

**AuthorAID**  
in the Eastern  
Mediterranean



**Where does  
quality  
come from?**



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**The needs of the  
scientific community and  
patients:**

**Information that is  
rigorous,  
up-to-date and  
easily accessible**

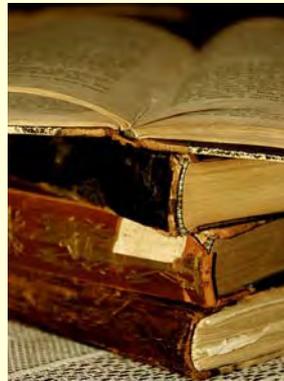
**Disseminate new, rigorous information efficiently to:**

- experts who can use it to make progress toward new discoveries or improved patient care**
- patients who can use it to make decisions about treatment**

**A journal's influence on knowledge and clinical practice is very hard to measure.**

**It may take years for evidence of influence to appear.**

**So most measures of quality are indirect.**



# **1. Content: Usefulness to the target community of readers (popularity)**

**Aims, scope, topics covered, timeliness, relevance**

**How evaluated? Citation trends and maps, IF (indirect, many systematic biases!), Reader survey**

# **1. Content: Scientific and reporting quality**

**Good peer review, good statistical and methodological review**

**How evaluated? Audit a sample of published mss with EQUATOR checklists**

# **1. Content: Readability**

**Good language editing, good editing for clarity, no redundant words, figures or tables**

**How evaluated? Review or audit by technical editors, Reader survey**

# **1. Content: Technical style consistency**

**Good copyediting, good technical editing**

**How evaluated? Review or audit by technical editors, Review with style manuals**

# 1. Content: Usability, navigability

Page layout, website design

How evaluated? User survey



Wikimedia  
Commons

## **2. Efficiency: Timely, rapid decision-making and publication**

**Time to first decision, Time between final acceptance and publication, Late issues**

**How evaluated? Process audit, In-house management review**

### **3. Accessibility: Internet**

**Indexing, Findable by search engines, Open access policy**

**How evaluated? Website traffic, number of site visits, number of downloads, number of hits in searches with different search engines**

### **3. Accessibility: Information retrieval standards**

**ISO standards, Criteria for inclusion in bibliographic databases**

**How evaluated? Audit of compliance with bibliographic and information retrieval standards**

# **Retraction Watch**

**<http://retractionwatch.wordpress.com>**

**Even top journals make mistakes.**

**Transparency and accountability are better than expecting perfection.**

**Prepare for crises by having  
a clear, transparent  
procedure prepared to  
investigate the facts.**

**Careful documentation  
Excellent record-keeping**



**The quality of peer review is declining. Errors (resulting in corrections and retractions) will be more frequent unless editors and publishers invest more resources in quality control.**

**If resources are limited, priorities must be chosen carefully.**

**Thank-you very much and  
best of luck with  
your journal!**



**Wikimedia  
Commons**

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They do not prevent all problems...

## **JAMA's new rule on whistleblowers' silence during investigations creates controversy**

Tanne JH. JAMA's new rule on whistleblower's silence during investigations creates controversy. *BMJ* 2009; 338: 790



JAMA editor Catherine DeAngelis: no comment

but may decrease the frequency of problems.