

## **Predatory publishing**

Predatory publishing is described as a non-authoritative process or method of publishing scholarly works and it includes predatory conferences. The practice of predatory publishing became popular at the height of Open Access of scientific publishing and a number of studies on this subject have attributed this term to Jeffrey Beall, who then was a librarian at the University of Colorado in Denver, in America. Perpetrators of predatory publishing exploit the principles of Open Access by profiting from researchers' urge to publish and disseminate research outputs.

## **How to avoid publishing in predatory sources**

The best method to avoid publishing in predatory sources is to select journals that are recognised and indexed by credible scholarly publishing bodies such as the following:

- i. Scopus which is under Elsevier :  
<https://www.scopus.com/sources.uri?zone=TopNavBar&origin=searchbasic>
- ii. Eigenfactor, under the University of Washington:  
<http://www.eigenfactor.org/projects/journalRank/journalsearch.php>
- iii. Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), under Leiden University:  
<https://www.journalindicators.com/indicators>
- iv. Directorate of Open Access Journals(DOAJ): <https://doaj.org/>
- v. The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE):  
<https://ieeexplore.ieee.org/Xplore/home.jsp>
- vi. Scientific Electronic Library Online (SciELO) SA:  
[http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci\\_subject&lng=en&nrm=iso](http://www.scielo.org.za/scielo.php?script=sci_subject&lng=en&nrm=iso)

If you want to publish in a journal that you are not certain about its quality, evaluate the journal title using a rubric known as **Think| Check| Submit**: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

## **Some common characteristics of predatory journals and publishers**

The common characteristics or features of predatory publishing include the following:

- i. Unstructured fees for Article Processing Charges (APCs),
- ii. Little or no peer review process,
- iii. False claims about Impact Factor and where the journal is indexed
- iv. Solicitation of manuscripts from authors through email spamming,

- v. No rejection of manuscripts and high acceptance rate
- vi. Missing contact information about the publisher and editorial board members
- vii. A promise of remarkably short publishing duration
- viii. Broad subject areas in the title.

### **Effects of predatory publishing**

The practice of predatory publishing radiates various negative effects on the scholarly landscape as follows:

- i. It dents the reputation of academics, and their respective institutions and thus affecting ranking of universities and internationalisation efforts.
- ii. It undermines effective utilisation of the limited research funds
- iii. It is a serious academic misconduct.

### **Some useful articles on predatory publishing and predatory conferences**

Eaton S.E. (2018). *Avoiding predatory journals and questionable conferences: A Resource guide*. Retrieved from [https://library.up.ac.za/ld.php?content\\_id=42681230](https://library.up.ac.za/ld.php?content_id=42681230)

Mouton, J. (2017). The extent of South African authored articles in predatory journals. *South African Journal of Science*, 113(7), 1–9. <http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/sajs/v113n7-8/20.pdf>

O'Donnell, M. (2023, July 12). *Understanding predatory publishers*. <https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory/intro>

### **Some sites that list predatory journals and publishers**

Elsevier Scopus (2023, July 12). *List of predatory journals*. <https://journalsearches.com/predatory-journals.php>

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