

# How to Start an Academic Journal

## The Complete Step-by-Step Guide — From Idea to Indexed Journal

For University Departments · Independent Publishers · Research Networks · Scholarly Societies · Individual Academics

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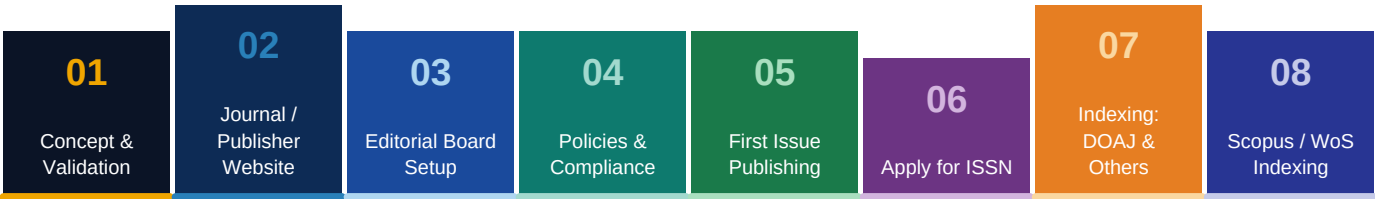
62+ Journals Launched | 30+ Scopus Indexed

■ digitalbisht.com | ■ linkedin.com/in/yogeshsinghbisht

New Delhi, India | 10+ Years Experience

**About this Guide:** This is the correct, real-world sequence for launching a credible academic journal — based on 10+ years of experience launching 62+ journals worldwide. Many guides get the order wrong. Follow these 8 phases in sequence: build your foundation first, publish your first issue, *then* apply for ISSN, and only after that pursue indexing. Each phase unlocks the next.

### THE CORRECT 8-PHASE SEQUENCE



**Why this sequence?** ISSN applications are stronger when you already have a published issue to show — many ISSN centres request a sample. Indexing bodies like DOAJ and Scopus require a track record of published content. You cannot credibly apply for indexing with zero articles. Build first, then register, then apply.

| Phase                            | Key Milestone                                         | Timeline     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 01 — Concept & Validation        | Aims & Scope defined, gap analysis done, model chosen | Month 1      |
| 02 — Journal / Publisher Website | OJS installed, domain live, branding complete         | Month 1–2    |
| 03 — Editorial Board Setup       | EiC + 10 editors recruited, ORCID verified, page live | Month 2–3    |
| 04 — Policies & Compliance       | All policies published, COPE compliant, ethics live   | Month 3–4    |
| 05 — First Issue Published       | Vol 1 Issue 1 live with DOIs deposited to Crossref    | Month 4–8    |
| 06 — Apply for ISSN              | ISSN applied with published issue as reference        | Month 5–6    |
| 07 — DOAJ & Early Indexing       | DOAJ submitted, Google Scholar indexed, ROAD listed   | Month 8–16   |
| 08 — Scopus / WoS Indexing       | Application after 2+ volumes, consistent track record | Month 18–36+ |

## 01

## Concept &amp; Validation

Estimated Timeline

Month 1

Define your journal's purpose, scope, audience, and business model

**Start here — always.** The concept phase is the most underestimated. Journals that skip proper scoping either overlap too much with existing journals (causing indexing rejection) or are too vague to attract quality submissions. Take the time to get this right.

## Define Your Journal Concept

- Identify the specific subject area your journal will serve — be precise, not broad
  - *Bad: 'Engineering'. Good: 'Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Engineering' — specificity attracts the right authors*
- Conduct a gap analysis: search Scopus, DOAJ, and Google Scholar for journals already in your niche
  - *If 5 strong journals already cover your topic, define a sub-niche or reconsider*
- Define your target audience: researchers, clinicians, policymakers, educators, or engineers?
  - *Your audience shapes your scope, language level, article types, and submission guidelines*
- Decide article types: research, review, case study, editorial, letter, short communication?
- Decide publication language: English only, or multilingual with mandatory English abstract?
  - *All major indexes require English abstracts at minimum*
- Write a clear 200–400 word Aims & Scope statement — this is your journal's identity document
  - *This will appear on every indexing application. It must describe subject area, audience, and article types clearly*
- Determine publication frequency: quarterly, bi-monthly, monthly, or continuous?
  - *Be realistic — consistent quarterly publishing beats irregular monthly publishing every time*

