Predatory Publishing

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With gratitude, we would like to acknowledge that this presentation was influenced by and, in part, adapted from “Research Publishing Strategies,” by Rick Anderson.
Learning Objectives

- Place predatory publishing in the context of the changing publishing industry
- Understand why scholars might publish in disreputable journals
- Note the impact of predatory publishing on science and health
- Feel empowered by gaining the tools to make informed decisions
Overview - Context

- Place predatory publishing in the context of the changing publishing industry
What is **Scholarly Publishing**?

System through which research results and other scholarly writings are:

- **created**,  
- **evaluated** for quality,  
- **disseminated** to the scholarly community, and  
- **preserved** for future use for other scholars, learners, and the public good.

Definition from University of Washington: [https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/spoa](https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/spoa)
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...**Scholarly Publishing** - an overarching term used to describe a suite of digital services:

- open access publishing
- institutional repositories
- electronic theses and dissertations
- authors’ rights & copyright advising
- research data management
- digital preservation
- open educational resources
- support for the tools of digital scholarship

*Definition from University of Washington: [https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/sboa](https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/sboa)*
Open Access Publishing

Intent: to reduce costs of publishing and distributing research output, and to make it more widely and freely available.

Dependent upon: Article Processing Charge and author-pays model

*Needs to be paired with creative commons licensing for appropriate redistribution.
Some predatory practices existed, like conferences, Internet publishing had not yet proliferated, and most journals were available in print-only format.

- Pre-1990’s
- 1999
  - PubMed Central (2000)
  - BMC (2000) and PLOS (2003) founded and began charging APCs
  - Wikipedia launched (2001)
  - DOAJ founded (2003)
- 2008
  - Exponential growth of predatory publishers
  - Beall starts his list
  - NIH mandates free-to-public publishing
- 2012
  - NIH proposes archive of free biomedical papers
  - FTC issues complaint for permanent injunction against OMICS
- 2016
  - Growth of scholarly and academic writing about predatory publishing practices
What is Predatory Publishing?

“The fundamental problem with predatory publishing, ...isn’t its lack of rigor but rather the deceptive nature of the practice.” - Rick Anderson

You see it in the practice, not the definition.
### Host of Predatory Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promise</th>
<th>Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Named to Editorial Board for peer-reviewed journal</td>
<td>Unable to dissolve relationship, can result in identity theft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quick publication of peer-reviewed article</td>
<td>No peer-review, can hurt reputation/promotion, may not be published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It’s a good deal with a low APC (article processing charge)</td>
<td>Publisher may keep APC without publishing, publisher may not return article and retains the copyrights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open access journals are easier to access and will garner more citations</td>
<td>No licensing, indexing, or content preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication in a legitimate journal</td>
<td>Impact factors and index statuses are often fake, emails from the publisher are phishing attempts, domains and names of legitimate journals are pirated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Predatory Publishing is NOT

- Scholarly communication
- Furthering the academic conversation
- Promoting science and health
Predatory Publishing and Open Access

Open Access $\neq$ Predatory
Changing Publishing Industry

- Place predatory publishing in the context of the changing publishing industry
How did it all go wrong?
How did it all go wrong?

It’s the money, honey.
The Serials Crisis

Open Access Publishing

GOLD OA ROUTE

1. RESEARCHER decides where to publish
2. PUBLISH in an Open access journal
3. PAY Article Processing Charge (APC) if required
4. IMMEDIATE Open Access via publisher

GREEN OA ROUTE

1. SEE SHERPA RoMEO for OA & self archiving options sherpa.ac.uk/romeo
2. PUBLISH in a subscription-based journal
3. SEARCH for OA repository opendoar.org
4. SELF ARCHIVE in a repository based on publisher policy
5. IMMEDIATE or DELAYED Open Access (depending on publisher’s policy)

