Publishing Wisely

John Chen and Xun Xu

February 2018
What are ‘predatory’ journals? How to identify them?

John Chen
Research & Publications

- Publications eligible for the 2012-2017 PBRF Round is now over.

- Prepare for the next PBRF round, 2018-2023

- Planning for your academic career
Getting published is important, but not so important that you should publish in an inappropriate or disreputable journal.

Royal Society of New Zealand

We read spam a lot: prospective cohort study of unsolicited and unwanted academic invitations

BMJ 2016; 355 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i5383 (Published 14 December 2016)
Cite this as: BMJ 2016;355:i5383

Andrew Grey, associate professor 1, Mark J Bolland, associate professor 1, Nicola Dalbeth, professor 1, Greg Gamble, statistician 1, Lynn Sadler, epidemiologist 2

Author affiliations

1 Department of Medicine, University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland, New Zealand
2 Women’s Health, Auckland District Health Board, New Zealand

Correspondence to: A Grey a.grey@auckland.ac.nz

Accepted 28 September 2016
Introduction

Unsolicited and unwanted (spam) electronic invitations to speak at or attend conferences, or to write for or edit journals are a burgeoning aspect of academic life. Colleagues regard such invitations with wry amusement, intense frustration, or resignation. Two of us (AG, ND) have reviewed travel grant applications from colleagues who received spam invitations to give conference presentations.
Academics and scientists: Beware of predatory journal publishers

August 26, 2016
by Lisa Lake
Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

If you’re a scholar or scientist, you know the value of being published in an academic journal. Unfortunately, some dishonest publishers also understand this — and have used it to profit from rather than promote legitimate advancements in research and academia.

In its lawsuit against OMICS Group — which operates hundreds of online journals in a variety of fields — the FTC says the company bombards people with emails soliciting articles, misrepresents the reputation of its publications, and doesn’t disclose that authors have to pay substantial fees — ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars — to be published.

The Rise of Predatory Journals: What Difference Does It Make?

Foad Nahai, MD, FACS

Accepted for publication April 23, 2015; online publish-ahead-of-print June 2, 2015.
Discriminating Between Legitimate and Predatory Open Access Journals: Report from the International Federation for Emergency Medicine Research Committee

Bhakti Hansoti, MBChB, MPH*
Mark I. Langdorf, MD, MHPE†
Linda S. Murphy, MLIS‡

*Johns Hopkins University, Department of Emergency Medicine, Baltimore, Maryland
†University of California, Irvine, Department of Emergency Medicine, Irvine, California
‡University of California, Irvine Libraries, Reference Department, Irvine, California

Submission history: Submitted March 10, 2016; Revision received July 1, 2016; Accepted July 14, 2016
Electronically published August 8, 2016
Full text available through open access at http://escholarship.org/uc/uciem_westjem
DOI: 10.5811/westjem.2016.7.30328
Research integrity corner: Special issue on predatory journals

Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals

Lorraine E. Ferris*1, Margaret A Winker2

1Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
2Secretary, World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)

*Corresponding author: Lorraine.ferris@utoronto.ca

Abstract

Predatory journals, or journals that charge an article processing charge (APC) to authors, yet do not have the hallmarks of legitimate scholarly journals such as peer review and editing, Editorial Boards, editorial offices, and other editorial standards, pose a number of new ethical issues in journal publishing. This paper discusses ethical issues around predatory journals and publishing in them. These issues include misrepresentation; lack of editorial and publishing standards and practices; academic deception; research and funding wasted; lack of archived content; and undermining confidence in research literature. It is important that the scholarly community, including authors, institutions, editors, and publishers, support the legitimate scholarly research enterprise, and avoid supporting predatory journals by not publishing in them, serving as their editors or on the Editorial Boards, or permitting faculty to knowingly publish in them without consequences.

Key words: predatory journals; publication ethics; medical publishing

Received: March 12, 2017

Accepted: May 11, 2017
‘Predatory’ open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics

Cenyu Shen and Bo-Christer Björk

Authors’ information
CS is a doctoral student in Information Systems Science at the Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland. B-CB is professor of Information Systems Science at the Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland.

