

World Leisure Journal (WLJ)



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World Leisure Journal is the official peer-reviewed scientific journal of the **World Leisure Organization (WLO)**. Established originally under the title *World Leisure & Recreation*, the journal aims to stimulate critical discussion and share both theoretical and empirical knowledge on leisure studies from a global perspective.

- **Publisher:** Taylor & Francis (Routledge Publishing Group)
- **Publication Frequency:** Quarterly (four issues per year), available in both print and electronic formats
- **Identifiers:** ISSN 1607-8055, eISSN 2333-4509
- **Publication Model:** Hybrid model, combining traditional subscription-based publishing with Open Access options

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Aims & Scope

The primary mission of the **World Leisure Journal (WLJ)** is to advance understanding of how leisure influences **the quality of life, health, and well-being** of individuals, communities, and societies worldwide. The journal focuses on:

- Promoting social inclusion and social justice through leisure-related activities.
- Examining leisure from diverse cultural and community perspectives, including the integration of *Indigenous* ways of knowing.
- Cross-national and cross-cultural comparative research.

The journal adopts a **strongly interdisciplinary approach**, bringing together research and perspectives from a wide range of fields, including:

- Sociology of Leisure
- Recreation, Sport, and Tourism Studies
- Psychology and Psychiatry (mental health and leisure)
- Human Geography and Anthropology
- Public Health (the impact of active and passive leisure activities on physical and psychological well-being)

The **World Leisure Journal (WLJ)** welcomes a variety of scholarly contributions, which enhances its academic flexibility. The journal publishes:

1. **Original Research Papers**
Empirical studies with quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-methods research methodology.
2. **Review Essays and Systematic Literature Reviews**
Syntheses of current knowledge on specific topics within leisure studies.
3. **Research Notes and Methodological Contributions**
Shorter papers on innovative methods related to leisure research.

4. Special Issues

Thematic collections of articles focused on contemporary and highly relevant topics, such as the digitalization of leisure, leisure among older adults, or the impact of global changes on recreation.

From the perspective of scholarly recognition, the **World Leisure Journal** is well established within major international indexing databases:

- **Web of Science (WoS):** The journal is indexed in the **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)** within the category *Hospitality, Leisure, Sport & Tourism*.
- **Journal Impact Factor (JIF):** The journal currently maintains an Impact Factor of **2.3**, reflecting a stable level of citation and engagement within the academic community.
- **CiteScore:** 4.6 (in 2025)
- **CiteScore Tracker:** 5.4 (2026)
- **Peer Review Process:** All submissions undergo a rigorous independent *double-blind peer-review process*.

An analysis of recent publications demonstrates that the **World Leisure Journal** responds dynamically to contemporary societal challenges. Among the most prominent themes are:

- **Digital Leisure:** The impact of digital technologies, social media, and generative AI on the ways people spend their leisure time.
- **Therapeutic Landscapes and Mental Health:** Research on how natural environments and specific leisure practices contribute to well-being of marginalized populations, such as transgender individuals, or older adults.
- **Community Development:** The role of organized sport and group-based physical activities as “third places” in the development of social capital.

The **World Leisure Journal** is widely recognized as an important academic platform for researchers, sociologists, and policymakers working in the fields of public health and recreation. By combining a global perspective with sensitivity to local cultural contexts, the journal plays a significant role in shaping contemporary discussions on the value and significance of leisure in the twenty-first century.

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