HYBRID JOURNAL

1. subscription-based journal
2. With a paid open access option
3. PAY Article Processing Charge (APC) if required
4. IMMEDIATE Open Access via publisher

Gold Route-
Journals

Green Route-
Repositories

Institutional Repositories

Disciplinary Repositories

Pure Open Access Journals

Hybrid Open Access Journals

Always open. Always connected.
Costs Real Dollars

Predatory publishers earned $75 million last year, study finds

By John Bohannon | Sep. 30, 2015, 8:00 PM

Need to get your research published? Don’t want to be hassled by peer review or editorial quality control? You are in luck. There are thousands of scientific journals waiting to publish it right away, for a fee.

A new study finds that the fake journal business is booming—and puts some hard numbers on this murky academic underworld. Last year alone, so-called predatory publishers took in about $75 million and published nearly half a million articles, researchers report today online in BMC Medicine.
Scholars and Predatory Outlets

- Understand why scholars might publish in disreputable journals
Why Scholars Choose Predatory Outlets

They are unaware – duped!

They are aware - and just do it!
Impact on Scholars

- Only about 60% of predatory journals have actually published (Stratford, Chronicle of Higher Ed, 2012)

- Authors
  - may lose copyrights and control of intellectual content
  - are spending money on something that could hurt their careers
    - beginning to have an impact on promotion and tenure
    - beginning to have an impact on future publications (ex: Journal of Human Lactation is verifying references in submitted papers against blacklists)
  - can harm their academic reputation, reliability, and status as expert
Scholars are Unaware

- Misunderstanding of the process
- English as a second language
- They were asked
- It can be difficult and confusing to navigate the process
- Soundalike publications
- Pressure to publish combined with process naiveté
- Scholars from developing nations
- Academics early in their career

“The reason I call [certain publishers] predatory is because they prey on people. They try to trick honest researchers, and sometimes they are successful.” Jeffrey Beall, The Scientist, 2017.
Some Scholars are Aware

- Need to publish quickly
- Pressure to publish, even when support for research may be inadequate
- English as a second language
- To drive metrics
- Mandatory publications for tenure
- It has been relatively low risk
- Beef up CVs
  - Editorial Boards
  - Publication counts
  - Presentation counts

“Sadly, a few academics are gaming the new system, exploiting the scholarly vanity press to buy prestige.” – Jeffrey Beall, The Scientist, 2012
Real Impact

- Note the impact of predatory publishing on science and health
Predatory Practices - Problematic?

- Bad science
- Costs real dollars
- Impact on scholars
- Negates the peer-review process

Impacts clinical decision-making process
Bad Science in Predatory Journals

- **John Bohannon** -- Chocolate helps you lose weight

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**Dr. Olivia Doll** -- Australian Staffordshire terrier Ollie at one time served on the editorial boards of seven medical journals.
Journal Legitimacy - Context

- Feel empowered by gaining the tools to make informed decisions
Sound-alike Publishing

When a disreputable journal chooses a name that is similar, or exactly the same as, a reputable journal
Hijacked Publications

When a disreputable publisher (like OMICS) buys a previously reputable journal and fails to uphold the peer-review process.
MEDLINE - primary component of PubMed

TOTAL: ~ 28 million citations/abstracts
What About PubMed? PubMedCentral?

*PubMed is not a functional white list*

- Medline and PubMed have different policies for journal selection
  - Problem: over 5600 journals indexed in Medline & about 30,000 are indexed in PubMed
    - PubMed policies are less strict & may include journals that did not apply for MEDLINE indexing or did not satisfy minimum criteria
- PubMedCentral
  - Problem: looser and more flexible journal selection procedure than MEDLINE; these less scrutinized journals “leak” into the PubMed database
Search results

- **Journal of neuroscience and neuropharmacology**
  1. NLM Title Abbreviation: J Neurosci Neuropharmacol [Henderson, NV] OMICS International
     Not currently indexed for MEDLINE
     NLM ID: 101724257 [Serial]

