Journal Recommendation Service

How to get the best out of the FSTA Journal Recommendation Service

Introduction:
The FSTA Journal Recommendation Service (JRS) is an online tool designed for researchers and authors working in the sciences of food and health. The JRS helps users to find relevant journals they can trust; for example, when deciding where to submit their papers, or when assessing if a journal is a suitable information source for their research.

It has two complementary tools for locating appropriate journals which can be selected by clicking on the buttons:

1) ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’, and
2) ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’

If you already have an article title and abstract available, we recommend that you use both tools, but start with ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’. Note that even if you already have an abstract and title written, experimenting with different wording may produce slightly different sets of suggested journals.

If you do not already have an article title and abstract, but have a clear idea of the keywords, key terms or topics included in the research you are interested in, then use ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’ as a tool to search using those.

If you simply want to browse the IFIS FSTA database of trusted journals then go to ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’.

Combining the approaches will provide the most comprehensive set of potential journals for your paper.

Using the ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’ tool
1. Select ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’ from the home screen.
2. Copy and paste (or type) a title and abstract into the appropriate boxes.
3. Click ‘SUGGEST’. (This is only available once both an article abstract and title have been entered)
4. If appropriate matches have been found, you will now see a list of recommended journals.
5. Use the ‘FILTER’ button to narrow down the set of results if you feel it is too large.
   For example, you can filter by Publisher or Open Access Type.
6. You can also ‘ADD A COLUMN’ if there is further information, such as the Article Processing Charge, which will help you make a decision.
7. The results can be ordered by ‘Impact Factor’ or ‘Relevance’ (how closely your inputs match a Journal’s usual coverage.)
8. Click on the Journal Name to view detailed information about the Journal and explore the title further. (Note this will open in a new tab which will stay open should you wish to return to it at any point.)
9. Take a look at the three example abstracts from the journal to give you an idea of style and topic coverage.
10. Explore the external links to fully inform yourself of their submission policy, editorial board etc.
11. Note down (or keep open) those journals you feel are a good fit for your paper.
12. You may also want to try amending your title and abstract to see if further relevant titles are suggested.
13. For the most comprehensive set of results, we recommend also using the browsing function, so go back to the home screen and select ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’
Using **KEYWORDS** or **KEY TERMS**

1. **Select ‘I HAVE AN ARTICLE TITLE AND ABSTRACT’** from the home screen.
2. **Type a temporary title into the ‘Article Title’ entry box.**
3. **Enter a series of keywords or key terms that you are interested in into the ‘Abstract’ entry box.** Note that you must still adhere to the 100 character minimum in order for the application to work. It may be necessary therefore to form brief sentences including the words or terms.
4. **Click ‘SUGGEST’.**
5. **If appropriate matches have been found, you will now see a list of recommended journals.**
6. **Use the ‘FILTER’ button to narrow down the set of results if you feel it is too large.** For example, you can filter by Publisher or Open Access Type.
7. **You can also ‘ADD A COLUMN’ if there is further information, such as the Article Processing Charge, which will help you make a decision.**
8. **The results can be ordered by ‘Impact Factor’ or ‘Relevance’ (how closely your inputs match a Journal’s usual coverage.)**
9. **Click on the Journal Name to view detailed information about the Journal and explore the title further.** (Note this will open in a new tab which will stay open should you wish to return to it at any point.)
10. **Take a look at the three example abstracts from the journal to give you an idea of style and topic coverage.**
11. **Explore the external links to fully inform yourself of their submission policy, editorial board etc.**
12. **Note down (or keep open) those journals you feel are a good fit for your paper.**
13. **You may also want to try amending your title and abstract to see if further relevant titles are suggested.**
14. **For the most comprehensive set of results, we recommend also using the browsing function, so go back to the home screen and select ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’**

**Using the ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’ tool**

1. **Select ‘I WANT TO BROWSE’ from the home screen.**
2. **Initially you will see a list of over a thousand journal titles which have been quality assessed by IFIS, and confirmed as publishing authentic scientific research in the areas of the sciences of food and health.** (You can find an explanation of the IFIS quality assessment process here: https://www.ifis.org/fsta/journalassessment)
3. **Enter a relevant term into the search box and click on the search icon (for example ‘Nutrition’).**
4. **Note that this searches the TITLES of journals and their published AIMS & SCOPE, not their content or abstracts. It is thus not a ‘keyword’ search. So enter only a term you might expect to find in a journal TITLE, or within the journal’s own AIMS & SCOPE description. It will also only return journals that match **ALL** of the terms you enter – so do not be tempted to add numerous terms at once.**
5. **Usefully, you can also enter part of a word, such as ‘VITA’, which will return Journal Titles including ‘Vitamin’ and ‘Vitamins’. This is often a useful approach.**
6. **Use the ‘FILTER’ button to narrow down the set of results if you feel it is too large. For example, you can filter by Publisher or Open Access Type.**
7. **You can also ‘ADD A COLUMN’ if there is further information, such as the Article Processing Charge, which will help you make a decision.**
8. **The results can also be ordered by ‘Impact Factor’.**
9. **Click on the Journal Name to view detailed information about the Journal and explore the title further.** (Note this will open in a new ‘tab’ which will stay open should you wish to return to it at any point.)
10. **Take a look at the three example abstracts from the journal to give you an idea of style and topic coverage.**
11. Explore the journal’s external links to fully inform yourself of their submission policy, editorial board etc.
12. Note down (or keep open) those journals you feel are a good fit for your article.

How does the recommendation algorithm work?
In order to fully understand your results and get the best from the Journal Recommendation Service, it is useful to understand how the recommendation tool actually works.

The machine learning algorithm that recommends journals based on an article title and abstract analyses tens of thousands of abstracts from the IFIS FSTA database of certified journals. It then compares your entered abstract and title to those analysed and stored. This results in a list of the most closely matching abstract and titles, and which then leads to the journals that they come from. This produces the list of ‘recommended’ journals which have previously published articles similar to the abstract and title entered.

There are a couple of points which should be noted. Firstly, an entered abstract and title might be unusual, novel, or focus on a new topic area – one not matching many, if indeed any, previous abstracts. In this case, the recommendations will be ‘weak’. Secondly, for some of the FSTA journal list, very few abstracts have been indexed over the years; for example, a journal in a discipline which publishes a small number of food-related articles. They may well be important journals in a specific field, but the lack of existing abstracts to compare with will have an impact on the likelihood of them appearing in your results as a ‘recommended’ journal.

In both of these cases, the value of using the browse tool to search journal titles, and aims and scope, becomes doubly important. Therefore, we always recommend using both methods when compiling a set of target journals for your paper. Good luck with your search!

Feedback
IFIS welcomes feedback on the JRS tool. Please get in touch with IFIS via the contact form on the home page if you would like to make comments or pass on suggestions.