Predatory Publishers

FACULTY LIBRARIAN TEAM

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Session Outline

- What is Predatory Publishing
- Open Access versus Predatory Publishing
- How to identify a predatory publisher
- What to do when a publisher chooses you
- Tools to check publications and publishing
- Where to get advice and support
Predatory Publishing – What is it?

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.”

*Nature*, *11 December 2019*

“Put plainly, predatory journals are fake academic journals. Despite these breaches of good publication practices, their articles often appear in Google searches”

*HealthyDebate blog*, *July 20, 2020.*
Predatory Publishing and OA

Open Access (OA) models are designed to make research accessible

- This may involve paying article processing fees
- Still uses the most rigorous peer review and editing processes
- Funding agencies mandating that research be available for free

Predatory Publishers are an unintended consequence of the OA model

- Payment required
- No quality checks
- Quick turn around time
Predatory Publishing – the Risks

- Damage to the reputation of the researcher & institution
- No proper peer review is carried out to preserve the quality of the research output
- Researchers will most likely be unable to publish their article in other journals
- The publisher will most likely retain the copyright to the article
- Candidacy may be compromised
- Loss of research or loss of trust in research
How Big is the Problem?
How Big is the Problem?

- “175,000 scientific articles published by 5 of the largest predatory open access publishers” (November 2018)

- A study suggests that predatory spam targeted at scholars cost universities $1.1 billion annually (January 2020)

- One study focusing on 45,000 Italian researchers found that 5% had published in predatory journals (March, 2019)

- More than 90 Checklists exist to help identify predatory journals – an overwhelming number for authors. (September, 2019)

- The US Federal Trade Commission won a US $50 million court judgement against OMICS – a well know predatory publisher in 2019
The Predatory Landscape

- Hijacked journals / Cloned journals
  - “International Medical Journal”
  - “Current Science” – has 2 journals that are posing as the authentic title
- Fraud - Make up their own journal titles
- Present very professional websites (or sometimes not)
- Constantly evolving and changing
- Some publishers start out less credible and then raise standards - MDPI
- Send unsolicited emails to get you to submit your research
The Predatory Landscape

Note:

- Not all are based in developing countries
- Not all unprofessional looking websites are predatory
- It can be tough to distinguish a predatory journal from a journal that is under-resourced.
Fake Journal: https://www.seronijihou.com/
The original URL was hijacked

Authentic Journal
http://www.seronjihou.co.jp

Fake Journal
https://www.seronjihou.com/


WARNING

Since 2019, the new home page of the International Medical Journal is being uploaded in the web site. Please take care of this site. This is a fake journal established by someone illegally with the same journal title. In the site, they request USD300 of article processing charge. IMJ does not ask author for any article processing charge at all from the beginning and from now on, too. IMJ was first established by Japan International Cultural Exchange Foundation (JICEF) in 1994 in order to support medical researchers in the world.
Warning on Authentic Journal website

The difference between the two IMJ is as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Original IMJ</th>
<th>Fake IMJ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>International Medical Journal</td>
<td>They are Saying International Medical Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volume</strong></td>
<td>Vol. 26 in 2019 established in 1994 We have data from 1994 to 2019.</td>
<td>They are saying vol. 24 in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISSN</strong></td>
<td>1341-2051</td>
<td>They are saying 13412051, no hyphen This is not a ISSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CODEN</strong></td>
<td>JMJOFJS</td>
<td>nothing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Name of Publisher (Copyright holder)</strong></td>
<td>Japan International Cultural Exchange Foundation (JICEF) Japan Health Sciences University</td>
<td>No description, Journal name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editorial Office (Company name)</strong></td>
<td>Soren Jiho sho Co., Ltd</td>
<td>No description, Journal name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office address</strong></td>
<td>2-25-15, Sakura-Shimachi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0015, Japan</td>
<td>No description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Databases</strong></td>
<td>SCOPUS and EBSCO, etc</td>
<td>Not included in any databases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publication charge</strong></td>
<td>Completely free of charge</td>
<td>They ask USD300 (article processing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editor-in-chief</strong></td>
<td>Tsutomu Sakuta</td>
<td>They are saying Prof. Hirose Family name only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Style of publication</strong></td>
<td>Printed hard copy</td>
<td>e-journal only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Editorial Board</strong></td>
<td>real editorial board and peer referees</td>
<td>fake editorial board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IMJ has come to know the existence of this fake journal from one submitter quite recently. Now we are discussing about this problem with our lawyer to get rid of it from web world. But it might be a bit difficult to delete the fake one from the net world so soon. Therefore, for the time being, please disregard this fake home page and never submit your valuable paper to the site and never pay any publication charge to the fake site.

