

GUIDELINES

European Reference Index for the Humanities (ERIH)

Summary guidelines for use in the consultation process

Coverage :

The following **disciplines** are covered: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Art History History, Classical Studies, Gender Studies, History, History and Philosophy of Science, Linguistics, Literature, Music and Musicology, Oriental Studies and African Studies, Pedagogy and Educational Research, Philosophy, Psychology, Religious Studies and Theology. Media studies will be covered more fully in a second round of consultation.

Journals covering overlapping fields may be found in the lists produced by two or more panels (possibly even with different gradings).

Standards :

All journals included must fulfil normal **international academic** standards, i.e. selection of articles is based on an objective review policy. This quality control is normally through peer-review, and it is expected that journals would depart from peer review only where there is another system ensuring quality control. In some scholarly traditions peer-review is an unfamiliar procedure. It is one aim of ERIH to encourage top-journals to adopt a coherent peer-review system.

The journals must fulfil basic **publishing standards** (i.e. ISSN, timeliness of publication, complete bibliographic information for all cited references, full address information for every author).

ERIH strives only to list “good scientific journals”. The only way to avoid category “C” being perceived as a residual category is to apply this principle thoroughly also to category “C”.

Only journals that fall into the following three categories should be included.

Categories :

- 1) Journals category **A**: i.e. high-ranking international publications with a very strong reputation among researchers of the field in different countries, regularly cited all over the world.
- 2) Journals category **B**: i.e. standard international publications with a good reputation among researchers of the field in different countries.
- 3) Journals category **C**: research journals with an important local / regional significance in Europe, occasionally cited outside the publishing country though their main target group is the domestic academic community.

Nota bene:

- For categories A and B, journals published in the whole world can be considered
- For category C, only European journals must be considered.
- It is recommended that in category A, only 10 to 25% of the total list should appear; this percentage target will differ from one discipline to another.

“International journals”:

1) A journal is **international** (Categories A and B) when the following requirements are fulfilled in addition to those that apply to all journals:

- A genuine, varied and regular international cohort of contributors and readership
- Consistently high-quality scholarly content
- Broad consensus within the field concerning international status and visibility

2) In addition, they will have some, though not necessarily all, of the following characteristics:

- *Active* international advisory board
- Open to unsolicited contributions
- Highly discriminating and selective in the choice of articles published
- Published on time and to an agreed schedule

The difference between category ‘A’ and category ‘B’ journals is likely to be the degree to which they conform to 1) above, and both the number of characteristics under 2) to which they conform as well as the degree of conformity. Generally, ‘A’ journals should conform to more of these characteristics, and to a greater extent, than ‘B’ journals.

Language :

Main international languages in this context are English, French, German, Spanish and Russian. However, journals in other languages can also be “international”, when they are being used as “forum language” for specific research communities. Similarly, there may be non-European journals, that are international in character, in languages other than European languages, which can be included in categories A and B.

Process

- ESF (SCH) Member Organisations provide initial lists of journals in 15 disciplines, and contribute through further consultation
- 15 ERIH Expert Panels analyse, harmonise and finalise lists of graded journals in categories A, B and C.
- ERIH Steering Committee supervises and unifies methodology (“bottom up”) and reports to Standing Committee for the Humanities, and through ESF / SCH to HERA / European Commissions
- ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities approves final reference lists and ensures acceptance
- They develop a financial continuity plan and make recommendations on future development of ERIH