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ORWave.org as a Scholarly Discovery and Research Engagement Platform

Supporting Journal Discoverability, Transparent Peer Review, Researcher Profiles, and Editorial Participation

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Abstract

Scholarly communication increasingly depends on the quality of research as well as the ability of readers, reviewers, editors, libraries, and discovery services to identify, interpret, evaluate, and reuse research outputs. ORWave.org is considered here as an open-access repository and journal-discovery environment that can connect research deposits, structured metadata, researcher profiles, editorial participation, and transparent review records. This conceptual paper explains how these functions may contribute to discoverability and responsible research engagement while distinguishing platform-level visibility from formal indexing decisions and journal-level citation indicators. A lifecycle framework is proposed in which persistent article records, descriptive metadata, accessible full text, clear versioning, researcher identity information, and responsible review workflows work together. The paper also outlines practical pathways for researchers to create profiles, document research activity, volunteer as reviewers, seek editorial roles, and contribute content. For journals, it identifies metadata completeness, publication ethics, peer-review transparency, licensing clarity, preservation, and consistent publication practices as operational priorities. The discussion emphasizes that deposits and metadata can facilitate discovery but cannot guarantee inclusion in Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science, or DOAJ. Similarly, an internally calculated or platform-specific impact indicator must not be represented as the official Clarivate Journal Impact Factor. The paper concludes with an implementation roadmap and measurable indicators for evaluating ORWave.org's usefulness without overstating its effects.

Keywords

ORWave.org; scholarly communication; open access repository; journal discoverability; transparent peer review; researcher profiles; editorial participation; citation metrics; research integrity; metadata.

Suggested citation

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Article type and methodology

This is a conceptual paper based on a narrative synthesis of public guidance on scholarly publishing transparency, repository discoverability, and journal metrics. It proposes a framework and practical recommendations; it does not present original survey data, experimental findings, or a systematic review.

1. Introduction

The research ecosystem is distributed across journal websites, institutional repositories, disciplinary archives, conference platforms, author profiles, and bibliographic databases. This distribution creates opportunities for wider access but also creates practical barriers: metadata may be incomplete, author names may be ambiguous, full-text links may break, peer-review policies may be difficult to verify, and researchers may struggle to identify meaningful opportunities to review or contribute editorially.

An online repository and discovery platform can address some of these friction points by offering structured records, stable links, subject-based discovery, and a place to connect scholarly outputs with people and research activity. ORWave.org can be understood in this role as a potential connective layer: it can help make scholarly work easier to find and contextualize, while journal publishers remain responsible for editorial quality, ethical review, publication decisions, and accurate claims about indexing status.

A central challenge is the tendency to treat discoverability, indexing, quality, and impact as interchangeable. They are not. Search-engine visibility means that content may be found; inclusion in a curated index follows the index provider's own criteria; journal quality is assessed through multiple editorial and ethical practices; and citation indicators summarize particular patterns of scholarly referencing. These dimensions can influence one another, but none is a substitute for the others.

1.1 Aim and objectives

The aim is to develop a practical conceptual framework explaining how ORWave.org can support a more discoverable, transparent, and participatory research environment.

- Explain the role of repository deposits and rich metadata in research discoverability.
- Clarify the relationship between journal visibility, formal indexing, and impact indicators.
- Propose a transparent peer-review workflow with appropriate privacy and audit controls.
- Describe ways researchers can maintain profiles, record research activity, and contribute as reviewers or editorial members.
- Recommend implementation priorities and evaluation measures for responsible platform development.

1.2 Research questions

1. How can repository and metadata practices improve the chances that research outputs are discovered?
2. How should a platform distinguish discovery support from formal indexing and official journal metrics?
3. What workflow features can make peer review and editorial contribution more transparent and accountable?