Using our data for the number of articles and average APC for 2014, our estimate for the size of the market is 74 million USD. The corresponding figure for OA journals from reputable journals has been estimated at 244 million USD in 2013 [29]. The global subscription market for scholarly journals is estimated to be around 10.5 billion USD [30].

Note: APC=Article Processing Charges
Figure 1: Share of predatory documents in Scopus (%)

Note: The absolute number of indexed predatory documents is reported above each column.
Source: Scopus (on 11th October 2016), Beall’s lists (on 1st April 2016), authors’ calculations.

Vít Macháček & Martin Srholec, “Predatory journals in Scopus”, March 2017, Institute for Democracy & Economic Analysis, Czech Academy of Sciences. (available on the web by simply googling the entire citation.)
What are Predatory Journals?

Are predatory journals the publishing equivalent of what Donald Trump might call “a bad hombre”? our colleague asked in a recent commentary. In research just published, we dived in to have a look.

For the unfamiliar, the term “predatory journals” has been used to refer to online-only scholarly publishing entities with murky operations. They claim to be open access and to provide basic editorial services (peer review, perpetual archiving), yet they are failing on all accounts. They make money by collecting fees (article processing charges) from authors who publish with them.

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that
However, we’re calling them “illegitimate publishing entities” instead of “predatory journals”. In our opinion, these entities should be considered similar to the pseudo banking sites that sprang up in the early days of email, enticing people to send money abroad. They are not technically “journals” as they appear not to be authorised or in accordance with accepted publishing standards or rules.

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that
In addition, the term “predatory” suggests that the problem is one-way (that such entities are preying on innocent researchers), when, in fact, the relationship might be more symbiotic (some authors knowingly participate). “Predatory” thousands of these impostors are infiltrating the world of scientific publishing. And they are possibly giving a voice to very low-quality or bogus research (aka “alternative facts”), whereby agendas can be spun and spurious data released stealthily, free from the watchful eye of peer review. Even more disturbing is
Thirteen ways to spot a ‘predatory journal’ (and why we shouldn’t call them that)

Larissa Shamseer and David Moher have taken a close look at what it is that sets dodgy journals apart from the rest

March 27, 2017

By Larissa Shamseer
Twitter: @LarissaShamseer
By David Moher
Twitter: @dmoher

https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that
Thirteen ways to spot a 'predatory journal' (and why we shouldn't call ... https://www.timeshighereducation.com/.../thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-a... ▼
Mar 27, 2017 - Larissa Shamseer and David Moher have taken a close look at what it is that sets dodgy journals apart from the rest.

8 Ways to Identify a Questionable Open Access Journal | AJE ... https://www.aje.com/en/arc/8-ways-identify-questionable-open-access-journal/ ▼
So if it is important to avoid predatory companies masquerading as scholarly journals, how do you spot those journals? Here are a few warning signs. These points are only potential indicators of a journal or publisher being dishonest. Some legitimate journals may meet a few of these points, particularly when they have just ...
You visited this page on 13/02/18.

How to recognize predatory journals - Beall's List of Predatory ... https://beallslist.weebly.com/how-to-recognize-predatory-journals.html ▼
Salient features of potential predatory journals. The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics; The website contains spelling and grammar errors; Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized; The homepage language targets ...
Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: firstly, find the journal’s publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of journal’s webpage or in the “About” section. Then simply enter the publisher’s name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the Standalone Journals list.

Original list

This is an archived version of the Beall’s list – a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian Jeffrey Beall. We will only update links and add notes to this list. A list of new predatory publishers is available below the original one.

- 1088 Email Press
- 2425 Publishers
- The 5th Publisher
- ABC Journals
- A M Publishers
- Abhinav
- Academe Research Journals
- Academia Publishing

https://beallslist.weebly.com/
Publishing guidance

The document ‘Selecting a quality publisher’ provides guidance on assessing the quality of publishing venues and discusses key issues in academic publishing.

Published November 2017

Selecting a quality publisher [PDF 547.78 kb] is available as a PDF and as an online document below.

Why do I care?
What if I got trapped?

Xun Xu
Why

- Affect readership and impact of your paper/research work
- PBRF
- ADPR, Continuation/Promotion
- Quality vs. quantity
- Bottom-line: career development or career termination
What-If...