- **Journal of biological and medical sciences**
  2. NLM Title Abbreviation: J Biol Med Sci Hyderabad, India OMICS International
     Not currently indexed for MEDLINE
     NLM ID: 101720693 [Serial]

- **Journal of mucosal immunology research**
  3. NLM Title Abbreviation: J Mucosal Immunot Res Hyderabad Omics International
     Not currently indexed for MEDLINE
     NLM ID: 101713528 [Serial]

- **The neurologist (Hyderabad, India)**
  4. NLM Title Abbreviation: Neurologist (Hyderabad) [Hyderabad, India] OMICS International
     Not currently indexed for MEDLINE
     NLM ID: 101719675 [Serial]

- **Virology (Hyderabad)**
  5. NLM Title Abbreviation: Virology (Hyderabad) [Hyderabad, India] OMICS International
     Not currently indexed for MEDLINE
     NLM ID: 101714418 [Serial]
Examples

- Feel empowered by gaining the tools to make informed decisions
Predatory Email Solicitations

Spam or phishing emails asking authors to sit on editorial boards or submit their work for publication.

Look out for:

- Generic email addresses
- No signature block
- Unusual names, or unprofessional signatures
- Spelling mistakes
- Overly solicitous language
- Attempts to make bulk emails look personal
- Speed to publish
Dear Christine S. Gaspard,

Hope this email finds you in the best of health & spirit...!!

We perceived that the scope of the Global Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation is in parallel to your area of research interest. Global Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation is accepting manuscripts for its upcoming edition Volume 3, Issue 1. We are writing this proposal to endorse your research in the particular field.


Submit your paper online: http://gslpublishers.org/author-guidelines.php

All the published articles get indexed in internationally recognized open access repositories considered appropriate for the subject.

After publication, article will be assigned with DOI number and will be indexed in Google scholar, DOAJ and cite factor. If your article is funded by NIH, it will be indexed in PUBMED within a month after publication.

If this proposal is agreeable to you and does not conflict with your current professional and research interests, please let us know by writing to us as an acknowledgment of you looking forward to publish your work.

Yours Sincerely
Ruth Garcia
Global Journal of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
1320 Willow Pass Road
Suite 600, Concord
California 94520
USA
Tel: 1-925-999-1266
Potentially Predatory Websites

Websites for journals or publishers that claim to make authors’ works openly available.

- Razzle dazzle
- Spelling mistakes
- Can’t verify Editorial Board
- Can’t verify Editor in Chief
- One person answers email, the phone, is the editor, etc.
- Lackluster instructions
- Nothing in the archives
- Generic email addresses
- Content doesn’t match the intent
- Speed to publish
- Difficult to search for content/must register
- Lies about impact factor
Sites for Review

- Open Access Library Journal
- American Journal of Medical and Biological Research
- Journal for Research
- PLoS ONE
Characterization and Prognostication of Wastes Generated by Industries in Kampala Industrial and Business Park—Namanve

Timothy Omara, O.O, Nicodemus Othiema, Jimmy Obonge, Stephen Ssebulime, Mureen Kansime

Abstract | References Full-Text HTML XML | Pub. Date: April 4, 2019
DOI: 10.4236/oalibj.1105189 | 11 Downloads | 42 Views

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Patrycja Orzechowska, Krzysztof Polok

Abstract | References Full-Text HTML XML | Pub. Date: March 29, 2019
DOI: 10.4236/oalibj.1105307 | 29 Downloads | 55 Views

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Peter Muchiri Mwal

Abstract | References Full-Text HTML XML | Pub. Date: March 29, 2019
DOI: 10.4236/oalibj.1105263 | 16 Downloads | 35 Views

Open Access Library Journal

ISSN Print: 2333-9705 ISSN Online: 2333-9721
Website: https://www.sciRP.org/journal/oalibj
E-mail: service@oalib.com

