Journals in Developmental Psychology
“Developmental” Journals

● What makes a journal “developmental?"
  – What makes your research developmental?
● Examples of appropriate content as defined by the journal
  – *Child Development* publishes empirical, theoretical, review, applied, and policy articles reporting research on child development. Published by the interdisciplinary Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), the journal welcomes relevant submissions from all disciplines.
Examples (cont)

- *Developmental Psychology* publishes articles that advance knowledge and theory about development across the life span. The journal includes significant empirical contributions as well as scholarly reviews and theoretical or methodological articles. Studies of any aspect of psychological development are appropriate, as are studies of the biological, social, and cultural factors that affect development.

- The journal welcomes not only laboratory-based experimental studies but studies employing other rigorous methodologies, such as ethnographies, field research, and secondary analyses of large data sets. We especially seek submissions in new areas of inquiry and submissions that will address contradictory findings or controversies in the field as well as the generalizability of extant findings in new populations.
Examples (cont)

- *Psychology and Aging* publishes original articles on adult development and aging. Such original articles include reports of research that may be applied, biobehavioral, clinical, educational, experimental (laboratory, field, or naturalistic studies), methodological, or psychosocial. Although the emphasis is on original research investigations, occasional theoretical analyses of research issues, practical clinical problems, or policy may appear, as well as critical reviews of a content area in adult development and aging. Clinical case studies that have theoretical significance are also appropriate. Brief reports are acceptable with the author's agreement not to submit a full report to another journal.
How do you decide where to submit your manuscript?

- Quality?
  - What are the best journals in “THE” field?
  - What are the best journals in “YOUR” field?

- Common Indicators of Quality
  - Impact Factor
IMPACT FACTOR

- calculated by dividing the number of citations in the JCR year by the total number of articles published in the two previous years.
- An impact factor of 1.0 means that, on average, the articles published one or two year ago have been cited one time. An impact factor of 2.5 means that, on average, the articles published one or two year ago have been cited two and a half times.
- Citing articles may be from the same journal; most citing articles are from different journals.

From ISI, Web of Knowledge, 2005
AGGREGATE IMPACT FACTOR for a Subject Area

- Calculated the same way as the impact factor for a journal, but it takes into account the number of citations to all journals in the category and the number of articles from all journals in the category.

- An aggregate impact factor of 1.0 means that, on average, the articles in the subject category published one or two years ago have been cited one time.

- The **median impact factor** is the median value of all journal impact factors in the subject category.

From ISI, Web of Knowledge, 2005
The immediacy index is calculated by dividing the number of citations to articles published in a given year by the number of articles published in that year.

It is the average number of times an article is cited in the year it is published and indicates how quickly articles in a journal are cited.

Because it is a per-article average, the immediacy index tends to discount the advantage of large journals over small ones. However, frequently issued journals may have an advantage because an article published early in the year has a better chance of being cited than one published later in the year. Many publications that publish infrequently or late in the year have low immediacy indexes.

For comparing journals specializing in cutting-edge research, the immediacy index can provide a useful perspective.

From ISI, Web of Knowledge, 2005
Cited Half-Life

- For both journals and subject categories, the *cited half-life* is the median age of the articles that were cited in the JCR year.
- The aggregate cited half-life is an indication of the turnover rate of the body of work on a subject.
- For example, in JCR 2003 the subject category Energy & Fuels has a cited half-life of 7.0. That means that articles published in Energy & Fuels journals between 1997-2003 (inclusive) account for 50% of all citations to articles from those journals in 2003.

From ISI, Web of Knowledge, 2005
VALUE OFIMPACT FACTORS
from ISI

- Mitigates the importance of absolute citation frequencies
- Tends to discount the advantage of large journals over small
  journals because large journals produce a larger body of citable
  literature.
- For the same reason, it tends to discount the advantage of
  frequently issued journals over less frequently issued ones and
  of older journals over newer ones.
- Because the journal impact factor offsets the advantages of
  size and age, it is a valuable tool for journal evaluation.
- The impact factor trend graph shows the impact factor for a
  five-year period. To view the graph, click the Impact Factor
  Trend button at the top of the journal page.

From ISI, Web of Knowledge, 2005
CONCERNS ABOUT IMPACT FACTORS

- Being used as a SINGLE indicator of:
  - the merit of the published work
  - value of one’s research
  - marketability
  - and “fundability”

- Impact factors are RELATIVE—best to compare them within a subject area rather than across a subject area

- Journals that publish reviews are more likely to have higher impact factors
  - 7 of top 15 impact factor journals published reviews
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- Quality?
  - What are the best journals in “THE” field?
  - What are the best journals in “YOUR” field?

- Common Indicators of Quality
  - Impact Factor
  - Rejection Rate
Finding Rejection Rates

- APA publishes rejection rates and related data annually in *American Psychologist*
  - 2006, Vol 61, No 5 (July-August), pp. 559-560
- Request Info
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Total Cites</th>
<th>Impact Factor</th>
<th># Articles 2005</th>
<th># Submission 2005</th>
<th>Rejection Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DEV PSYCHOL</td>
<td>7537</td>
<td>3.421</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>439</td>
<td>78%</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHILD DEV</td>
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<td>3.043</td>
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<td>246</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>J CLIN CHILD ADOLESC</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>2.015</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>J ADOLESCENT HEALTH</td>
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<td>2.013</td>
<td>144</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;85%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>J RES ADOLESCENCE</td>
<td>643</td>
<td>1.972</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*JAH rejects 65% of all submissions without review (triage).
How do you decide where to submit your manuscript?

- Quality?
  - What are the best journals in “THE” field?
  - What are the best journals in “YOUR” field?

- Common Indicators of Quality
  - Impact Factor
  - Rejection Rate
  - Editorial Team (Editor, Assoc. Eds. & Board)
  - Reaching lots of readers versus reaching the right readers
Goodness of Fit

- Does it matter if a journal is developmental?
- Matching Manuscript, Journal interests, and Audience