Journals to know about

prepared for Topology Student Workshop
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1. General rankings

We've assembled a very coarse and partial ranking of journals that young people in geometry, topology, and geometric group theory should be aware of. We solicited input from about a dozen people in the field and produced this document as a reflection of the aggregate thinking.

How to use: take these rankings with a grain of salt and be aware that there was an enormous amount of disparity in the opinions of our respondees, so there is really no consensus in these matters. When you have a paper to submit, take these rankings into account—because journal prestige will help you with hiring, promotion, and other professional advancement—but also consider (a) what journals have published the papers in your references; (b) which journals have an editor in your field, with a good reputation for handling articles efficiently; (c) the publisher. The for-profit publishers like Springer and especially Elsevier can have more opaque processes for submission, status inquiries, and final edits. Also, many mathematicians have chosen to boycott Elsevier particularly, to protest their pricing and other practices (see http://thecostofknowledge.com), so some of our respondents caution that they are likely to lose community support. (The Elsevier journals on the list below are Advances, J Alg, J Pure Appl Alg, and Top and Its Appl.)

The most prestigious journals in the field.

   I: Annals, JAMS, Inventiones, IHES, Acta

  II: Duke, G&T, GAFA

 III: AJM, Crelle's, J Topology, JDG, Advances

A big cluster of strong journals for geometry/topology/GGT.

 IV: Math Zeitschrift, Commentarii, Math Annalen, Proc/Journal LMS, Groups Geom Dyn, Israel J Math, Alg Geom Top, Geom Dedicata, Trans AMS, Pacific J M, J Algebra, IMRN, Michigan Math J, J Topology and Analysis

One more cluster of journals to know about, some more specialized than the above.

  V: J Knot Theory Ram, Top and Its Appl, New York JM, Advances in Geom, Mathematika, J Group Theory, J Pure Appl Alg

2. Special focus journals

Notable conference proceedings.

Contemp Math [Ahlfors-Bers Colloquium], Top Proc [Spring Top Dyn Conf]

Expository element to mission.

L'Enseignement Math, Experimental Math, Amer Math Monthly, Notices AMS, Rocky Mountain J, Geombinatorics, Intelligencer

Short papers (page limit).

Math Res Lett, Proc AMS, Bull LMS