



Predatory Journals and Selecting your Journal of Choice

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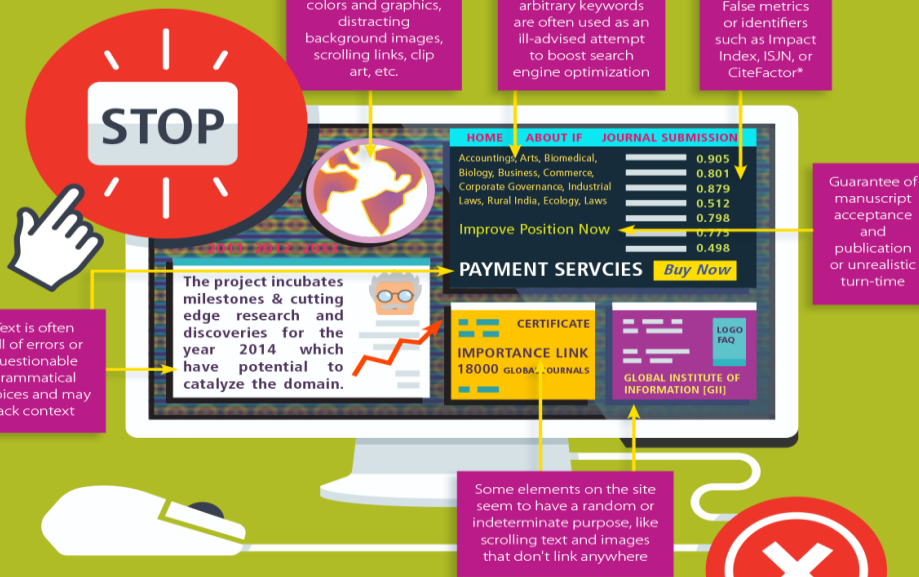
{ PREDATORY PHONY VS LEGIT PUBLISHING }

? Little contact information is given and what is given is suspect

Amateurish page design: clashing colors and graphics, distracting background images, scrolling links, clip art, etc.

Lists of seemingly arbitrary keywords are often used as an ill-advised attempt to boost search engine optimization

False metrics or identifiers such as Impact Index, ISJN, or CiteFactor*



Text is often full of errors or questionable grammatical choices and may lack context

? The list of issues and articles is hard to find, haphazard, or non-existent

? No statement about ethics or affiliation with industry organizations such as COPE, CSE, ICMJE, etc.

? The journal website is hosted by an unknown source or free platform that allows users to design their own site

* See <http://scholarlyoa.com/other-pages/misleading-metrics/> for a list of misleading metrics that are commonly used

{ PREDATORY PHONY VS LEGIT PUBLISHING }



Statement about journal's ethics policy or membership in COPE or similar organization

Text and navigation are clear, accurate, and helpful

Professional, modular page design

Contact information is thorough and accurate

Mobile optimization is often a prominent feature

The list of issues and articles is complete and easy to find

Industry standard metrics are clearly displayed

Everything on the site has a purpose

All the links work

The journal website is hosted by a reputable publisher or technology partner that is well known

✓ Still having doubts? Check out other articles published by the journal, review submission and peer review guidelines for additional information, or contact authors or editors listed on the site to ask questions. A little extra time and attention can save you the hassle and embarrassment of getting tangled up with a predatory publisher.

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What is a Predatory Journal?

- A predatory journal is usually a journal that has no verifiable academic credentials, and as such these journals are managed by editorial boards whose subject and disciplinary coverage is questionable.
- A predatory journal will allude to expert scholars who do not exist, or who have been represented as part of an editorial board without their permission.

How to Identify a Predatory Journal

- No clear guideline or policy relating to plagiarism, article review processes.
- Contact email addresses are suspicious or reflect non-journal related addresses.
- Article Processing Charge (APC) is not within expected charge range, too low for the standard rates currently charged.
- The coverage and scope of the publication is unclear and vague.
- Aggressive soliciting of authors and pressure to publish.
- Review period too short, eg, 30 days

The Dangers of Publishing in Predatory Journals

- Risk of negative impact to scholars' reputation.
- Risk of signing away copyright and intellectual property.
- Risk of not being compensated for research and publishing costs.
- Risk of contributing to/complication of authentic research metrics.

How to Identify a Predatory Journal

- Refer to the Department of Higher Education 2024 Approved Journal List



Adobe Acrobat
Document

- [WITS comprehensive list of all the accredited journals that we can receive DoHET subsidy for](#)
- [Clarivate Master Journal List](#)
- [Cabells List of Journals](#)

SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING CYCLE

The Cycle of Scholarly Publishing



Selecting Your Journal to Publish

Why publish?

- As part of scholarly research.
- As part of study requirements.
- As part of Faculty Academic Canon.
- As part of publishing new findings on specific research topics.

Criteria for Selecting a Journal

- The journal has a clear Peer review Policy or Guideline.
- The journal has a sound Editorial Review Board consisting of a panel of reliable and well-cited scholars.
- Subject focus is open to rigorous verification.
- Is traceable though various indexing platforms.
- Use the manuscript match option on various databases, for example Clarivate and Scopus.
- Consult a Librarian when unsure.



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- Scopus AI is an intuitive and intelligent search tool powered by generative AI (GenAI) that enhances your understanding and enriches your insights with unprecedented speed and clarity.
- Built in close collaboration with the academic community, it serves as your trusted guide through the vast expanse of human knowledge found on Scopus, the world's largest multidisciplinary and trusted abstract and citation database.



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THANK YOU