## Business Model &amp; Open Access Decision

- Choose publishing model: fully Open Access (OA), Subscription, or Hybrid
  - *Open Access is strongly recommended — preferred by DOAJ, Scopus, funders, and modern researchers*
- If Open Access: decide your APC (Article Processing Charge) structure
  - *Many new journals start with zero APC to attract first submissions, adding fees after DOAJ/Scopus indexing*
- Choose Creative Commons license: CC BY (most open), CC BY-NC, or CC BY-NC-ND
  - *CC BY is required for some funders (NIH, Wellcome Trust). DOAJ prefers CC BY or CC BY-SA*
- Decide funding strategy: institutional support, APC revenue, society membership, or grants?
- Define a long-term sustainability plan — what happens if key people leave?
  - *Build institutional ownership, not personal dependency on one editor or founder*

## 02

## Journal / Publisher Website

Estimated Timeline

Month 1–2

Build your digital home — OJS platform, branding, hosting, and DOI integration

**OJS is the global standard.** Open Journal Systems (OJS) by PKP is free, open-source, and used by 30,000+ journals worldwide. It is built specifically for academic publishing and integrates natively with Crossref, ORCID, Google Scholar, and all major indexes. All steps below assume OJS 3.x.

## Publisher Identity & Domain

- Register a legal publisher entity: university department, company, NGO, research society, or institution
  - *The publisher name must be consistent on your domain, ISSN application, Crossref account, and website*
- Choose and register a professional domain name (journalname.com or journalname.org)
  - *Avoid hyphens. .com or .org preferred for international credibility over country-specific extensions*
- Set up professional email on your domain: editor@journalname.com, info@, submissions@
  - *Never use Gmail or free email for official journal correspondence — it signals an amateur operation*
- Design a journal logo and define colour scheme / visual identity
  - *Professional branding signals legitimacy to authors, reviewers, and indexing evaluators*
- Create a publisher 'About' page with full name, address, country, and contact details
  - *A verifiable physical address is required for ISSN application and most indexing submissions*

## Hosting & Server Setup

- Choose reliable hosting: VPS recommended (DigitalOcean, Linode, AWS) — avoid shared hosting
  - *Shared hosting causes performance issues and unpredictable downtime as journal grows*
- Ensure server meets OJS requirements: PHP 7.4+, MySQL 5.7+, Apache or Nginx
  - *Check using phpinfo() immediately after provisioning. PHP 8.x is fully supported in OJS 3.4+*
- Install an SSL certificate (HTTPS) — absolutely mandatory for any serious journal
  - *Let's Encrypt provides free SSL. An HTTP-only journal is flagged as insecure by all modern browsers*
- Set up automated daily backups of database and files directory to off-server storage
  - *Use S3, Google Drive, or remote FTP. A single unrecovered crash can destroy years of submissions*
- Configure PHP memory\_limit to at least 256M and upload\_max\_filesize to 32M+

## OJS Installation & Configuration

- Download the latest stable OJS 3.x from [pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs\\_download](http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs_download)
- Run the OJS web installer and configure database credentials, admin account, and files directory
  - *Place files directory outside public\_html (e.g., /home/user/ojs\_files) for security*
- Configure config.inc.php: set base\_url, database settings, email/SMTP, and force\_ssl=On
  - *Use SendGrid, Mailgun, or your host's SMTP — PHP mail() is unreliable and often blocked*
- Enable clean URLs and configure mod\_rewrite (Apache) or equivalent for Nginx
- Customize your journal theme for professional appearance and mobile responsiveness
  - *A custom theme builds author confidence. Default OJS themes are functional but generic*
- Install essential plugins: Crossref DOI Deposit, ORCID Profile, Google Scholar, PKP PN, Usage Statistics
  - *Go to Website > Plugins > Gallery to install additional plugins from the PKP plugin gallery*
- Configure journal sections: Research Article, Review Article, Case Study, Short Communication, Editorial
  - *Each section can have its own peer-review settings and word limit guidelines*
- Test the full workflow end-to-end: submit, assign, review, revise, accept, publish
  - *Walk through every role before going live. Find problems in testing, not with real submissions*

