



Avoiding Predatory Publishers

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Learning Objectives

After this presentation participants should be able to:

- Define ‘predatory publisher’
- Spot red flags that point towards predatory practices
- Know how to reach out for further assistance



What is
predatory?

Definition

- “systematic for-profit publication of purportedly scholarly content (in journals and articles, monographs, books, or conference proceedings) in a deceptive or fraudulent way and without any regard for quality assurance.”

*-COPE Council. COPE Discussion Document:
Predatory Publishing. November 2019*

Predatory Practices



Collecting APCs for low quality work (paper mills)

Selling author slots on papers

Plagiarizing content/moving it to new 'journals' when they get shut down

Fake editorial boards, reviewers, etc.

Why do they do it?



MONEY



PUBLISH OR PERISH

The Problem

For You

- Lack of citations/find-a-bility
- Not taken into consideration in tenure/promotion
- Damage to reputation
- Generally, you can't submit your article to another journal

For Others

- Erodes public trust in science and research
- Wastes resources
- Fake/low quality articles could be put into policy



How to spot one

Think Check Submit

<https://library.ecu.edu/> >research guides> faculty
resources > journal selection and evaluation>
<https://libguides.ecu.edu/journalpub/evals>

UNK ✓ CHECK > SUBMIT

↑ Boo

- It can be challenging to find up-to-date guidance when choosing where to publi

✓ CHECK

Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.

Do you or your colleagues know the journal?

- Have you read any articles in the journal before?
- Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- Name of the journal: the name is unique; it is not the same or easily confused with another journal.
- Can you cross check with information about the journal in the [ISSN portal](#)?

Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?

- Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
- Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post?

Peer Review

- Are details provided?
- Is acceptance guaranteed?
- How short is peer review turn around?



Editorial Board



- Can you find it?
- Are the editors experts in the field/a related field?
- Do the editors know that they are editors?
 - Is it listed on their LinkedIn, professional webpage, other places

Verify indexing and metrics

Journal Metrics

Scientific Reports has a 2-year impact factor of 3.8 (2023), and is the 5th most-cited journal in the world, with more than 734,000 citations in 2023*.

*2023 Journal Citation Reports® Science Edition (Clarivate Analytics, 2024).

- [Web of science](#) (Clarivate analytics)
- [Scopus](#)
- [DOAJ](#) (directory of open access journals)
- [ISSN](#)
- [PubMed](#)
- Etc

APCs or Fees



Clear on what they are for?



Currency listed?



When is it due?

At acceptance is standard. At submission is suspicious



Journal identify how they are financially supported?

Large company, university press, scholarly society, etc.

Journal publishing does cost money



Data storage



Formatting



Software
hosting



Paying editors
sometimes

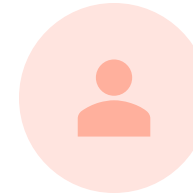


IT support

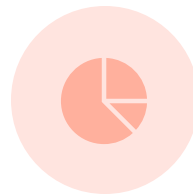
Author Guidelines



License policy?



Who retains copyright?



Metrics or usage information?



Space for declaring:
conflicts of interest, ethics declaration, approval for human/animal experimentation, etc

If Open Access: Member of Recognized Industry Initiative

All

- COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)
- DOAJ (directory of open access journals)
- OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association)
- Trade association

Region Specific

- AJOL (African Journals Online)
- Scielo- Latin American scientific journals
- Latindex- Journals published in Latin America, Spain, Portugal, the Caribbean
- Redalyc- Journals published in Latin America, Spain, Portugal, the Caribbean

Devil is in the Details



- Are multiple articles by the same author in one issue?
- Is there a way to contact the journal/editor(s)?
- Is the name extremely similar to a more popular journal?
- Do articles have DOIs or other permanent identifiers?

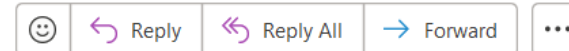
Be suspicious of email invitations from journals you don't know

Two Page Article



publichealth@biomedgridresearch.org

To SCHOLARLYCOMM



Wed 4/3/2024 7:22 AM

You don't often get email from publichealth@biomedgridresearch.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

This email originated from outside ECU.