2. Conceptual Background and Related Guidance

2.1 Open repositories and metadata

Repositories make scholarly outputs available beyond the website or journal issue in which they first appeared. Useful records typically include a title, authors, affiliations, abstract, keywords, publication date, resource type, language, rights statement, source journal, and a persistent identifier where available. Machine-readable metadata and interoperable harvesting protocols can reduce friction for discovery systems. However, technical compatibility does not itself guarantee that any particular service will harvest or index a record.

A repository should clearly distinguish published articles, accepted manuscripts, preprints, theses, conference papers, datasets, and other research outputs. Version labels matter because a preprint may not have completed peer review and may differ from the final published version. The record should link to the version of record when available and describe reuse conditions.

2.2 Publication transparency and ethics

The joint principles developed by COPE, DOAJ, OASPA, and WAME emphasize clear information about journal scope, peer review, editorial governance, fees, copyright, licensing, archiving, and publication ethics [1]. These principles are useful as a design reference for platforms that display journal information. ORWave.org can make it easier for users to compare disclosed policies, but it should not certify a journal's quality merely because a profile exists.

2.3 Journal metrics and indexing

The Clarivate Journal Impact Factor is a journal-level metric provided through Journal Citation Reports for eligible journals in the Web of Science Core Collection [2]. It is not equivalent to article quality, an individual researcher's impact, or a platform-created score. Scopus and DOAJ operate their own selection and coverage processes; their decisions are independent of a repository's listing or promotional claims [3,4].

A platform may display clearly labelled descriptive measures such as record views, downloads, outbound clicks, citations from identified sources, or a locally calculated indicator. Such measures should include a definition, source, calculation period, update date, and limitations. They must not be presented in a way that could be confused with official metrics.

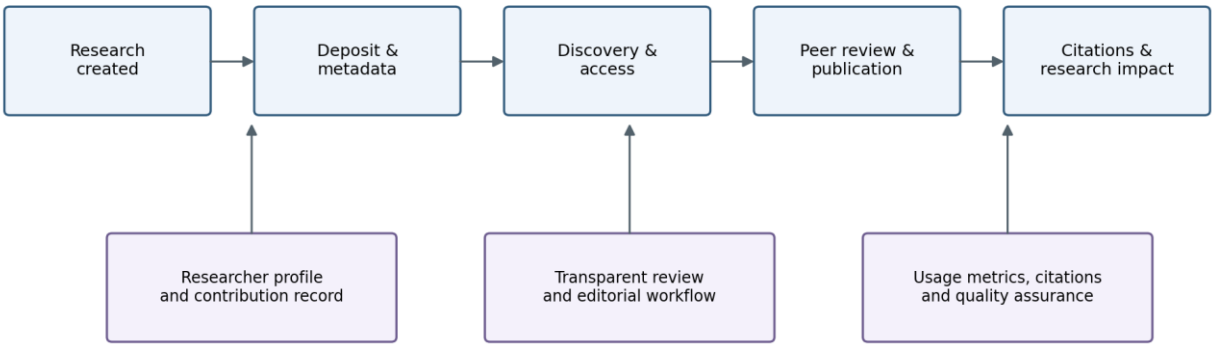
2.4 Researcher identity and contribution

Profiles are most useful when they disambiguate authors and link people to verified outputs. Researchers should be encouraged to use persistent identifiers such as ORCID where appropriate, keep affiliations current, and separate verified facts from self-reported information. Reviewer and editor roles should be based on expertise, consent, conflict-of-interest checks, and a transparent appointment process.

3. Proposed ORWave.org Framework

The proposed framework treats the platform as a set of connected services rather than a single listing page. The value proposition depends on the reliability of each step: depositing accurate information, presenting it accessibly, supporting discovery, preserving version context, and allowing research contributions to be documented responsibly.