Google-based Impact Factor: 0.28 h5-index & Ranking*

Open Access Library Journal Stats

Publication years: 2014-2019
Publication count: 2277
Citation count: 1866
Impact Factor: 0.28
Downloads: 1,460,326
Views: 2,397,008
Downloads/article: 641.3
Citations/article: 0.7

Biomedical & Life Sciences

Advances In Alzheimer’s Disease
Advances in Bioscience and Biotechnology
Advances in Enzyme Research
American Journal of Molecular Biology
Advances in Molecular Imaging
Advances in Parkinson’s Disease
CellBio
Food and Nutrition Sciences
International Journal of Organic Chemistry
Journal of Biomedical Science and Engineering
Journal of Biomaterials and Nanobiotecnology
Microscopy Research

Open Access Library Journal
WELCOME TO J4R (JOURNAL FOR RESEARCH)

Journal 4 Research (J4R) is an Online Open Access Peer Reviewed Indexed Journal. It is an internationally refereed journal that is dedicated to the publishing of the latest advancements in engineering research. The goal of this journal is to record the latest findings and promote further research in various areas and aims to promote the integration of the different fields. The comprehensive, fast and efficient research cycles allow scholars to make progress in their careers more effectively. The papers for publication in Journal 4 Research (J4R) are selected through rigorous peer reviews to ensure originality, timeliness, relevance, and readability.

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We audit the performance of research articles, using a wide range of indicators to assess their impact on readers and their dissemination to the wider world. The editors reserve the right to reject a paper or make changes to the content if there are serious problems with the content or with violations of our publishing policies. Journal 4 Research (J4R) is aimed at providing a platform for researchers, engineers, scientists, or educators to publish their original research results, to exchange new ideas, to disseminate information in innovative designs, engineering experiences and technological skills. It is also the Journal’s objective to promote engineering and technology education. All papers submitted to the Journal will be blind peer-reviewed. Only original articles will be published.

Hence, the Scholars from all relevant academic fields are invited to submit high-quality manuscripts that describe the latest, state-of-the-art research results or innovations.

The Authors can submit the papers any time by online submission

AIM AND SCOPE

Journal 4 Research (J4R (Journal For Research)) is an open access peer reviewed examining journal. It is a monthly journal giving a stage to the investigators, academicians, master, experts and undergraduates to present and offer brilliant observational and theoretical investigation papers, examination attempts, composition reviews and book studies. We publish original and high-quality papers. We aim to cover the latest outstanding development in the fields of Engineering and Technologies. This monthly journal is mainly started to help researching peers belonging to Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Research students, and therefore it welcomes and perceives excellent theoretical and exploratory interesting examination papers, watchful examinations, review papers, composition studies, book reviews, hypothetical construction, investigative and multiplication models, specific note from researchers, academicians, master, masters and undergraduates from all over the world. All the published papers are submitted to the major indexing services for indexing.

Social Media

News

Call For Papers

Always open. Always connected.
Potentially Predatory Conferences

Predatory conferences solicit academics to attend and present their work. The **intent is profit for the conference convener** rather than the exchange and sharing of science.

Look out for:

- Overdone language in the email solicitation
- The conference is not sponsored by a known and reliable society
- It is “international” and “illustrious”
- Speakers must pay fees
- Can’t find information on previous conferences
- The email is direct (spam) rather than through a known and trusted listserv
Predatory Conference Examples

The case of **Entomology-2013** VS **Entomology 2013**
Thesis Convertors

*Thesis convertors will publish anything.*

- Typically target students that have just completed a thesis or dissertation
- Bulk email approach
- Typically “print-on-demand” publishing
- Scholars give up copyright
- Scholars pay to have book published
- Author must pay to get a copy of the published book
- Scholars must market the book
Useful Decision-making Tools

- Feel empowered by gaining the tools to make informed decisions
**Evaluation Tools for you to use:**

