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## *What is a list of scientific journals?*



Every author of scientific publications should consciously and judiciously choose the scientific journals in which he publishes his texts. This is because they differ not only in scientific prestige, but also in the number of points on the ministerial list. So what is this list?

The obligation to compile a list of scientific journals derives first of all from Article 267(2)(2) of the Law on Higher Education and Science (i.e., Journal of Laws 2023, item 742, as amended), hereinafter referred to as "PSWiN." It expressly stipulates that the minister responsible for higher education and science must determine the method of drawing up lists of both publishing houses and scientific journals, as well as the method of determining and assigning the number of points to them, taking into account:

- in the case of publishing houses - their reputation and division into groups corresponding to their rank;
- in the case of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences - their reputation.

In the list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences, each journal and peer-reviewed materials are also assigned specific scientific disciplines. This follows directly from Article 267, paragraph 3, sentence 2, of the PSWiN.

It should be noted that the legislator indicated the type of legal act in which the above-mentioned information should be included. Indeed, he indicated that this is done by issuing a regulation. Thus, the lists are issued based on the rules set forth in the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of November 7, 2018 on the preparation of lists of publications of scientific monographs and scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials of international conferences (Journal of Laws of 2018, item 2152). The lists are drawn up for the purpose of evaluating the quality of scientific activity. As can be seen from the wording of the explanatory memorandum to the draft of the aforementioned regulation, the lists are among the most important instruments of scientific policy, as they influence the formation of publication patterns in a manner consistent with the objectives of this policy. These include, in particular, improving the quality of research conducted and its visibility to the scientific community ([LINK](#)).

Pursuant to Article 267(3), sentence 1, of the PSWiN, the Minister is obligated to make both lists available in Bulletin of Public Information on his entity website.

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The current lists are posted on the website of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education: [LINK](#)

The current list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials of international conferences is a very comprehensive document. This is because it contains 970 pages and as many as 34088 items of scientific journals and 1735 items of international scientific conferences. As indicated above, the scientific disciplines assigned to each item included in the list are specified next to it. This facilitates the search for journals in which to publish a prepared scientific text.

The given scientific journals and international scientific conferences are assigned a specific number of points in the list. It should be emphasized at this point that the publication achievements of doctoral students of doctoral schools arising during the period of training at the school can also be taken into account in the list. However, doctoral students must fill out an appropriate statement authorizing the entity to show their achievements in the evaluation process. At the same time, it should be pointed out that the possibility of filling out such a statement does not apply to doctoral students of doctoral schools who are simultaneously employed - they conduct scientific activity at a particular university or institute. [read more: [LINK](#)].

Noteworthy, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education is currently working on developing a new list of scientific journals and peer-reviewed materials from international conferences from scratch. According to information on the Ministry of Science and Higher Education's website, the evaluation of journals based on selected criteria will be carried out by a team of experts representing individual scientific disciplines, and the Committee for the Evaluation of Science will propose a completely new draft list.



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