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**Bottom of the Food Chain: Avoiding Predatory Publishers**

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BOTTOM OF THE FOOD CHAIN
Avoiding Predatory Publishers

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Your itinerary

- What is predatory publishing?
- What are its chief characteristics?
- Who are its victims & how are they ensnared?
- Some warning signs
- Resources to help you spot bad actors
Predatory publishing: “a practice whereby a company creates a journal on false pretenses for the purpose of defrauding authors” (Anderson 2019)

An old practice in a new guise, enabled by technology and opportunity

Hijacks article-processing charges, sometimes called author-side fees, giving a good thing—open-access publishing—a bad name

Exploits a key weakness of scholarly communication, namely the role of tenure and promotion and the incentives therein (idealism vs. pragmatism)
The Predator in its Natural Habitat
Get me off Your Fucking Mailing List

David Mazières and Eddie Kohler
New York University
University of California, Los Angeles
http://www.mailavenger.org/

Abstract

Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list. Get me off your fucking mailing list.
Figure 1: Get me off your fucking mailing list.
Who Falls Prey?

- Plenty of authors, many from the Global South
  - FTC won a $50M judgment against Omics Intl., a deceptive publisher in India

- Four themes (Kurt 2018)
  - unawareness
  - social identity
  - high pressure
  - lack of research proficiency

- Whose concern is this?
Does Your Journal Pass This Test?
Can You Spot the Deception?

- Longdom Publishing
- First Monday
- PubMed House
Warning Signs: Proceed with Caution

- 25 characteristics of a predatory journal via Eriksson and Helgesson (2017)
  - There are no clear policies and or description of how the manuscript is handled
    - Publisher displays prominent statements that promise rapid publication/quick peer-review
    - Editorial Board?
    - American Journal of Business Studies
  - Website contains spelling and grammar errors
  - No physical address listed
    - Academic Open Business & Management Research Journal
  - A bogus impact factor/metric is promoted
    - Asian Business Review
  - There is no digital preservation policy
  - A journal that claims to be open access either retains copyright or fails to mention copyright
Warning Signs: Proceed with Caution

Evaluating Scholarly Journals Infographic by Allen Press
Tools and Resources: Beall’s List

- Jeffrey Beall, American Librarian, created “Beall’s List” in 2010
  - List of potential, possible, or probable predatory publishers
  - 2017 Archived Version
  - Current List
  - For many, the list served as an influential guide. For others, it lacked transparency.

- So now what?
Tools and Resources: Cabells

- **Cabell’s Whitelist**
  - Database of journals helping researchers decide where to publish
  - Journal summaries
  - Manuscript guidelines
  - Historical analytics & Impact Factor
- **Issues:**
  - Subscription to Business and Computer Science Set only

- **Ex: Academy of Management Review**

- **Cabell’s Blacklist**
  - Searchable database of deceptive and predatory academic journals
  - **Criteria** is clearly described
  - Clear and fair appeals process
  - Specific reasons for inclusion
- **Issues:**
  - Search feature is not that advanced and/or practical

- **Ex: American Open Economics Journal**
Still Struggling to Spot Predatory Publishers?

- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
- Publons Journal List
- Look for warning signs
- Utilize Cabell’s Directories
- Contact your Librarian!
Learn More on Predatory Publishers

- **A Peek Inside the Strange World of Fake Academia**
- **On blacklists and whitelists**
  - The Scientist (2017)
- **Predatory Journals Recruit Fake Editor**
- **FTC hits predatory scientific publisher with a $50 million fine**
  - Ars Technica (2019)
- **OSI Brief: Deceptive Publishing**
  - Open Scholarship Initiative (2019)