Cover to Cover: Profiling Predatory Publishing

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Who Are We & What Do We Do?

- Journals are our focus. We help the research community make smarter publishing decisions.

- Founded in 1978, We're a team of journal auditors and professionals focused on protecting research integrity and ethics.

- We analyze journal publishing practices, capture metrics, and maintain a database of verified and problematic journals.
What We'll Be Talking About Today

- Define Predatory Publishing
- How Cabells Profiles Predatory Publishing
- The Impacts of Predatory Publishing
- Discuss 4 Predatory Publishing Profiles
- How Researchers Can Avoid Predatory Pitfalls
- Researcher Resources
- Cabells Resources
- Questions
Predatory Publishing

• **What is it?**
  A form of deceptive publishing that aims to "trick" authors into submitting a paper to a fraudulent journal.

• **How does it work?**
  Predatory journals charge fees to submit to their journals, falsely promising editorial services.
The Impacts of Predatory Publishing

- **Why is it problematic?**
  It's easier for poor-quality papers to be published and disseminated.
  
  Significant damage can occur to an author's academic career and an institution's credibility.

- **What's being done about it?**
  There's no central authority monitoring predatory publishing.
  
  Cabells educates authors on what malicious and fraudulent behavior in academic publishing looks like.
Profiling Predatory Journals

• How do we find them?
  o Researcher tips
  o Media reports
  o Publisher press releases

• What's our procedure?
  1) Analyze journal's OA and peer review policies, paper quality, and editorial practices
  2) Assess journals against Cabells criteria
  3) Determine whether journal is simply low-quality or exhibiting predatory behaviors

• What are the outcomes?
  A journal will be considered predatory depending on the amount of evidence and overall severity of violations found.

  Journals identified as predatory are listed in our database along with identified violations.

  Listed journals can appeal this decision and their application will be reviewed by the Cabells team.
Profile 1: Duplicitous Details

**Observed Behaviors:**

- Deliberately posting misinformation on their websites to appear credible, such as:
  - Misleading metrics and statistics
  - Claims of a certain “impact factor” not verified by Clarivate Analytics
  - False claims of index inclusion (such as DOAJ, Crossref, Cabells, etc)
- No contact information OR incorrect contact information

**Possible Intent:**
To inflate perceived impact and acceptability in the scholarly community
Profile 2: Academic Misconduct

Observed Behaviors:

• Publishing papers without author consent or knowledge
• No digital preservation policy
• Dead links on journal website
• No way to report fraudulent behavior on journal website

Possible Intent:
To publish as many articles as possible (the more they publish, the more credible they seem) without taking accountability for article and information quality.
Profile 3: Master of Disguise

Observed Behaviors:

• Editorial Board members are fake or have falsified qualifications
• Editorial Board members included without their consent
• Editor in Chief is the EIC of multiple journals from unrelated disciplines

Possible Intent:
To appear more credible to potential authors with known researchers on the editorial board, even if the EB members are falsified.
Profile 4: The Peer Review Rogue

Observed Behaviors:

• No peer review or lax peer review policy
• Nonsensical or short published articles
• Repeated self-citation or lack of references
• A promise for an unusually fast peer review process – a big red flag, particularly when observed with other predatory behaviors
  o May charge extra $$$ for this option

Possible Intent:
To publish as many articles as possible and make as much money as possible.
How to Avoid Predatory Pitfalls
Research Your Research

How to avoid being duped by predatory journals

BMJ 2024 ; 384 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.q452 (Published 07 March 2024)
Cite this as: BMJ 2024;384;q452

Scientific reports
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Article Open Access Published 29 February 2023
An open automation system for predatory journal detection
Li-Xian Chen, Shi-Wen Su, Chi-Hung Liao, Kai-Sin Wong & Shyan-Ming Yuan

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Avoiding Predatory Journal Publications
This guide will help faculty understand and avoid predatory journal publications.

The Dark World of 'Citation Cartels'
Predatory journals and bad-faith scholars are gaming the system — at scale.

The Chronicle of Higher Education
Resources

• Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): publicationethics.org

• Directory of Open Access Journals (doaj.org)

• Think. Check. Submit. (org)
Cabells

Journalanalytics Medicine & Predatory Reports

Make every decision data-driven. Journalanalytics Academic with integrated Predatory Reports is your complete source for journal info, evaluation metrics, and submission details.

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∫ Integrated Predatory Reports: 17,000+ Predatory Journals
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∫ Detailed Metrics: Citations, Attention, Fees, & More

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  ➢ Journal Selection Policy and Predatory Reports Criteria
Librarians: The Guides on the Sides

• Reference/Research Librarians:
  • Create/share LibGuides for your users
• Instruction Librarians:
  • demo predatory publishing sites, how to spot predatory publishers
  • ACRL Framework: Research As Inquiry and Authority is Constructed & Contextual
• Communicate with your faculty on a bi-annual basis about predatory publishing + resources
• Consider giving presentation to T&P committee
• Don’t give up.
Questions?