Figure 1. A connected scholarly communication lifecycle (conceptual)



3.1 Core functional layers

- Content layer: articles, preprints, conference papers, theses, datasets, and other eligible scholarly outputs, with clear content-type labels.
- Metadata layer: consistent author names, abstracts, keywords, affiliations, dates, source publication, rights, identifiers, and version relationships.
- Discovery layer: search, filters, subject categories, journal profiles, exportable metadata, and standards-based harvesting where implemented and validated.
- Identity layer: researcher profiles linked to outputs, expertise, affiliations, identifiers, and documented contributions.
- Governance layer: review policies, editor/reviewer role definitions, conflicts of interest, consent, complaints, corrections, and audit trails.
- Analytics layer: transparent usage and citation reporting with definitions, data provenance, and limitations.

3.2 Operating principle

Each function should provide evidence rather than unsupported assurance. For example, a metadata completeness indicator can report that a record contains the required fields; it should not claim that the paper is scientifically sound. A journal policy checklist can show which statements are publicly available; it should not claim that the journal is indexed unless the status has been verified against the relevant index's own source.

4. How ORWave.org Can Support Journal Discoverability and Indexing Readiness

4.1 Improve the quality of each research record

The first step is to make every record understandable to both humans and machines. A complete title, author list, abstract, keywords, publication date, source journal, DOI or other persistent identifier, full-text link, and rights statement improve clarity. Metadata should match the published article and be consistent between the repository record, PDF, and journal landing page.

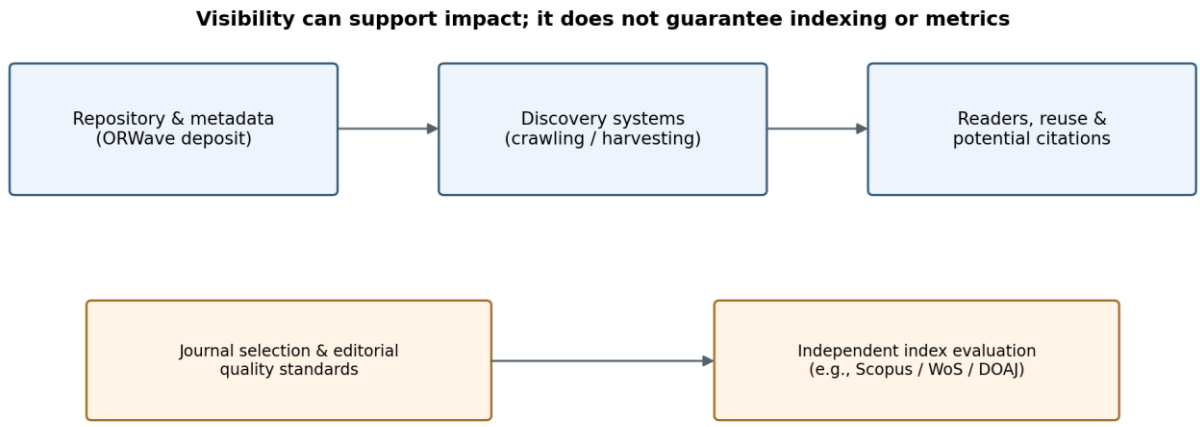
4.2 Support technical discoverability

Search-friendly landing pages, crawlable links, canonical URLs, descriptive page titles, accessible full text, stable URLs, structured metadata, and a valid sitemap can support discovery. Where ORWave.org implements OAI-PMH or another interoperability mechanism, the endpoint should be tested, documented, and monitored. Claims about integration with Google Scholar, CORE, BASE, or other services should be phrased according to verified status: technical readiness, submission, harvesting observed, or confirmed inclusion are different states.

4.3 Build journal readiness without implying guaranteed acceptance

A journal profile can organize information that editors need to maintain: aims and scope, ISSN, publisher and ownership, editorial board, author instructions, peer-review method, publication ethics, fees, copyright, licensing, preservation arrangements, and contact information. A readiness checklist can identify missing or inconsistent disclosures before a journal applies to an index. The index provider, not ORWave.org, decides whether a journal meets its criteria.