- What if I “accidentally” submitted a paper to a predatory journal what has been accepted?
  - Do NOT sign the copyright agreement
  - Contact the editor of the predatory journal to withdraw the paper
  - Choose a legitimate journal to submit
  - Add an editorial note on the paper explaining what has happened

- What if a good article was published in a predatory?
  - Check out the copyright agreement you signed
  - Damage control mode:
    - Do NOT list it in your CV, PBRF EP, promotion application, funding application, etc.
What-If...

What if I got listed in these biographical dictionaries:

- Marquis Who’s Who in the World
- Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award Winners
- 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21st Century, IBC
- Cambridge Certificate for Outstanding Scientific Achievement, IBC
- Who’s Who in Science and Engineering
- Leading Educators of the World, IBC

Keep these “accolades” to yourself or even better bin them!!
Money buys “Fame”, or does it?

https://www.marquiswhoswho.com/collections/whos-who-publications
Some references

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5493173/
https://publicationethics.org/case/withdrawal-accepted-manuscript-predatory-journal
https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/84244/what-to-do-when-a-good-article-is-published-in-a-predatory-online-journal-that-d
https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/93902/what-to-do-when-you-have-accidentally-submitted-an-article-to-a-predatory-journ

Selecting a quality publisher
Assessing the quality of publishing venues, and key issues in academic publishing

Guidance from Royal Society Te Apārangi

Getting published is important, but not so important that you should publish in an inappropriate or disreputable journal. This guide provides information to help you navigate the publishing world, with questions to ask of a potential publisher and information on key issues in academic publishing.

Contents
Questions to ask of a potential publisher ................................................................. 1
Affiliation and contact information ...................................................................... 2
Editorial practices .................................................................................................. 2
Peer-review process .............................................................................................. 3
Indexing .................................................................................................................. 3
Fees ......................................................................................................................... 3
Indicators of poor practice .................................................................................... 3
Indicators of quality .............................................................................................. 3
Other checklists ..................................................................................................... 4
Key issues in academic publishing ...................................................................... 4
The rise of Open Access and pay to publish ....................................................... 4
New entrants in the scholarly information environment ..................................... 5
The effect on the scholarly record ....................................................................... 5
A risk that good research becomes irretrievable ................................................. 6
A risk that poor quality research is published ................................................... 6
Note to users .......................................................................................................... 6
Acknowledgements............................................................................................... 6
Further information and reading ........................................................................ 6
Engineering Intranet

Researcher Wise seminar series

A series of seminars that target engineering researchers and are aimed to answer some of your frequently asked questions.

- Researcher Wise seminar #1: Publishing and Conferencing
- Researcher Wise seminar #2: Authors' Identifiers and Researcher Networks
- Researcher Wise seminar #3: Your Face to the World
- Researcher Wise seminar #4: Social Media for Research
- Useful links

Researcher Wise seminar #1: Publishing and Conferencing

This seminar discussed how to identify high quality journals by discipline. Topics included:

- Strategies on how to identify quality journals and conferences and how to spot predators
- Advice on identifying the "cold call" invites to be a guest editor, an editorial board, book publications (e.g. Lambert), keynote speaker at a conference, inclusion in "Who's Who ....", and more
- An overview of Open Access publishing models
- How to make your work open access, including tips for archiving your work in the University Research Repository and ResearchSpace

- [Professor Brian Mace: Journals](785.9 kB, PDF)
- [Professor John Chen: Cold Call Invites](3.9 MB, PDF)
- [Professor Yun Xu: Conferencing](1.2 MB, PDF)
- [Rosanne van Leeuwen: Open Access](270.7 kB, PDF)
- [Rosanne van Leeuwen: Open Access flowchart](59.2 kB, PDF)

Researcher Wise seminar #2: Authors' Identifiers and Researcher Networks

This seminar covered best practice and new developments in ORCID. It also explained:
Final Thoughts

- NO complete list of “legitimate” or “predatory” journals
- Reputable publishers may also publish predatory journals
- Scholarly databases (e.g. WoS, Scopus) may also include predatory journals
- Clarivate Analytics Impact Factor, or simply IF (Impact Factor)?
- If in doubt, talk to
  - Experienced colleagues
  - HoDs
  - Library staff members