## Crossref DOI Integration

- Apply for Crossref membership at [crossref.org](https://crossref.org) — annual fee based on journal type
  - *Individual journal membership from \$275/year USD. This gives you a DOI prefix (e.g., 10.XXXXX)*
- Configure the Crossref DOI Deposit Plugin in OJS with your Crossref credentials
  - *Go to: Tools > Import/Export > Crossref Export/Registration Plugin*
- Set your DOI suffix pattern and keep it consistent forever
  - *Example: journalabbr.v1i1.001. Never change this pattern after first deposit — it breaks existing DOIs*
- Enable automatic DOI assignment for articles in OJS settings
- Test DOI deposit with a test article and verify it resolves correctly at [doi.org](https://doi.org)

## 03

## Editorial Board Setup

Recruit credible, diverse editors who give your journal academic authority

Estimated Timeline

Month 2–3

**The most important phase for indexing.** Your editorial board is the single biggest factor in whether Scopus, DOAJ, and Web of Science accept your journal. Weak or unverifiable editors = automatic rejection. Every editor must be active, credible, internationally diverse, and have a verified ORCID iD.

## Editor-in-Chief (EiC)

- Select an EiC with an active publication record in your journal's exact subject area
  - *The EiC should have recent publications — ideally some already indexed in Scopus or WoS*
- EiC must have a verified ORCID iD (orcid.org) linked to their institutional profile
  - *No ORCID = unverifiable identity. This alone can cause Scopus CSAB rejection*
- EiC must have a current, verifiable institutional affiliation (university, research institute, hospital)
  - *Retired researchers or those with no active institutional link weaken credibility significantly*
- Ensure EiC is not the primary financial owner of the journal — avoids conflict of interest
  - *COPE best practice: separate editorial decision-making from business/financial ownership*
- Obtain written consent from EiC before listing them anywhere publicly

## Editorial Board Members

- Recruit minimum 10–15 editorial board members from at least 5 different countries
  - *Geographic diversity is explicitly evaluated by Scopus CSAB — aim for representation across 3+ continents*
- Every board member must have a verified ORCID iD and active institutional affiliation
  - *Scopus evaluators individually check each listed editor — unverifiable editors are immediate red flags*
- Board members must be active researchers with publications in the last 3–5 years
  - *Retired or inactive researchers weaken your board — keep it current with annual reviews*
- Avoid filling the board entirely with colleagues from your own institution
  - *A board from one university signals a 'house journal' — a major Scopus rejection trigger*
- Assign section editors with specific expertise matching your defined journal sections
- Create a dedicated Editorial Board page with: photo, full name, title, institution, country, ORCID link
  - *A professional board page builds author trust and is required for all major indexing applications*
- Obtain written consent from every board member before listing them publicly
  - *Listing someone without permission is a COPE ethics violation and can cause reputational damage*
- Set board member term lengths (e.g., 3 years, renewable) and publish your governance policy

## Reviewer Network

- Build a reviewer database of at least 50–100 experts across your subject area
  - *Too few reviewers causes delays, conflicts of interest, and over-reliance on the same people*
- Collect reviewer profiles: subject expertise, ORCID, institution, country, availability
  - *OJS has built-in reviewer profiles — configure them to capture all this information*

- Set a standard peer review deadline of 3–4 weeks with automated OJS email reminders
- Define reviewer guidelines: evaluation criteria, feedback structure, professional conduct expected
- Consider implementing structured review forms in OJS for consistent, evaluable feedback

## 04

## Policies &amp; Compliance

Build the ethical and legal framework that makes your journal trustworthy

Estimated Timeline  
Month 3–4

## Core Publishing Policies

- Write and publish a comprehensive Peer Review Policy
  - Specify: blind type (double-blind strongly recommended), number of reviewers per article, decision timeline, revision rounds, appeals process
- Create detailed Author Guidelines: word limits, formatting, citation style, file types, submission steps
  - Poor guidelines cause badly formatted submissions that waste your editorial team's time
- Publish a Copyright & Licensing Policy — for OA journals, authors retain copyright under CC license
  - State clearly: 'Authors retain copyright and grant the journal a CC BY license'
- Write a Privacy Policy compliant with GDPR — required for receiving submissions from EU researchers
  - OJS includes a default privacy statement — customize it to reflect your actual data handling
- Publish an Archiving & Digital Preservation Policy stating which network you use
  - Enable PKP Preservation Network (PKP PN) plugin in OJS — it's free and automatic
- Create an Advertising Policy prohibiting ads that create conflicts of interest