Figure 2. Distinguishing discoverability, indexing and journal metrics



4.4 Recommended status vocabulary

- Profile created: a journal record exists on the platform.
- Metadata reviewed: required descriptive fields have been checked.
- Technical discovery enabled: public pages and feeds are available and validated.
- External discovery observed: a record has been located in a named service on a specified date.
- Official index coverage verified: coverage is confirmed from the index provider's source and date-stamped.

5. Impact Factor, Citation Indicators, and Responsible Metrics

The phrase "impact factor" is frequently used imprecisely. ORWave.org should distinguish official journal-level metrics from local analytics and article-level indicators. The official Clarivate Journal Impact Factor is associated with Journal Citation Reports and eligibility in the Web of Science Core Collection [2]. A repository's own calculation, if offered, is not the Clarivate JIF and should use a different, clearly defined name.

5.1 A transparent metric specification

Every displayed metric should provide: (a) its name and purpose; (b) numerator and denominator, where applicable; (c) covered publication years; (d) data sources; (e) date of calculation; (f) document types included or excluded; (g) duplicate and self-citation handling; and (h) known coverage gaps. If citation data are incomplete, the interface should say so.

5.2 What the platform can influence

The platform can improve the conditions under which research is found and cited by supporting accessible full text, accurate metadata, persistent links, subject discovery, and researcher identity. It cannot guarantee citations, and increased views do not necessarily mean increased scholarly influence. Citations depend on relevance, methodological quality, field norms, language, research timing, and many factors beyond a platform's control.

5.3 Suggested metrics dashboard

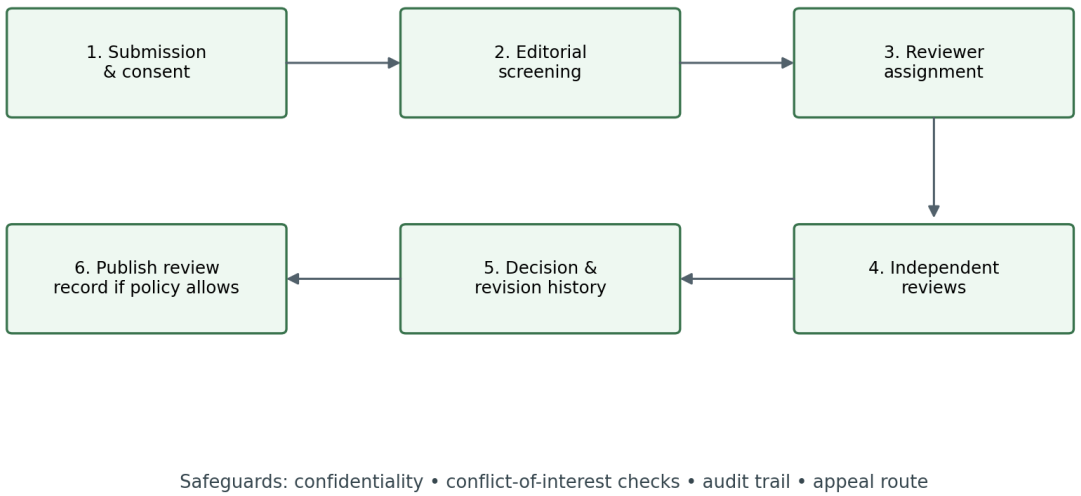
- Discoverability: indexed/crawlable landing pages, metadata completeness, successful feed responses, broken-link rate.
- Engagement: record views, full-text downloads, referral sources, repeat visits, and geographic summaries where privacy-safe.
- Scholarly uptake: citations from named sources, citations per article with coverage notes, and links to citing records.
- Community: completed reviews, reviewer response rate, editorial participation, profile completeness, and contributions by subject area.
- Integrity: correction notices, retractions, complaints resolved, conflict declarations, and policy review dates.

Metrics should be presented as descriptive evidence, not as a single score that substitutes for expert judgement. Journal comparisons should account for field, age, publication volume, language, and database coverage. A dashboard should avoid ranking journals solely by downloads or a locally computed score.