### Email Evaluation Tool

Read through the items in the checklist below while reviewing the email in question. Mark "Yes" or "No" as appropriate. At the end of the checklist, count the number of "Yes" and "No" responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklist</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the name in the salutation correct?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the honorific/initial correct?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the sender have an official signature line?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the sender’s email domain representative of the association, journal, or publisher?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the grammar, usage, and/or spelling correct?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it a general email from a known/reputable association, journal, or publisher?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the language and tone appropriate for the message?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the journal title related to your field of research?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the sender provide adequate information about their association, journal, or publisher, like a web address and a specific journal name?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you feel comfortable providing the solicitor with personal information like your CV, bio, photo, etc.?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the timeline for publication or acceptance to an editorial board align with the expectations for peer review?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you verify the sender is employed at the association, journal, or publisher?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is it clear that your submission will not be automatically accepted?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:**

If there are more entries in the "No" column, it is likely that the email is from a predatory publisher.

### Website Evaluation Tool

Read through the items in the checklist below while reviewing the website in question. Mark "Yes" or "No" as appropriate. At the end of the checklist, count the number of "Yes" and "No" responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklist</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the grammar, usage, and/or spelling correct?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the URL appear to be unique and legitimate?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the website look professional and/or academic without flash media?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there original photos or images?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are full-length articles available in the archives going back to the date the journal began publishing?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the subject of the published articles (even in publications with broad scope) topicually related in some way?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a verifiable physical address and phone number?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you confirm that there is more than one employee or representative in the company?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you search content easily without registering?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the published content fit within the scope of the journal?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has the journal been publishing for longer than 3 years?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you verify the stated impact factor in the JCR?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there a named Editorial Board?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you verify identities, backgrounds, and/or publications of the members of the Editorial Board?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the instructions for the authors detailed and adequate (detailed retraction policy, archiving, copyright, process for acceptance and review, etc.)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is publication presented as a possibility, rather than a guarantee?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the publication schedule clear and consistent?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a named Editor in Chief consistently published editors?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the site provide a submission portal, rather than submission via email?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:**

If there are more entries in the "No" column, it is likely that the website is from a predatory publisher.

### Conference Evaluation Tool

Read through the items in the checklist below while reviewing the email and conference website in question. Mark "Yes" or "No" as appropriate. At the end of the checklist, count the number of "Yes" and "No" responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Checklist</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is the conference sponsored by a reputable association (ACC, MLA, ANA, AAMC, AAN, etc.)?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the sponsor involved in any scholarly activity other than facilitating conferences?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you know anyone who has attended or presented at the conference?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If you speak or present, are the conference fees waived?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you easily identify the venue?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is this a long-running, established conference?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are the registration and other fees clearly outlined?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are you familiar with previous proceedings for that specific conference?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the conference itinerary clear and easily accessible?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can you identify any of the speakers from previous conferences or experts in your field?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the conference location in conflict with the content and/or sponsor?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the subject matter relevant to your field of expertise?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total:**

If there are more entries in the "No" column, it is likely that the conference in question is predatory.

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https://figshare.com/authors/Emme_Lopez/5925557
White and Black Lists

FREELY AVAILABLE
- Directory of Open Access Journals
- Indexed in Medline
- INANE Nursing Journals Directory
- Think. Check. Submit.
- Committee on Publications Ethics (COPE)
- Urology Green List
- PT Core Journals (JMLA 2011)
- Physical Therapy & Rehabilitation Journals

SUBSCRIPTION
- Cabell’s Whitelist
- Ulrich’s
- Journal Citation Reports
- NAHRS Core Journals List
Other Resources

- Scholarly blogs like **The Scholarly Kitchen**
- Discussion threads on Research Gate or other scholarly/academic discussion groups
- **Stop Predatory Journals website**
- Your healthy skepticism
Q & A and Discussion - Let’s talk!
Call to Action

- Be skeptical!
- Investigate
- Educate others about OA/APC