## Ethics &amp; COPE Compliance

- Join COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics) at [publicationethics.org](https://publicationethics.org)
  - COPE membership is strongly recommended before applying to DOAJ or Scopus. Costs vary by journal size
- Publish a full Publication Ethics Statement covering authorship, plagiarism, data integrity, and COI
  - COPE provides free, downloadable policy templates at [publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines](https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines)
- Create a Retraction and Correction Policy — how will you handle flawed or fraudulent articles?
  - All credible journals have a documented retraction procedure. Absence of one is a DOAJ rejection trigger
- Implement plagiarism detection (iThenticate, Turnitin, or similar) and state this in your policies
  - State your acceptable similarity threshold clearly — typically 15–20% excluding references
- Define Authorship Criteria based on ICMJE guidelines — require declaration at submission
  - All co-authors must confirm they meet ICMJE criteria. Ghost authorship is a COPE violation
- Establish Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure policy for authors, editors, and reviewers
  - Require COI declarations from all parties at every submission and review
- Create a Data Availability Policy — require authors to state whether and how data can be accessed
- Write a clear Special Issue Policy — how guest editors are vetted and managed
  - Poorly managed special issues attract predatory submissions. All guest editors need the same vetting as board members

## 05

## Publishing Your First Issue

Estimated Timeline  
Month 4–8

Execute a flawless first publication that sets your quality standard permanently

**Quality over speed — always.** Your first published issue is your journal's permanent first impression to authors, reviewers, indexing bodies, and the research community. It is better to delay two months than to publish a poorly prepared Vol 1, Issue 1.

## Preparing Content for First Issue

- Solicit or commission 6–12 quality articles for Volume 1, Issue 1
  - *Personally invite respected researchers in your field. Review articles attract readers and citations early*
- Put every submitted article through genuine double-blind peer review — no exceptions
  - *Even invited articles must go through proper review. Bypassing review for Vol 1 destroys long-term credibility*
- Apply professional copyediting and proofreading to all accepted articles
  - *Language errors in the first issue send a strong negative signal to potential authors and indexers*
- Ensure every article has complete metadata: title, abstract, keywords, all author affiliations, ORCID iDs
  - *Missing metadata in published articles causes problems at every future indexing application*
- Produce text-searchable PDFs — never upload scanned image PDFs
  - *Use proper Word-to-PDF or LaTeX-to-PDF conversion. Image PDFs cannot be indexed by Google Scholar or Scopus*
- Produce JATS XML for each article — the structured metadata format required by Scopus and PubMed
  - *Producing XML from day one is far easier than retrofitting it for 100+ articles later*
- Optionally produce HTML galleys for online reading — improves accessibility and Google Scholar indexing

## Publishing in OJS

- Create Volume 1, Issue 1 in OJS: Issues > Create Issue (set volume, number, year)
  - *Set the publish date correctly — this becomes the permanent publication date record*
- Upload all article files (PDF, XML, HTML galleys) and complete all metadata fields in OJS
  - *Check: author names, affiliations, abstract, keywords, references are all correct before publishing*
- Assign DOIs to all articles in OJS before publishing the issue
  - *Pre-assign DOIs in OJS so they appear on article pages from the moment of publication*
- Do a final proofing pass on every article page — check every link, download, and display
  - *Fix all errors before publishing. Post-publication corrections undermine credibility*
- Publish the issue in OJS — this makes all articles publicly live on the internet
- Deposit DOI metadata to Crossref immediately after publishing
  - *Go to Tools > Import/Export > Crossref Plugin > Deposit. Verify DOIs resolve at doi.org within 24 hours*
- Announce the first issue via email to your network, ResearchGate, Academia.edu, LinkedIn, and Twitter/X
  - *Author networks are your most effective early promotion channel*

## 06

## Apply for ISSN

Register your journal's permanent identifier — now that you have content to show

Estimated Timeline  
**Month 5–6**

**Why apply for ISSN after publishing?** While ISSN can technically be applied for at any point, applying after your first published issue significantly strengthens the application. Most national ISSN centres ask for evidence of published content. Having Vol 1 Issue 1 live demonstrates you are a genuine, active publication — not just a planned one.