6. Transparent Peer Review and Editorial Accountability

Transparent peer review is not one universal model. Depending on journal policy and disciplinary practice, transparency may include publishing reviewer reports, revealing reviewer identities with consent, recording review dates, publishing editorial decision letters, or documenting how revisions addressed reviewer concerns. A journal must describe the actual process accurately and obtain consent where needed. Confidential or identifying information must not be exposed merely in the name of transparency.

Figure 3. Suggested transparent peer-review workflow



6.1 Suggested workflow

4. Submission: capture manuscript version, author declarations, ethics statements, funding, conflicts of interest, and consent to the relevant review model.
5. Editorial screening: assess scope, completeness, plagiarism concerns, ethics approvals where applicable, and suitability for review.
6. Reviewer selection: match expertise, verify contact information where practical, invite independent reviewers, and record conflicts or recusals.
7. Review: collect structured reports, confidential editor-only comments, recommendations, and timestamps; remind reviewers of confidentiality and respectful conduct.
8. Decision and revision: document the editor's rationale, author response, revised versions, and final decision.
9. Publication: disclose the review model and dates; publish reports or identities only according to policy and consent.
10. Post-publication: provide routes for corrections, expressions of concern, appeals, complaints, and research-integrity issues.

6.2 Safeguards

The platform should use role-based access controls, audit logs, secure file permissions, retention schedules, and clear separation between public records and confidential review materials. Reviewers must not be able to access unrelated manuscripts, and authors should not see private reviewer information unless the chosen model explicitly permits it. Editorial decisions must remain human-led and based on scholarly merit.

6.3 What a review certificate can and cannot mean

A certificate or contribution record may confirm that a person completed a review or served in an editorial role, if the platform can verify that fact. It should not imply that a manuscript was accepted, that a journal is indexed, or that the reviewer's work is endorsed by an external indexing organization. Certificates should contain verifiable dates, role descriptions, and an identifier or validation route.

7. Researcher Profiles, Research Activity, and Participation

7.1 Scholar profile design

A useful profile should present a researcher's preferred name, affiliation, research interests, ORCID or other persistent identifier where available, verified publications, preprints, conference contributions, datasets, and documented service. The interface should distinguish verified records from information entered by the user and allow corrections to inaccurate attribution.

7.2 Recording research activity

Research activity can include depositing a preprint, publishing an article, presenting at a conference, sharing a dataset, reviewing a manuscript, editing a special issue, mentoring, or contributing to scholarly discussion. Each activity should have a date, type, source, and evidence where appropriate. Duplicate records and mistaken identity should be handled through a clear correction process.

7.3 Becoming a reviewer

A reviewer pathway should invite researchers to submit subject expertise, keywords, publication examples, institutional affiliation, identifier, and availability. Eligibility should be reviewed by a qualified editor. Reviewer invitations should explain manuscript scope, deadlines, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and the journal's review model. Reviewers should accept only work they can assess competently and should decline where a conflict exists.

7.4 Becoming an editorial member

Editorial roles require more than a profile or application form. A transparent appointment process should include expertise assessment, publication or professional experience, agreement to editorial policies, conflict disclosures, expected workload, term length, and a process for resignation or removal. Board membership must never be sold as a credential or granted without the individual's informed consent.

7.5 Contributing to the platform

- Deposit eligible research outputs with accurate metadata and rights information.
- Correct author, affiliation, DOI, or version information when errors are found.
- Suggest journals or subject categories with evidence and clear disclosures.
- Volunteer for peer review in areas of demonstrated expertise.

- Contribute to editorial boards or advisory groups through documented appointments.
- Report broken links, inaccurate index claims, suspected plagiarism, or misleading journal information.

8. Implementation Roadmap and Evaluation

8.1 Phased roadmap

Phase 1 — Foundations (0–3 months): define content types, metadata schema, versioning rules, rights and licence fields, privacy policy, role permissions, and a journal-profile template. Audit existing records for missing metadata and broken links.

