PREDATORY PUBLISHERS & AUTHOR MILLS
Or How to Publish

October 2017
The session

1. What are predatory publishers?
2. Spotting predatory publishers and author mills
3. How to publish with reputable publishers?
4. Assistance available
Warmest Greetings,

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Strange mission statements

management study. We are rummaging around the web for progressive and clairvoyant minds for this exponential journal to focus upon various components of trade, marketing, finance, economy and behavioral study. This search can reach a culmination only with authors’ as well as readers’

stimulate the budding genius into aspiring eminent management personalities and present an international platform for interactive pleasure and argumentative progression.

http://theijm.com
Definition

Predatory publishers:
A type of scholarly publishing company established primarily to collect Article Processing Charges (APC) and provide very fast publishing without peer review or even checking grammar or spelling.

They often spam academics with requests for submissions and reviews and requests to join their editorial boards (Shen & Björk, 2015).
Characteristics of predatory journals

Include:

- low article-processing fees (less than US$150);
- spelling and grammar errors on the website;
- an overly broad scope;
- language that targets authors rather than readers;
- promises of rapid publication;
- and a lack of information about retraction policies, manuscript handling or digital preservation.

Manuscript submissions by e-mail and the inclusion of distorted images are also common.\(^4\)

Expansion

Number of predatory publishers 2011-2016:

2008-2009
Spam emails solicitation from publishers

2010
Jeffrey Beall came up with the term ‘predatory publishers’, data then collected ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of publishers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>923</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated number of predatory journals: 8,000 – 10,000

(Beall, 2016)
Where are they?

**Predatory publishers:**
- IP addresses are often registered in India, Nigeria, Iran, Turkey, Malaysia, and Pakistan (Kendall, 2017).

**Victims:**
- The society as a whole
- Early career researchers
- Academics from developing countries

But also senior academics in developed countries (Chawla 2016).
Damages

Direct:
• Financial loss up to $3,000 per paper in ARC (Jacks, 2016)
• Loss of reputation for the academic and their institution

Indirect for students and academics preparing:
• literature reviews
• review articles
• systematic reviews
• meta-analyses
• class papers
Fake metrics

http://www.jcrs010.com

For more information on fake metrics see Jalalian (2015).
False metrics

OMICS International website lists Journal Impact Factor to rate its journals ...

... but none of the journals are included in the *Journal Citation Reports* where Journal Impact Factors are published.

https://www.omicsonline.org/medical-sciences-journals.php
Author mills

Targeting new graduates offering to publish your thesis:
• No editorial process
• No peer review
• No proof-reading

Other issues:
• Potential loss of your copyright
• Will not qualify as an A1 publication
• Published theses are not promoted
• Your book marketed aggressively to YOU

For more information on author mills see Stromberg (2014).
Predatory conferences

Targeting academics:
• No peer review
• Fake keynote speakers
• Charges you to speak
• Can have very similar names to legitimate conferences
• Aggressive marketing
• Fake testimonials
• Make money from registration fees etc.

For more information on predatory conferences see Pai and Edurado (2016).
The conference, called the Thirteenth Asia Pacific Global Summit and Expo on Vaccines and Vaccination, is scheduled to run between November 3 and 5 this year. Professor Doherty, who won the Nobel Prize in 1996 for his work on the immune system, was promoted on the conference website as guest speaker.

The event is organised by a company called OMICS International, which has its headquarters in Hyderabad, India.
But: so many grey areas

MDPI is a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA), a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and its journals are listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). Some of its journals are also indexed by PubMed, the Web of Science and Scopus; and some have Impact Factors.

Also approaches authors, and has had some contentious history, with some papers being ridiculed by the academic fraternity.
Grey Areas

“...PubMed may be consciously or unwittingly acting as a facilitator of predatory or unscrupulous publishing.”

Twenty-five predatory neurology journals were indexed in PubMed, accounting for 24.7% of all predatory neurology journals.

Fourteen predatory neuroscience journals were indexed in PubMed, accounting for 16.1% of all predatory neuroscience journals.

Only one of the 188 predatory neuroscience or neurology journals appeared in the DOAJ index.

(Anderson 2017)
Where to find information

**Ulrich's** Bibliographic and publisher information for 300,000+ periodicals
Covers all disciplines.

**Cabell's** Submission criteria: business & economics, education, health, psychology & psychiatry, computer science journals. Acceptance rates, topic areas, style & format.

**PubsHub** Submission criteria for 6,000+ biomedical journals
Rejection rates, time to acceptance, JIFs.

**Altmetric Explorer** Look at the score – Identify journals with the most reach
It’s easy to learn if particular journals publish more attention getting research than others. Just look up Altmetric Attention Scores (seen on Altmetric Badges across hundreds of journals worldwide) for articles in the journals you want to compare.
Also check

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DOAJ  https://doaj.org/
OASPA  https://oaspa.org/
Open access publishing

=> free, immediate, online access to the full text of research articles for anyone, webwide

Repositories = authors self-archive their articles and conference papers
  ◦ Institutional repositories
    ◦ e.g. Minerva Access
  ◦ Subject or discipline repositories
    ◦ e.g. SSRN, arXiv.org and RePEc
Open access publishing

– Biomed Central (UoM is a supporter member, we get 15% discount on article processing charges)

– PLoS Medicine: open-access medical journal

– 9000+ OA journals see the DOAJ - Directory of OA Journals http://www.doaj.org/
  ◦ 130+ Australian OA journals (Universities, societies, CSIRO)
  ◦ 6,500+ OA journals don’t charge article processing fees (APC)
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University of Melbourne’s repository – Minerva Access
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http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php
References