### ISSN Application Process

- Find your national ISSN centre at [portal.issn.org/our-network/members](https://portal.issn.org/our-network/members)
  - Each country has its own ISSN registration centre. Applications go through your national centre, not ISSN International
- Gather required documents: journal title, publisher name and address, URL, scope, frequency, language
  - Most centres also ask for the first issue or at least first published content — having it live makes this easy
- Apply for Online ISSN (eISSN) — this is the most important one for digital publishing
  - ISSN is free in most countries when applied through the official national centre
- Apply for Print ISSN as well if you intend to print physical copies (optional but recommended)
  - Having both ISSNs is required for some indexing applications — it signals a more established operation
- Ensure journal title, publisher name, and website URL on your application match exactly what is live
  - Any discrepancy between your ISSN record and your website causes delays and indexing complications
- After receiving your ISSN, display it prominently on your journal homepage and all article pages
  - Include it in both header/footer and in article metadata — this is how indexing bots find and verify it
- Verify your ISSN appears correctly and is publicly searchable at [portal.issn.org](https://portal.issn.org)
  - This verification is what every indexing body uses. If it is not verifiable there, it may as well not exist
- Register your ISSN with Crossref as part of your DOI membership configuration
  - Crossref links your ISSN to your DOI prefix — connecting your journal identity to your DOI infrastructure
- Update your OJS journal settings with the confirmed ISSN numbers
  - OJS uses the ISSN in automatically generated metadata for Google Scholar, DOAJ, and other integrations

## 07

## Indexing — DOAJ & Early Databases

Get your journal discovered: DOAJ, Google Scholar, ROAD, and more

Estimated Timeline  
**Month 8–16**

### Immediate Actions After ISSN (Month 6–10)

- Verify your journal appears in Google Scholar within 6–8 weeks of publishing Vol 1
  - Search [scholar.google.com](https://scholar.google.com) for your journal title and article titles. Missing? Check OJS Google Scholar meta tags
- Submit to ROAD (Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources) at [road.issn.org](https://road.issn.org)
  - Free submission. Uses your ISSN. Good baseline credibility signal for new journals
- Submit to BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine) at [base-search.net](https://base-search.net) — free, global reach
  - Large aggregator that significantly improves discoverability for new journals

- Submit to Dimensions (dimensions.ai) for article-level metric tracking
- Register with WorldCat (worldcat.org) for library system discovery
- Ensure your journal is catalogued in your institution's library and repository system
- Submit to EBSCO Directory of Open Access Journals for database visibility

### DOAJ Application (Month 8–16)

- Review all DOAJ application requirements thoroughly at [doaj.org/apply](https://doaj.org/apply) before submitting
  - Key requirements: OA publishing with CC license, verified ISSN, documented peer review, ethics policy, Crossref DOIs
- Ensure every published article has a CC license statement visible on the article page
  - DOAJ requires license information to be machine-readable and human-visible on every article
- Confirm all article metadata is complete: abstract, keywords, author affiliations displayed on website
  - DOAJ evaluators visit your live article pages — incomplete metadata causes rejection
- Apply at [doaj.org](https://doaj.org) with accurate, complete information — inaccuracies cause rejection
  - DOAJ review typically takes 3–6 months. Rejected applications require a 6-month waiting period to reapply
- After DOAJ acceptance, enable and configure the DOAJ XML export plugin in OJS
  - This syncs your article metadata to DOAJ automatically with each new publication
- Display the DOAJ seal on your journal homepage and About page after acceptance
  - DOAJ Seal is an additional quality badge — separate from basic DOAJ listing — signifying higher standards

## 08

### Scopus & Web of Science Indexing

Apply for the world's most prestigious academic databases — when you are truly ready

Estimated Timeline  
Month 18–36+

**Patience is a strategy.** Scopus and Web of Science reject journals that apply too early. You get one serious application per year. Apply only after: 2+ full volumes published consistently, DOAJ listing obtained, strong editorial board with ORCID, JATS XML for all articles, and all CSAB criteria confidently met.