Phase 2 — Workflow and trust (3–6 months): implement reviewer invitations, conflict declarations, review status tracking, audit logs, correction and appeal processes, and a consent-aware transparent-review option. Publish clear explanations of what the platform verifies and what it does not.

Phase 3 — Interoperability and analytics (6–9 months): validate public feeds and structured metadata; test crawlability, canonical URLs, sitemap health, persistent identifiers, and accessible full-text links. Launch dashboards with metric definitions and documented data coverage.

Phase 4 — Evaluation and continuous improvement (9–12 months): conduct usability testing with authors, editors, reviewers, and librarians; review security and privacy; measure baseline-to-follow-up changes; publish a short annual transparency report.

8.2 Evaluation matrix

Area	Indicator	Interpretation
Metadata	% records with complete required fields	Measures record completeness, not research quality
Reliability	Broken public-link rate	Lower is better; report sample and date
Discovery	External discovery checks by named service	Evidence of observed discovery, not guaranteed coverage
Review	Median time by workflow stage	Monitor workload; avoid incentives that compromise review
Participation	Active reviewers and verified editorial roles	Measure activity, not prestige
Integrity	Corrections and complaints resolved	Report process quality and response times
Accessibility	Keyboard and screen-reader checks	Use repeatable accessibility tests

8.3 Governance and security

Recommended controls include HTTPS, least-privilege access, multifactor authentication for privileged accounts, secure password storage, rate limiting, validated file uploads, malware scanning, backups, logging, incident response, and regular dependency updates. Sensitive peer-review files require stricter controls than public metadata. Analytics should minimize personal data, aggregate usage where possible, and disclose retention and privacy practices.

9. Discussion, Limitations, and Recommendations

9.1 Potential benefits

A connected repository, profile, and review environment can reduce fragmentation by linking outputs to people, policies, and contribution records. Better metadata and accessible records can improve the likelihood of discovery. Transparent workflows can make editorial practices easier to understand, while contribution profiles can help researchers document service that is often invisible in conventional publication lists.

9.2 Risks and limitations

The proposed framework is conceptual and has not been validated through platform analytics, interviews, or controlled comparisons. Its effectiveness depends on implementation quality, content completeness, external service policies, and sustained governance. The paper does not establish that ORWave.org currently provides every capability described; features should be marked as available only after verification. Discovery services may change their technical requirements, and harvesting can be delayed or selective.

Potential harms include metric gaming, misleading claims about indexing, inappropriate public disclosure of reviewer identities, duplicate or fraudulent profiles, poor-quality journal listings, and the mistaken use of profile activity as a proxy for scholarly merit. These risks require clear definitions, verification, appeals, privacy protections, and independent editorial judgement.

9.3 Recommendations

11. Publish a transparent platform policy describing scope, content eligibility, verification, corrections, complaints, and takedown procedures.
12. Use structured metadata and stable links, and test feeds and search-engine accessibility routinely.
13. Label official indexing status only when verified directly from the relevant index provider, with a check date.
14. Do not describe a local metric as the Clarivate Journal Impact Factor; disclose methods and limitations for all platform indicators.
15. Provide a review workflow with confidentiality settings, consent-aware disclosure, conflict checks, and an auditable decision history.
16. Build researcher profiles around attributable outputs and verified contributions, not vanity scores.
17. Publish a yearly report on metadata quality, accessibility, corrections, security incidents at an appropriate level, and service improvements.

10. Conclusion

ORWave.org can be positioned as a practical infrastructure layer for research discovery and participation when it combines accurate metadata, accessible content, reliable records, researcher identity, transparent review options, and clear editorial governance. Its strongest contribution is to improve the conditions for finding and evaluating scholarly work, not to promise indexing or citation outcomes. Formal index inclusion remains the decision of each independent service, and official journal metrics must be distinguished from local analytics. By implementing the safeguards and evaluation practices outlined in this paper, the platform can help authors, reviewers, editors, and journal managers engage with research more transparently and responsibly.

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