


Short Introduction to „Predatory Publishing”

Workshop “Predatory Publishing EAHIL Conference, Basel, June 20th 2019

Definition “predatory publishing”

- ▶ activities of publishers or journals charging “article processing charges (APCs)” without providing proper services:
 - hardly any or no peer review
 - hardly any or no editorial processing
- ▶ content, the advancement of science and quality assurance are not in their focus

Examples: International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology

International Journal of Advanced Computer Technology (Online) 

<http://www.ijact.org>
Email: edit_or@ijact.org, submit_ijact@yahoo.in

REVIEW FORM

Paper ID	I10350030
Paper Title	Get me off Your Fucking Mailing List

NOTE: 1. Excellent 2. Very Good 3. Good 4. Fair 5. Very Poor

1. Appropriateness to publish in IJACT Option:

2. Accuracy Option:

3. Innovation Option:

4. Relevance Option:

5. Presentation Option:

6. Quality of writing Option:

7. Application of paper as introductory study material for revolutionary new concepts Option:

8. Overall Recommendation (Mark the right option):

Strongly Accepted	
Accepted	✓
Accepted with minor changes	
Marginally Accepted	
Rejected	

Examples: The International Journal of English Language, Literature & Humanities



What is not meant by the term “predatory publishing“?

- ▶ publishers/journals that charge publication fees that are considered as too high
- ▶ publishers/journals that charge subscription fees that are considered as too high
- ▶ publishers that do not offer good services to their authors
- ▶ hybrid journals with „double dipping“
- ▶ journals that are not considered as „high-impact journals“
- ▶ authors who forge or plagiarise (although they might use predatory venues deliberately)

To sum up: Anything else that goes wrong in the publication industry!

Business practices of predatory publishers

- ▶ aggressive emailing
 - asking for submission of articles
 - asking to join editorial boards
- ▶ journal titles or websites that are very similar to existing journals (likelihood of confusion) → “journal hijacking”
- ▶ concealing information (e.g. about APCs)
- ▶ editorial board is made up or names are put on the website without consent; journals refuse to delete names when asked to
- ▶ wrong indicators or indicators that resemble “Journal Impact Factors” but actually never exist – at least not officially
- ▶ fast publication – no time for rigorous peer review

First set of criteria

- ▶ set of criteria by J. Beall – examples:
 - composition of the editorial board
 - country bias
 - business practises
 - mass founding of new journals
 - lack of integrity
 - journal title and journal's aims & scope do not seem to fit
 - neglecting common business practices
 - use of addresses from freemail providers; no ISSN or DOI

To agree upon a set of criteria is the aim of this workshop

in most cases: combination of different criteria

Approaches

- ▶ blacklists
 - Beall's list (offline, accessible on the web <https://bealllist.weebly.com/> and as anonymous continuation: <https://predatoryjournals.com>)
 - Cabell's International: commercial product: <https://www2.cabells.com/about-blacklist>

Stop Predatory Journals

About Contribute Hijacked Journals Metrics Publishers

[Are predatory journals all bad?](#)
Feb 10, 2017
This week's update comes to us from Jan Velterop, who asks, "[Are 'predatory' journals completely negative, or also a sign of something positive?](#)"
[Continue reading...](#)

[This week in predatory journals](#)
Jan 27, 2017
There have been a few blog posts from around now that it has been taken offline. But all is not Beall began and singlehandedly supported will
[Continue reading...](#)

[Welcome to Predatory Journals](#)
Jan 24, 2017

disadvantage: journals maybe do not lose the label although their intentions are respectable

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The Journal Blacklist

Specialists analyze over 60 behavioral indicators to keep the community aware of the growing threats and to keep academia protected from exploitative operations.

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Web Journal of Publications

highly debatable: pay subscription fees for a blacklist database?

Approaches

- ▶ whitelists
 - Directory of Open Access Journals: <https://doaj.org/>
 - subject-specific journal lists or rankings



disadvantage: lists do not contain all journals and “penalise” journals that are new to the market

Approaches

- ▶ lists that are neutral or were set up for other purposes, example: Quality Open Access Market: <https://www.qoam.eu/>
- ▶ lists with journals that are indexed by discovery systems such as PMC, Web of Science, Scopus



There are hints that they might contain articles from predatory journals as well:

Manca et al: The surge of predatory open-access in neurosciences and neurology

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuroscience.2017.04.014>;

Perlin et al: Is predatory publishing a real threat? Evidence from a large database study <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11192-018-2750-6>;

Demir: Scholarly databases under scrutiny:

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0961000618784159>.

Approaches

▶ lists of criteria by

- awareness initiatives such as Think – Check – Submit: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>
- by learned societies or other research communities (more subject-specific):

Shamseer et al. (2017). Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison. *BMC Med*, 15(1), 28.

Misra, D. P., Ravindran, V., Wakhlu, A., Sharma, A., Agarwal, V., & Negi, V. S. (2017). Publishing in black and white: the relevance of listing of scientific journals. *Rheumatol Int*, 37(11), 1773–1778.



Choose the right journal for your research

Shamseer and colleagues [*]	Misra and colleagues ^{**}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of interest includes nonbiomedical 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 author. • The index Copernicus value[*] is promoted on the website. • Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking. • Manuscripts are submitted back to the journal via email. • Rapid publication is promised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals that solicit or accept articles from many unrelated specialties. • Journals that are entirely online; claiming to be open access. • Journal indexing details are unclear or have nonstandard indexing. • Process of manuscript submission and handling is poorly outlined or inferiorly handled (ie, lacking peer review). • Repeated email solicitations for manuscripts from persons with whom you have no prior professional contact. • Very short deadlines for articles solicited from unknown journals. • Journals offering a reduced author's publication fee—if the paper is submitted within a very narrow timeframe (weeks). • Unprofessional language in an email soliciting an article that seems intended only to please or inflate the ego of the author.

Umlauf et al: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ijn.12656>

Why can predatory publishing be considered as a problem?

- ▶ waste of public money
- ▶ honest protagonists in the science system are discredited
- ▶ naivety of young researchers is used
- ▶ results that were not subject to a peer review process are perpetually accessible
- ▶ dishonest authors get an opportunity to publish
- ▶ predatory publishing is also used to discredit the open access movement
- ▶ the “publish or perish” – paradigm and questionable reward systems in some countries indirectly support such practices

Need for caution

- ▶ predatory journals usually contain articles that are not peer reviewed which means that they also might contain articles of good quality
- ▶ there is a huge grey area: journals that have clear intentions to cheat but also journals that are serious and not yet familiar with common business practices

Key question: How to identify predatory journals without “penalising” others?

This workshop

- ▶ discussion:
 - How can a list of criteria look like?
 - Which criteria can be applied to identify “predatory journals”?
 - Are there “hard” criteria and “soft” criteria?

Thank you very much!

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