#### Pre-Application Requirements (Meet ALL Before Applying)

- Publish minimum 2 complete volumes on your stated publishing schedule — no gaps, no delays
  - CSAB evaluates publishing consistency over time. One missed issue damages your application significantly
- DOAJ listing confirmed and active — this is essentially a prerequisite for Scopus
  - Very few journals get into Scopus without DOAJ listing. It signals baseline OA quality compliance
- All editorial board members have verified ORCID iDs and current institutional affiliations
  - Scopus evaluators check each editor individually. Any unverifiable editor weakens the entire application
- Editorial board includes members from at least 5–8 countries across multiple continents
  - Geographic diversity is one of the four main CSAB evaluation pillars
- Self-citation rate across all published articles is below 15–20%
  - High self-citation is detected algorithmically and can lead to automatic rejection or later delisting
- Every published article has: JATS XML, working DOI, complete metadata, ORCID for authors

■ *Scopus ingest requires structured JATS XML. Articles without it cannot be processed into the database*

- Author diversity: articles from multiple countries and institutions — not mostly from your own
  - *A journal where 70%+ of authors are from one institution is considered a 'house journal' — rejected*
- Documented peer review process with demonstrable evidence (review timelines, revision history)
- Full COPE-compliant ethics policy suite live on website: retraction, authorship, COI, plagiarism

### Scopus Application Process

- Submit application via Scopus Source Submission System (SSSS) at [suggestsources.scopus.com](https://suggestsources.scopus.com)
- Select correct subject area classification — CSAB expertise is domain-specific
  - *Mis-classification sends your application to reviewers who may not understand your niche*
- Upload 5 best representative published articles as PDF samples
  - *Choose articles that best represent your scope, quality, and author diversity*
- Provide full editorial board details: name, affiliation, country, ORCID for every member
  - *Incomplete board information is one of the most common reasons for Scopus rejection*
- Write a compelling, specific peer review process description
  - *Be specific: type of review, number of reviewers, timeline, decision criteria — not just 'we do peer review'*
- List all current indexing databases, including DOAJ, ROAD, BASE, Google Scholar, Dimensions
  - *Existing indexing shows your journal is already recognised — a positive signal*
- Do NOT submit if you have any known unresolved weakness — wait and fix it first
  - *A rejection means a 12-month wait. It is always better to delay 3 months than to fail and wait 12*

### Web of Science (WoS) — Clarivate

- Apply for Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) first — this is the WoS entry point
  - *ESCI is evaluated at [mjl.clarivate.com](https://mjl.clarivate.com). Acceptance here often precedes SCIE/SSCI indexing*
- WoS criteria are similar to Scopus but place additional weight on citation impact
  - *Having DOAJ listing, strong Crossref metadata, and growing citations strengthens your WoS application*
- After WoS/ESCI acceptance, monitor for promotion to SCIE or SSCI based on citation metrics
  - *ESCI journals with growing CiteScore and Impact Factor are periodically reviewed for promotion*

## ESTIMATED COSTS TO LAUNCH AN ACADEMIC JOURNAL

| Item                                  | One-Time      | Annual        | Notes                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Domain Registration                   | \$10–\$20     | \$10–\$20/yr  | <a href="https://www.namecheap.com">journalname.com</a> via Namecheap/GoDaddy |
| Web Hosting (VPS)                     | \$0           | \$60–\$240/yr | DigitalOcean, Linode from \$5–\$20/month                                      |
| SSL Certificate                       | \$0           | \$0           | Free via Let's Encrypt                                                        |
| OJS Software                          | \$0           | \$0           | Free open-source from <a href="https://pkp.sfu.ca">pkp.sfu.ca</a>             |
| Professional Email (Google Workspace) | \$0           | \$72–\$144/yr | From \$6/user/month                                                           |
| OJS Theme / Journal Design            | \$200–\$2,000 | \$0           | One-time investment in professional appearance                                |
| ISSN Registration                     | \$0–\$100     | \$0           | Free at most national ISSN centres                                            |

|                                    |                       |                          |                                                          |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Crossref DOI Membership            | \$275–\$750           | \$275–\$750/yr           | Required for DOI registration; varies by type            |
| COPE Membership                    | \$0–\$600             | \$0–\$600/yr             | Free entry tier available; varies by size                |
| Plagiarism Detection (iThenticate) | \$0–\$200             | \$150–\$600/yr           | Per-check or subscription; per-article pricing available |
| JATS XML Production                | \$50–\$200/article    | Ongoing                  | Per article; essential for Scopus/PubMed ingestion       |
| DOAJ Application                   | \$0                   | \$0                      | Free listing — no application fee                        |
| Scopus / WoS Application           | \$0                   | \$0                      | Free to apply — no indexing fee                          |
| <b>Total Estimated Year 1</b>      | <b>\$535–\$4,000+</b> | <b>\$557–\$2,354+/yr</b> | <b>Varies by design quality and article volume</b>       |

