

Dear Members,

Since 1995, AiIG has initiated a collective reflection to identify, in a broad and inclusive manner, the editorial outlets that can serve as valid venues for publishing research produced by our scientific community. This reflection led, starting in 2002, to the explicit formulation of a list of relevant journals. These journals are classified into five categories, namely Goldstar, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Copper, based on their assessed quality level, evaluated through the use of reputational and bibliometric repositories.

The primary objective pursued by AiIG through the AiIG Journal Ranking is to identify a set of journals of interest to our scientific community, distinguishing them by quality level. It is important to emphasize that **the classification provides useful information about the editorial placement of a research output, but it does not automatically indicate its coherence with the disciplinary field, nor its originality or methodological rigor**. Likewise, the classification does not intend to suggest that research outputs published outside the listed journals are necessarily inconsistent or irrelevant for the field. In this regard, we stress that the AiIG Journal Ranking represents a key, though not exclusive, reference for journal-based scientific publications within our Association.

The merit-based categorization serves as a transparent support system to guide research work toward increasing quality, both in view of individual career development and in strengthening the scientific reputation of the entire community at the national and international levels.

The concept of research quality encompasses a series of ethical principles to which researchers must adhere in the exercise of their profession and in pursuing the advancement of knowledge. The principles of research ethics that AiIG aspires to are set forth in its Code of Ethics ([link](#)).

Distinguishing scientific journals based on their quality is an increasingly complex task due to several factors, notably:

- Quality is a multidimensional concept, encompassing aspects such as impact, originality, and ethics, among others.
- Publishing approaches are evolving rapidly, often without adhering to the ethical and scientific rigor principles outlined in our community's Code of Ethics.
- Bibliometric evaluations are increasingly affected by distortions resulting from the strong emphasis on quantity in scientific output, influenced in part by national and international assessment systems.
- Research areas are undergoing rapid evolution, with the emergence of new topics often characterized by interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity.

In full awareness of these complexities, the AiIG Board of Directors is undertaking a careful reflection on the role and characteristics of the AiIG Journal Ranking. The first outcome of this activity is the 2025 update of the classification. This update maintains the guiding principles of the previous classification, which mitigated the limitations of purely bibliometric approaches by integrating reputational qualitative repositories. Furthermore, in line with the updated description of our disciplinary area, which highlights its multi- and interdisciplinary nature, the classification has been made more inclusive of emerging research topics, through the involvement of members in proposing journal additions and through the consideration of the “close-to-the-core” category of journals. While maintaining continuity with previous principles and procedures, the AiIG Journal Ranking 2025 introduces several notable innovations:

- The algorithm used in the 2022 classification has been modified regarding the GOLD category. A journal will now only be placed in this category if a score of 4 in one of the reference repositories (within the disciplinary boundaries) is accompanied by at least a score of 3 in one of the other repositories (also within the disciplinary boundaries). This change is intended to ensure that the classification of a journal as Gold reflects a degree of agreement among multiple repositories.
- Additional information is now provided for each journal included in the classification: i) its placement in the two previous classifications, which indicates the stability of its position over time; ii) its ranking in the five reference repositories used by the algorithm (WOS – Social Science Citation Index and Science Citation Index Expanded, Scopus, ABS, CNRS, and Financial Times top 50 journal list), which clarifies the rationale for its classification; iii) the publisher and related link, allowing direct access to the journal’s website to review its publishing model and editorial style.
- The classification’s duration has been reset to two years, allowing for updates that better reflect the rapid evolution of research, scientific publishing, and national evaluation systems.

AiIG, through its Board of Directors, is committed to supporting its members in the ongoing pursuit of quality and relevance in their scholarly publication efforts, offering guidance and information that members may freely choose to follow.

The AiIG Journal Ranking is a vital tool for supporting research in our field. Therefore, the Board of Directors is fully aware of the need to continuously address the complexities inherent to the classification and to implement refinements over time so that it remains a useful support tool, not a constraint, in achieving its ultimate goal: to promote high-quality research and contribute to the common good.

The AiIG Board of Directors

Appendix: Some statistics about the classification

The consultation for the final definition of the AiIG List of Relevant Journals was carried out based on an initial list of 1,486 titles (compared to 1,378 in the previous consultation, +7.6%). It was concluded on July 17, 2025.

Summary data of the consultation:

- The professors who participated in the consultation were 123 (compared to 135 in the previous consultation), equal to 62% of those entitled (in line with the previous edition).
- The journals to be added to the initial list amount to 183 (compared to 181 in the previous consultation).
- Of this total, 72 journals (39.3%) pertain to the core disciplines of the group;
- Of the remaining 111 journals (60.7%), 41 belong to the close-to-the-core categories, while 70 belong to the non-core categories; if the initial list of journals is included, their incidence on the total AiIG Journals is about 6.7% (in line with the previous consultation).

The final list of relevant journals therefore amounts to 1,669 units (previously 1,559), distributed by quality tiers as follows:

o GOLDSTAR	71 (4.3%)	(previously 4.7%)
o GOLD	246 (14.7%)	(previously 20.1%)
o SILVER	613 (36.7%)	(previously 28.8%)
o BRONZE	642 (38.5%)	(previously 39.5%)
o COPPER	97 (5.8%)	(previously 6.8%)