Scimago Conversation about the journal

D Dr. aklima 2 months ago

@uchida-san,
then why are you advertise imj-1994.com

I literally can not understand, you are using 2 website too, you seems to be fraudulent too, or explain the situation.

W w.uchida 2 months ago

TO: Dr. Aklima

Please let me explain it a little bit.

The fake IMJ’s URL is seronjihou. Whereas seronjihou is original IMJ’s developed URL. Originally IMJ’s editorial company’s name is Seronjihou in Japanese. The fake one mimicked its name and changed it a bit into Seronjihou, SERONJIHO and SERONJIHOU are different. The two are very alike. It is very hard to discriminate it. SERONJIHOU has 10 letters and SERONJIHOU has 11 letters (plus one letter, it is 1)

Please do not be perplexed.

Mr. W. Uchida
The **Current Science Journal** has had to place a warning about the two predatory journals that have been targeting it.

We have given Alert notice about fake journals since July 2017 and we have been receiving messages even now from people who have fallen prey to fake journals that are imitating our journal Current Science ([www.currentscience.ac.in](http://www.currentscience.ac.in)). These victims have been defrauded into paying money to have their article published in what they believed to be the true Current Science Journal. This alert notice is to warn researchers and authors about this serious problem. [More details.](#)

Editor, Current Science
Sometimes the fake journal looks better than the authentic Journal

http://adalyajournal.com/

https://akmed.ku.edu.tr/en/adalya/
Dear Research,

Based on your eminence and contribution towards the research community, we request you to publish your article in our journal.

**Author Notification:** Within 24 hours after submission.

**Review:** Within 3-4 Days.

**How to Submit Article:**
If you wish to publish Research Paper/Article kindly follow our AUTHOR GUIDELINES and mail to us at editor@scholarsmepub.com or you can also directly UPLOAD YOUR MANUSCRIPT (Article) on our website.

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Scholars International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice (SIJ)
Abbreviated key title: Sch Int J Law Crime Justice
(An open access, International, Indexed, Peer-Reviewed Online Journal)
ISSN: 2617-3484 (Online)
ISBN: 2616-7956 (Print)
Frequency: Monthly
Language: English
Chief Editor: Professor Rakesh Raj Kumar Bhaia
Country of Origin: United Arab Emirates
Publisher: Scholars Middle East Publishers, UAE

Fast Track publication Fee: USD 250 (Foreign) / Rs. 6000 (India)
(Publish within 3 days)

Hard Copy Fee: 25 USD (Foreign) / Rs. 1000 (India)
12 months later.....
The Elsevier Journal title........

One word difference in title:

Scholars International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice
What to do when a journal targets you!

- It is like being a detective – evaluate the evidence
- Lots of different pieces of information leads to the decision
- If it was easy – it wouldn’t be a problem!
Your experiences

• Who has had experiences with predatory publishers?
• How would you identify a predatory publisher or journal?
Check list – warning signs

- Unsolicited communications
- Hard to distinguish titles from legitimate journals – can sound similar
- Grammar and spelling in communications and web pages
- Email address (e.g. gmail or different country from address)
- Fast turnover times
- Low cost publishing charges
- Board of Editors – affiliations**
- Impact Factors – very creative

**Note: Affiliations are important to verify the legitimacy and credibility of the journal.
Dear Diana M Blackwood,

Myself Williams K, working as a Journal Assistant for Archive of Food and Nutritional Science (ISSN: 2575-0194).

Doctor, as a part of our search for the eminent scholars and there research works, we have come across your recently published articles and got impressed by your valuable work.

So, I cordially take this opportunity to invite you to publish your next article in our Journal so that the scientific community will get one more eminent research work for the upcoming scientific studies.

Article submissions by September 17th, 2019.

Hence, keeping in view of friendly association with you, we have put our humble request and hope you would not disappoint us.

Anticipating for your response regarding the submission.

