

# Editorial policies of many highly-cited journals are hidden or unclear.



[transpose-publishing.github.io](https://transpose-publishing.github.io)

We used criteria associated with the Transpose database to evaluate policies in 171 of the most highly-cited journals across disciplines.

We found that nearly one third don't clearly state even basic information about the editorial process, such as whether peer review is blinded.

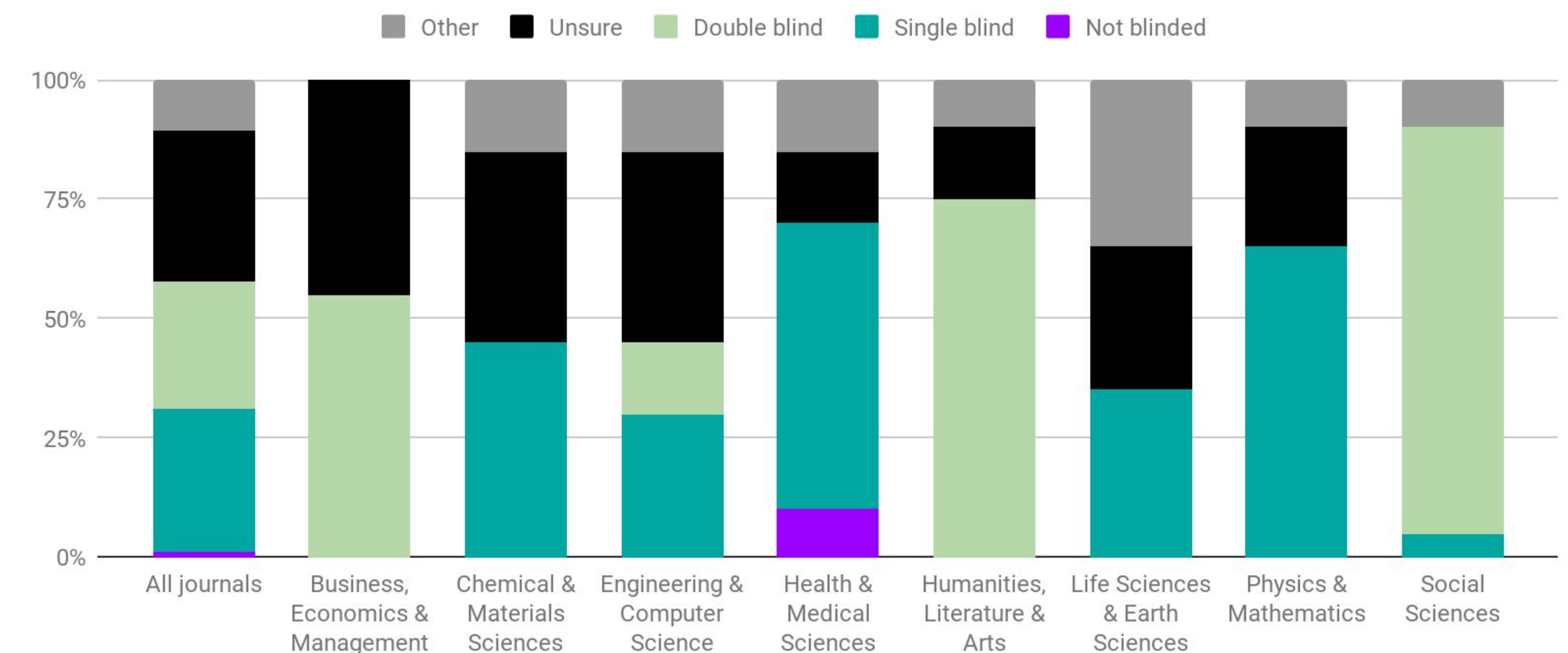
## Methods

We used the Google Scholar Metrics service to compile a list of the top 100 scholarly publications, ordered according to their five-year h-index and h-median metrics as of 13th October 2018. In addition, we took the top 20 results from each of the 7 broad sub-categories offered by Google Scholar Metrics. We deduplicated the list, resulting in 171 journals.

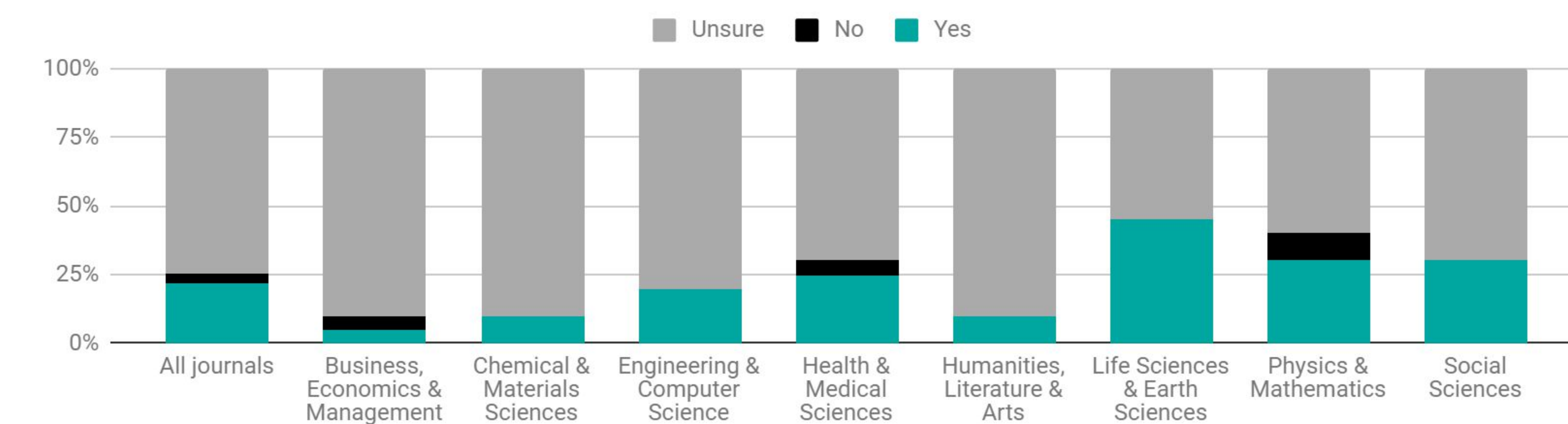
Each title was assigned to two independent assessors who followed a standardised data-collection instrument ([bit.ly/transposeform](https://bit.ly/transposeform)) and protocol. The aim was to mirror the experience of a researcher who might wish to find information on peer review and preprint policies online. Search began from the journal website, and internal links followed from there. No secondary sources were used (e.g., assessor's prior knowledge; external databases; contact with journal editorial staff). Assessors could use web keyword searches, for example "[journal name] AND "peer review" OR "pre-print"".

In a third assessment round, two assessors (TRH & JP) resolved differences, discussing cases with one another when needed.

## What type of peer review is used?



## Can co-reviewers contribute to the review?



## What version of a preprint can be posted?