## ESSENTIAL RESOURCES & TOOLS

| Resource                 | URL                                                                                          | Purpose                             |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| OJS Download             | <a href="http://pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs_download">pkp.sfu.ca/ojs/ojs_download</a>                 | Download Open Journal Systems       |
| OJS Documentation        | <a href="http://docs.pkp.sfu.ca">docs.pkp.sfu.ca</a>                                         | Official OJS setup & admin guides   |
| PKP Community Forum      | <a href="http://forum.pkp.sfu.ca">forum.pkp.sfu.ca</a>                                       | OJS technical support community     |
| Crossref Membership      | <a href="http://crossref.org/membership">crossref.org/membership</a>                         | Apply for DOI registration          |
| ISSN Portal              | <a href="http://portal.issn.org">portal.issn.org</a>                                         | Register & verify ISSNs             |
| ISSN National Centres    | <a href="http://portal.issn.org/our-network/members">portal.issn.org/our-network/members</a> | Find your country's ISSN centre     |
| DOAJ Application         | <a href="http://doaj.org/apply">doaj.org/apply</a>                                           | Apply for DOAJ listing              |
| COPE Guidelines          | <a href="http://publicationethics.org">publicationethics.org</a>                             | Ethics guidelines & membership      |
| ORCID Registration       | <a href="http://orcid.org/register">orcid.org/register</a>                                   | Editor/author identity registration |
| JATS4R Guidelines        | <a href="http://jats4r.org">jats4r.org</a>                                                   | JATS XML best practices             |
| Scopus Source Submission | <a href="http://suggestsources.scopus.com">suggestsources.scopus.com</a>                     | Apply for Scopus indexing           |
| WoS Master Journal List  | <a href="http://mjl.clarivate.com">mjl.clarivate.com</a>                                     | Apply for Web of Science            |
| Creative Commons         | <a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses">creativecommons.org/licenses</a>               | Choose correct OA licence           |
| Beall's List             | <a href="http://beallslist.net">beallslist.net</a>                                           | Ensure your journal isn't flagged   |
| Think. Check. Submit.    | <a href="http://thinkchecksubmit.org">thinkchecksubmit.org</a>                               | Legitimate journal evaluation guide |

## Ready to Start Your Journal? Let an Expert Guide You.

Launching a journal the right way requires expertise across technology, editorial standards, ethics, and international indexing requirements. Getting one phase out of order — or missing a key requirement — can cost you months. With 10+ years and 62+ successful journal launches worldwide, Yogesh Singh Bisht provides the end-to-end support you need — from your first concept meeting to Scopus indexing.

### What I Offer for New Journal Launches:

|                                              |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ■ <b>Complete Journal Launch Package</b>     | End-to-end: concept to first published issue — hosting, OJS, DOI, policies, board, XML, all done  |
| ■ <b>OJS Installation &amp; Custom Theme</b> | Professional, mobile-optimized journal design on OJS 3.x with your branding and all plugins       |
| ■ <b>Crossref DOI Integration</b>            | Full Crossref membership guidance, DOI configuration, and article metadata deposit                |
| ■ <b>JATS XML Production</b>                 | Article-level JATS XML from day one — avoids the costly process of retrofitting XML later         |
| ■ <b>ISSN Registration Guidance</b>          | Step-by-step support for national ISSN centre application with the right timing and documentation |
| ■ <b>DOAJ Application Support</b>            | Complete DOAJ readiness preparation and submission — your first major indexing gateway            |
| ■ <b>Editorial Board Development</b>         | Strategy and outreach to recruit credible, ORCID-verified, internationally diverse editors        |
| ■ <b>Scopus Indexing Preparation</b>         | Long-term roadmap, CSAB gap audit, and full application support when you are ready                |

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