Best regards,

Williams K
Tools – Evaluation Tips

- [http://thinkchecksubmit.org/](http://thinkchecksubmit.org/)
- Cabell’s Black List [Criteria](#)
- Journal Evaluation [Tool](#) - Loyola Marymount University
- Check any claims of where they are indexed
- Check any [impact factors](#) or metrics they list
- Check Google for independent information
- Use the tools we will be discussing
Tools - Free

- **SciMago** Journal ranking
- **Beall’s list** (use with caution)
- **ABDC List** – spreadsheet
- **ERA List 2018** - spreadsheet
- **Directory of Open Access Journals**
  - **DOAJ list of journals added & removed**
- **INSAPs Journals Online**
- **African Journals Online**
Tools – Subscription based

- Cabells Directories
- Scopus sources
- Journal Citation Reports
- Ulrichsweb
1. Go to the Journal site – what clues can you find?
   - Language
   - Indexes
   - Editorial board members
   - Lots of other journals
   - Processing fees

2. Check Databases and Lists
   - Beall’s - Publisher listed as predatory
   - Check Scimago – not listed

3. Check if anyone has commented on the journal or publisher
   - Blogs
   - ResearchGate

My article has been accepted by the COJ Review and Research Journal, but something is not right…… …
COJ Review and Research Journal

Editorial Board:
Checked a number of Australian Academics listed as Editors

About Journal

COJ Reviews and Research aims to provide standard articles that are published after a rigid peer-review process along distinguished editorial board. COJRR is an online open access platform to maintain archive of reviews and research articles easy and reliable source of knowledge throughout sphere. This journal Motivates researcher to submit their research & re manuscripts in various competing areas like Health care, Technical, Biological, General Science and etc. The main aim of Journal is to explore latest trends in Current Research & Reviews across multidisciplinary domain. COJRR covers all aspects Reviews such as Pharmacological, Nutrition, Chemical Society, Clinical Microbiology, Clinical Psychology, Mathematical and etc. Also focus on Exploratory, Descriptive, Explanatory, Cross-sectional, Applied, Quantitative, Qualitative, Mixed research studies. Moreover, Short term peer review process and convenient publishing are the major key roles to bring best output of your submissions.
Indexed in: 

Most are irrelevant or fake
Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: first, find the journal’s publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the 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.

All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.

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.

Last updated December 31, 2016

Update

Here we include publishers that were not originally on the Beall’s list, but may be predatory.

- Crimson Publishers

Last updated June 09, 2020

Excluded – decide after reading
Check other sources:

- Blog posts
- Google
- Librarians
- Colleagues

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Is the Crimson publisher is reliable to publish our research outlets?

Is the Crimson publisher is reliable to publish our research outlets? I got many emails from the Crimson publisher to publish CHARGEABLE research outlets. Do you have any information regarding to the quality and reliability of this Crimson publisher?
Well known Predatory Publishers
Make the best use of Scientific Research and information from our 700+ leading-edge peer-reviewed Open Access Journals that operates with the help of 50,000+ Editorial Board Members and esteemed reviewers and 1000+ Scientific associations in Medical, Clinical, Pharmaceutical, Engineering, Technology, and Management Fields
Extract from an email received from a Curtin researcher:

“I once got a personal invitation to a conference in Indonesia...completely like they knew me and my work and what I could offer to it was kind of “convincing”. It quoted dates and conference venues in a hotel. So I called the hotel in Jakarta. They had no record of a conference.”
Predatory conferences

- https://thinkcheckattend.org/
- Checklist as a guide
- Consult colleagues
- Contact invited speakers
- Contact Chair
- Sponsor’s logo – is it hyperlinked? (Should be!)
Finally

If you want to make sure that you are not being scammed:

- Use the tools we have shown you
- Use reputable Discipline Specific lists (e.g. ABDC list)
- Get yourself on alerts for “Calls for Papers” from journals and databases
- If you have doubts talk to colleagues, your librarians, google the journal for reviews

If it is too good to be true – it usually is
Publishing Power Hours

1. Finding quality journals to publish in – Session has been Recorded

2. Identifying predatory journals – Session will be recorded

3. Tips for getting your article published – Wednesday October 21st, 12-1

4. Publishing your research data – Wednesday October 28th, 12-1

5. Publishing Open Access – Wednesday November 4th, 12-1
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