Dear professor,

Hope you are doing well.

Well, we are glad to enlighten you that, **Volume 22 Issue 1** of AJBSR journal is scheduled to release on or before **12th of April**, so we heartily invite your Research/Review Papers to the Journal.

If this is short notice, your 2-page Opinion or Mini Review is also welcomed.

We are confident that you will always be there to support us.

Ariana Dever
Assistant Managing Editor
American Journal of Biomedical Science & Research (ISSN: 2642-1747)

Biomed Grid LLC, California, USA. If you do not wish to receive this email, [revert us](#).

Myths and Misconceptions



Big name publishers can't have predatory journals

Wiley recently shut down a number of their journals for predator practices



Predatory publishers have bad websites

They can have sophisticated designs that are on par with most journals

More Myths and Misconceptions



All OA journals charging APCs are predatory

Running a journal costs money (software, data storage, formatting, etc.) and APCs are one model to cover those costs



All predatory journals charge a publication fee

There are traditional subscription based journals that engage in predatory behavior



Retractions mean the journal is predatory

Some retractions are made because authors realized the equipment was faulty, there was an error in their analysis, etc and they didn't realize it until after the article was published

Resources



Retraction Watch <https://retractionwatch.com/>

- Articles by:
 - Field
 - Retraction reason
 - Article type
 - Specific categories (Covid, Noble Prize winners, etc)
- Journal shutdowns
- Mass resignations of editors
- Advice on what to do if you suspect a paper has misconduct

Retraction Watch

Tracking retractions as a window into the scientific process

By clicking submit, you agree to share your email address with the site owner and Mailchimp to receive marketing, updates, and other emails from the site owner. Use the unsubscribe link in those emails to opt out at any time.

PAGES

How you can support Retraction Watch

eLife latest in string of major journals put on hold from Web of Science

Citing *eLife's* unusual practice of publishing articles without accepting or rejecting them, Clarivate says it is re-evaluating the inclusion of the open-access biology journal in Web of Science, its influential database of abstracts and citations.



In contrast to the other journals recently placed on hold from indexing, including Elsevier's *Science of the Total Environment*, Clarivate has cited a specific policy as the reason for re-evaluating *eLife*: "Coverage of journals/platforms in which publication is decoupled from validation by peer review."

COPE articles and statements



- <https://publicationethics.org/news/avoiding-predatory-publishers>
- <https://publicationethics.org/resources/discussion-documents/predatory-publishing>
- <https://publicationethics.org/news/identifying-fake-journals>

ECU Research Guide

<https://libguides.ecu.edu/journalpub/evals>

The screenshot shows the ECU Libraries website. The header includes the ECU logo and navigation links for Hours, Libraries & Collections, and Get Help. The breadcrumb trail reads: East Carolina University Libraries / Research Guides / Journal Selection and Evaluation / Evaluating Publishers. The main heading is "Journal Selection and Evaluation: Evaluating Publishers". Below this is a search bar and a description: "This guide provides information and tools on selecting and evaluating journals." A navigation menu includes "Discovering Journals", "Evaluating Publishers" (which is highlighted), "Evaluating Publisher Checklist", "Impact Measures", and "Additional Contacts".

Think, Check, Submit

- Think, Check, Submit
This resource can lead you through the process of evaluating a publisher.

Suggested Guidelines

Evaluating Publishers and their Journals:

What this is NOT:

- A means of evaluating all of the journals from any particular publisher, nor is it
- An attempt to provide valuation of the individual articles published in any of these journals.

What this is:

- A way to review publishers themselves using established criteria
- A way to review individual journals using established criteria

Guiding Questions:

- **Affiliation:**
 - Is this publisher affiliated with an established discipline-related association?
 - Is this publisher affiliated with other scholarly publishers—for instance, the Association of American Publishers (AAP), Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers (STM), or Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)?
 - If published singly, is it published by a reputable university or research center?



When in Doubt- Reach Out!

scholarlycomm@ecu.edu or kaefringa22@ecu.edu

Questions? Examples?



Thank you!

https://ecu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8HAVPSV6GhJvqS

kaefringa22@ecu.edu

