

PART 3: Predatory Publishing



The term '**predatory journals**' was coined by Jeffery Beall in 2010 who acted as an unofficial 'watchdog' of predatory publishing.

"Predatory publishing is the practice of publishing journals that exploit the emerging acceptance of open-access academic journals to undermine peer-review processes"

(Source: Beall J. Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. Nature news. 2012;489:179)

"Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritise self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterised 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."

(Grudniewicz et al., 2019)



There was criticism of Beall and his website eventually closed in 2017. Another term was coined in 2019 by a group of researchers who reached a consensus definition part of the statement reads "entities that prioritise self-interest at the expense of scholarship"

Deceptive publishers

Characteristics of predatory publishers



| Category | Description |
|--|--|
| 1. Seeking profit over contribution to scholarship | Characteristics related to article processing fees (APCs) and other sources of income |
| 2. Misrepresentation of abstracting, indexing and metrics | Characteristics related to inappropriate inclusion in fake databases, indexing in sham services, fake metrics and the manipulation of metrics |
| 3. Aggressive advertising and solicitation of articles | Characteristics related to indiscriminate and aggressive solicitation of publications, as well as inappropriate advertisements on websites |
| 4. Inappropriate journal title and scope | Characteristics related to broad, indiscriminate coverage of disciplines |
| 5. Lack of transparency in governance, editorial and publication practices | Characteristics related to the holding company, publisher, editorial board and editorial staff, as well as misinformation and unprofessional (or lack of) contact e-mail addresses. Characteristics related to article processing time, manuscript submission, publication policies, copyright retention and archiving |

Johann Mouton and Marthie van Niekerk, 2017



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1. Deliberate deception by hiding or not disclosing (APCs, Handling fees, fast track fees etc)
2. False claims of indexing in WoS and Scopus, claims and listing of fake metrics. Google scholar is not an index
3. Daily indiscriminate emails to prospective authors, familiar and flattering language, the use of business marketing language e.g. submit two articles and pay for one
4. A broad disciplinary scope, a combination of scientific disciplines with very little in common, copying titles if acclaimed journals, terms such as "Morden", "Innovative", "Green", "Progressive", "Indigenous", "Standard" are very common
5. Adding academics as editorial members without their knowledge or permission, having one editorial board for a suite of unrelated journals and disciplines, manufacturing editorial board members, no contact information or address, use of gmail email accounts, use of inappropriate office locations

Examples:

Misrepresentation of abstracting, indexing and metrics



So, I Nasim AHmed (CEO of EAS Publisher) would like invite you that Published your Valuable Research work in Our Journal which

East African Scholars Multidisciplinary Bulletin

Website: <http://www.easpublisher.com/easmb/>

Frequency: Monthly

ISSN: 2617-4421 (Print) & 2617-717X (Online)

Publication Fee: USD \$25 or INR 1700

Manuscript Submission: esnpublisher@gmail.com

Note: Please mention the Journal name to which manuscript is submitting.

Immediate acknowledgement, urgent review and publication within 48 Hrs. after payment

Indexing and Abstracting

Google Scholar, Index Copernicus, Research Bible, World Cat, Eurasian Scientific Journal Index (ESJI) Citefactor, SHERPA/RoMEO, Scientific Indexing Services (SIS), Road-Directory of Open Access Scholarly Resources, Directory of Research Journals Indexing (DRJI) and others in Progress



Misrepresentation of abstracting, indexing and metrics
False claims of indexing in WoS and Scopus, claims and listing of fake metrics

Examples: Aggressive advertising and solicitation of articles

Example of spam e-mail

To
2020-10-16 15:12:25 b

Subject: **Polite Calls for Paper from an International Journal**

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for cooperation and support. Your kind attention is requested for the following announcement.

Journal: Journal of Scientific Research and Reports (<https://tinyurl.com/journal-22d>)

Frequency: 15 days

Publication model: Online as well as Hard copy option

Discounted Publication Charge: 75 USD (4575 INR) (Up to the end of this month)

Original Publication Charge: 500 USD

Ongoing volume: vol 21

Transparent and High standard Peer review: This journal follows highly respected OPEN peer-review system (Example: <https://tinyurl.com/review-22d>).

Time Schedule:
Submission to review decision: 10-12 days
Submission to publication: 12-15 days

Indexing:
NAAS score: 4.44, ProQuest, HINARI (United Nation's Database), EBSCOhost (USA), Google scholar, Ulrich's, CrossRef, Chemical Abstracts Service ("CAS"), CNKI (China), Qualls.

Language

Unknown journal title

Business marketing language

Inappropriate indexing and metrics



Consequences and impact



- Affects an academic career
- Affects possibilities for promotion, advancement and fund-raising
- Affects the reputation of the institution
- Erosion of trust for that institution by academics, eventually by general public
- Public trust in science will wane



Advice to scholars



- When approached to submit a paper, be suspicious
- Look for the telltale signs
- Aim to publish in top journals
- Consult colleagues, Supervisors or Librarians when selecting a journal to publish in
- Check for accreditation of journals, in SA it is the consolidated DHET list
- Check if the publisher is a registered member of OA scholarly Publishers Association
- Check if registered with Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Do research, read comments on ResearchGate



Resources on predatory journals



- Download the Journal Evaluation Tool
https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/librarian_pubs/40/
- Use the Think.Check.Submit checklist
<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>
- Is the journal a member of COPE
<https://publicationethics.org/members>
- Consult the Directory of Open Access Journals
<https://doaj.org/>
- Resources on predatory publishing practices (Scholarly Horizons)
<https://scholarlyhorizons.co.za/resources/predatory-publishing-practices-and-citation-pollution/>
- Retraction watch
<https://retractionwatch.com/>

