**Characteristics of a Predatory Journal**

(For the complete list, see source below)

1. The publisher is not a member of any recognized professional organization committed to best publishing practices (like COPE or EASE)

2. The journal is not indexed in well-established electronic databases (like Medline or Web of Science)

3. The publisher claims to be a “leading publisher” even though it just got started

4. The papers of the journal are of poor research quality, and may not be academic at all

5. There are fundamental errors in the titles and abstracts, or frequent and repeated typographical or factual errors throughout the published papers

6. The journal website does not present an editorial board or gives insufficient detail on names and affiliations

7. The journal website does not reveal the journal’s editorial office location or uses an incorrect address

8. The publishing schedule is not clearly stated

9. The journal provides an impact factor in spite of the fact that the journal is new (which means that the impact cannot yet be calculated)

10. The publisher of the journal has released an overwhelmingly large suite of new journals at one occasion or during a very short period of time

11. The editor in chief of the journal is editor in chief also for other journals with widely different focus

12. Promises rapid publication

13. The types of submission/publication fees and what they amount to are not clearly stated on the

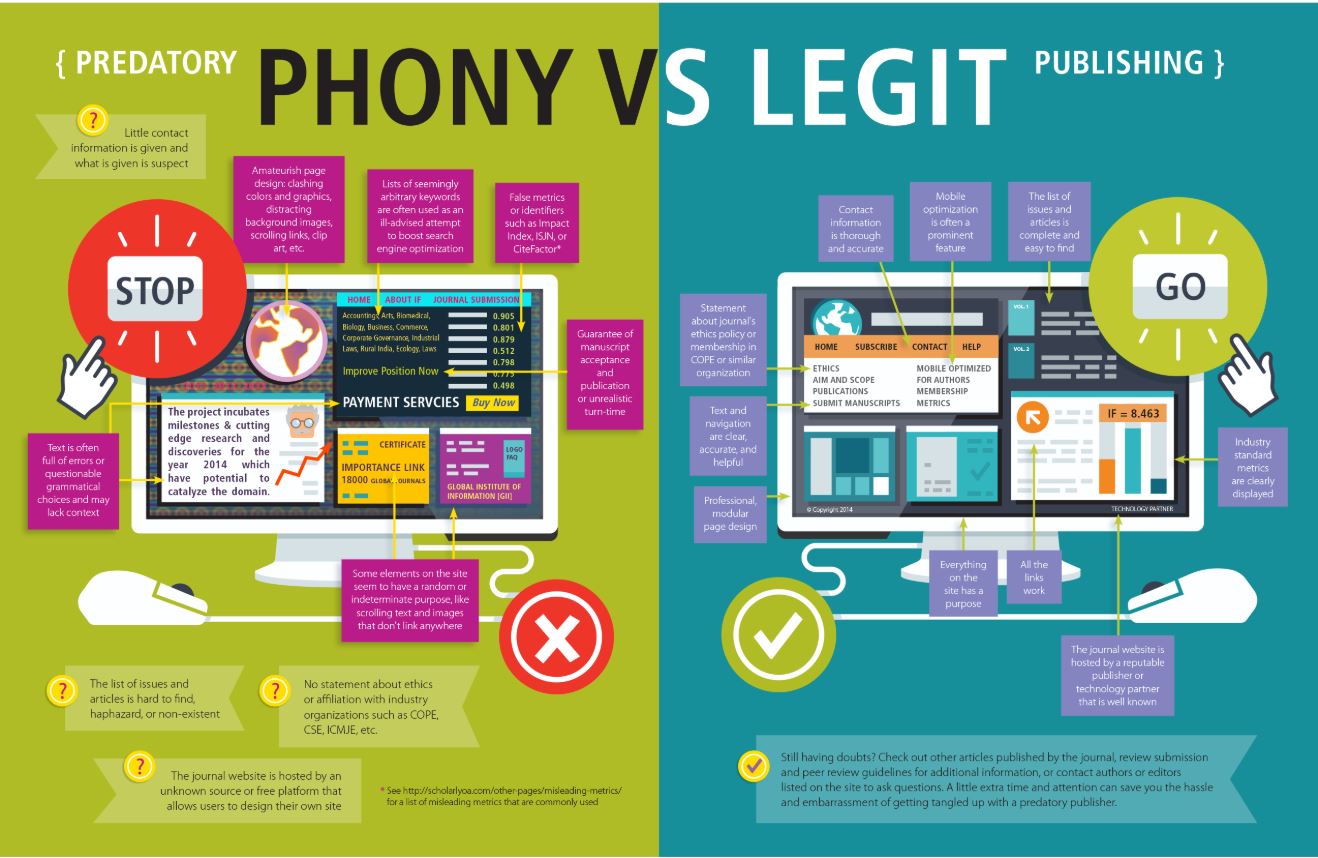
journal’s website

14. Emails from the journal editor are written in poor language, include exaggerated flattering (everyone is a leading profile in the field), and make contradictory claims (such as “You have to respond within 48 h” while later on saying “You may submit your manuscript whenever you find convenient”)

15. The journal does not describe copyright agreements clearly or demands the copyright of the paper while claiming to be an open access journal

**Source**: S. Eriksson and G. Helgesson, *Medicine Health Care and Philosophy* (2017).

**Note:** The idea with this list is not to say that any journal fulfilling any of the points above is a predatory journal. But the more points on the list that apply to the journal at hand, the more skeptical you should be!



**Source**: Evaluating Scholarly Journals infographic by Allen Press