹ third-party repository able to provide robust access to NLM and NIH if there is a trigger event (e.g., publisher ceases operations and title is not available from another source, catastrophic failure of publisher's delivery system).



How often does LSTRC meet? How many titles are examined?

The LSTRC meets three times a year. Meetings are held in the fall, winter and late spring. About 190 titles, including new titles and re-reviews, are examined at each meeting.



Will the journal be reviewed by a subject or language specialist?

The LSTRC consists of fifteen members serving four-year terms, so it is not possible to have a subject specialist on the Committee for all fields. Every effort is made to assign journals to primary reviewers on the Committee who are knowledgeable about the subject and/or fluent in the language. Sometimes outside expertise is sought as input to the Committee.



When will a journal be scheduled for review?

If the title is in scope (i.e., contains subject material appropriate for MEDLINE), the journal is scheduled for review at the earliest possible date. Requesters are not informed of the specific date of the review because of the large number of titles to be reviewed and the possibility of changes to the schedule.



Once the review has been completed, how are the results communicated?

Several weeks after the meeting, notifications are sent to editors/publishers for all titles selected for indexing as well as non-selected titles that had been requested by editors/publishers.



What percentage of titles are selected for indexing?

Overall, about 20% - 25% of the titles reviewed are selected for indexing.



If the journal is not selected, what can be done?

Rating scores range from 0 to 5. Currently, a title must receive a score of 3.75 or greater to be selected for indexing. The LSTRC does conduct re-examinations of journals upon request. After the first review, titles may be re-examined after a minimum of two years following the first review date. After the second and subsequent reviews, titles may be re-examined after a minimum of three years following the prior review date.



If a journal title is selected, when will indexing begin?

Once a journal has been accepted for MEDLINE, these issues must be addressed before indexing can begin:

- Provide the journal's citation and abstract data as [XML-tagged data](#) to NLM
- For electronic-only journals, the receipt of XML-tagged data is a requirement; In this case, acceptable XML-tagged citation and abstract data must be received within six months following the date of inclusion in MEDLINE.
- Provide access to the journal content. The publisher must provide NLM with immediate access to the journal content at a publisher or third-party site under a license.
- When indexing begins for a newly accepted journal, if a journal is in its third volume or less when selected, the articles in volumes one through three will be indexed. If in its fourth year or more, indexing will begin with the current year (articles in earlier volumes will not be retrospectively indexed).



What version of a journal is used when the indexing process begins?

Most journals are indexed from the online version; NLM will subscribe to and use the paper version for indexing if an electronic version is not available.



How are titles deselected from MEDLINE?

Titles may be brought to LSTRC for review for possible deselection through a comprehensive subject review, extremely late publication patterns, major changes in the scientific quality or editorial process, etc.



My journal is already being indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed.

If my journal becomes an electronic-only journal with no print equivalent, will this affect its inclusion in MEDLINE?

When a journal currently indexed in MEDLINE becomes an electronic-only / online-only publication, it must adhere to the [MEDLINE Policy on Indexing Electronic Journals](#). If an electronic-only journal is not able to meet the policy requirements, the journal will no longer be indexed in MEDLINE prospectively.



What are the NLM preservation concerns for journals indexed in MEDLINE?

When a title is indexed in MEDLINE, access to the journal content expands. To ensure that users continue to have access to the content, NLM encourages publishers to develop preservation plans. For print versions, NLM hopes that publishers use acid-free paper so that the pages in the journal will last as long as health professionals may need the printed information.



There are gaps in MEDLINE/PubMed indexing for my journal. How may I help fill these gaps?

Please send print issues that are missing in MEDLINE/PubMed to the following NLM mailing address:

*National Library of Medicine
Serial Records Section - Missing Issues
Bldg. 38, Room B1W10, MSC3803
8600 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20894*

Please contact publisher@ncbi.nlm.nih.gov if the journal is online-only (electronic version only) or is interested/able to supply electronic XML citation data files to MEDLINE/PubMed.



If an online journal is published in multiple languages, which languages display in the MEDLINE citation?

Languages display in the MEDLINE citation if:

- Full translations are available at the original time of publication, and
- Publishers or their suppliers include the language as part of the XML citation data submitted to NLM.
- An unlimited number of languages may display.



Under what circumstances will a separately published English edition of a non-English MEDLINE journal be indexed?

The language to be indexed is approved by the Literature Selection Technical Review Committee (LSTRC) at the time a journal is accepted for MEDLINE indexing. If a separately published English edition becomes available after LSTRC approval, the publisher may request that it be indexed in lieu of the non-English edition by submitting a request to the Index Section. Staff will review the request and determine if the English edition meets the criteria for indexing.

