

**Research Guide**

# Predatory Publishers and Practices

This guide is created to help researchers to identify and avoid predatory publishers.

**Authors Beware!**

Students, academics, and researchers should avoid predatory publications as such publications affect their credentials. They are also a waste of time, resources, money, and effort.

**What is Predatory Publishing?**

Predatory publishing is an exploitative practice of charging publication fees to authors without checking the quality and legitimacy of the article, and not providing editorial and publishing services to legitimate academic journals, whether open access or not.

There has been a steady rise in predatory and fake journals, which mainly target younger scholars. Publishing in such journals affects not only the researchers but also their institutions.

*"Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritise self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterised by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices" (Grudniewicz et al., 2019).*

**Ask a Librarian**

- [Library FAQs](#)
- [Library resources](#)
- [Library Exhibitions](#)

**Why Avoid Predatory Publishers?**

The authors should closely check whether the journals are registered in trustworthy websites before submitting their articles, including the ethical issues.

Plagiarism	High, unchecked, academic deception
Abstracting and indexing	Less strict criteria or no indexing
Editorial team	Often fictitious names or names used without any permission, editorial and publishing standards and practices
Location of publishers	Mainly in developing countries
Financial target	With profit-making as the target, research published in predatory journals may not receive recognition; hence the effort and risk of research as well as funding are wasted



Publication cost	Low compared to mainstream journals
Publication time	Immediate publication, which undermines confidence in research literature. Lack of archived content makes them inaccessible

### How to Spot a Predatory Journal?

- Are there spelling, typos, grammatical mistakes and other questionable characteristics on their website or in the solicitation email?
- Do emails address you in flattering terms and invite you to submit to their journal?
- Does the journal have a title that is similar to a legitimate journal?
- Can you easily contact the publisher?
- Are the timestamps of the incoming emails consistent with the working hours of the reported company of origin?
- Does the phone number have the correct country code?

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Greetings for the day!

STM Journals and Journals Pub are the leading providers of content solutions in the Scientific, Technical & Medical fields. We are proudly publishing **240+** journals. Our aim is to maintain high-quality publication standards using cutting-edge technologies & platforms.

Regarding your expertise, we are pleased to invite you to send **original research, review articles & case studies** for rapid peer-reviewed, online & print publication in the Electronics & Communication Engineering Journals. These Journals are published in both print and online versions.

**Benefits for Author:**

- Free Processing & Publication
- A Rigorous, Fast, and Constructive Peer Review Process
- Fast Publication of Manuscripts
- Extremely Competent Editorial Team
- Acceptance Letter
- Publication Certificate
- DOI Facility

**Energy, Electronics & Communication Engineering Journals are:**

1. [Journal of Alternate Energy Sources & Technologies.](#)
2. [Journal of Energy Environment & Carbon Credits.](#)

### How to Spot Predatory Publishers?

Visit [Think. Check. Submit](#), watch [below video](#) to learn more.



### Red flags / common signs of predatory publishing

- E-mailed invitations to submit an article
- Journal's name suspiciously similar to a prominent journal
- Article Processing Fee (APC)
- Outdated or unprofessional website appearance
- Insufficient contact information
- Editorial team/editors with false academic credentials
- Invented metrics
- False index claims
- Allegations of research misconduct
- "Instructions for Authors" information is unavailable
- Manuscripts submitted via e-mail
- Inadequate digital preservation information
- No retraction policy
- Lack of copyright information
- No International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)

### Qualities of reputable journals

There is no predefined checklist to determine if a journal or publisher is legitimate or predatory. However, the qualities of reputable publishers include the following:

- Journal scope is well defined and clearly stated on the journal's website
- Editors and the editorial board consists of recognised experts in the field
- Journal is affiliated with or was established by a scholarly or an academic institution or organisation

- Peer review process is rigorous and clearly explained on the website
- Articles fall within the scope of the publication
- Fee structure is clearly explained and easy to find on the website
- Journal has an ISSN
- Articles have Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs)
- Journal has an impact factor
- Copyright and usage rights are clearly stated (e.g., Creative Commons Licence CC By licence)
- Journal is indexed in subject databases or indexes
- Contact information is provided
- Publishing schedule and publication frequency is clearly stated
- Solicitation of manuscripts and other direct marketing are appropriate, well-targeted, and unobtrusive

### Where to Publish?

#### How to avoid predatory publishing?

To make informed decisions about where to publish, the quality of a publisher or journal is an important consideration for researchers. This page contains suggestions to assess whether a journal or publisher is predatory.

#### Journals Credentials

1. [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#)

DOAJ contains more than 10,000 open access journals covering all areas of science, technology, medicine, social sciences and humanities.

- **List of journals that claim to be in DOAJ**

2. **Scopus Journal List**

Check the Scopus list of indexed journals, including those no longer indexed due to publication concerns.

3. **Web of Science Master Journal List**

The Master Journal List includes all journal titles covered in Web of Science.

4. **Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA)**

Open access publishers that are members of the OASPA are committed to ethical publishing practices. No predatory journals will appear in the membership list.

5. **Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE)**

COPE assists editors and publishers regarding predatory publishers and ethics of scholarly publishing.

### Where to Publish?

Looking for journals to submit? Use these journal suggestions, which are recommended based on title and abstract.

1. **Journal Guide**

Journal guide is a free tool to find the best journal for any research.

2. **Elsevier Journal Finder**

Elsevier Journal Finder helps you find Elsevier journals best suited for publishing scientific articles.

3. **Springer Journal Suggester**

Springer Journal suggester is an academic research tool that helps users to select the best-suited journal for their research which selects from a database of over 2,600 Springer publications.

4. **Wiley Find Journal**

Wiley provides the perfect journal for publishing any research with Wiley.

5. **IEEE Publication Recommender**

Search 190+ periodicals and 1800+ conferences and compare critical points such as Impact Factor and Submission-To-Publication Time.

6. **Google Scholar Journal Listing**

This listing includes top-ranked journals in eight major disciplines followed by subdisciplines. Also includes journals in 10 other languages.

7. **JANE**

Jane helps you to compare your document to millions of documents in PubMed to find the best matching journals, authors or articles.

8. **Emerald Publishing**

Find journals published by Emerald.

9. **Taylor & Francis Journal Suggester**

Journal Suggester is a new tool that will help find the right journal by relevance.

10. **Scimago Journal Rank**

Journals in SCImago can be sorted and filtered by subject, country, and open access status. Helps you to determine if a journal is actually indexed in a major citation database, and identify other high-quality journals in your subject area.

### 11. SPI-Hub

SPI-Hub provides accurate information for each journal title.

### 12. Sherpa Romeo

Online resource that aggregates and analyses publisher open access policies from around the world and provides summaries of publisher copyright and open access archiving policies on a journal-by-journal basis.

### 13. Journal Citation Reports

JCR provides transparent, publisher-neutral data and statistics which helps to submit your first manuscript or manage a portfolio of thousands of publications.



### Potential predatory journals/publishers' listings

- List of predatory journals from **Beall's list**
- List of trusted publications in **Cabell's International**
- **Open Access Spectrum (OAS) evaluation tool**
  - The tool allows you to analyse the openness (reading/reuse rights, author posting rights, machine

readability, compliance with funder and institutional mandates) of a particular journal.

- **Scholarly Kitchen**
  - Moderated and independent blog which presents opinions, commentary, and ideas of the authors openly.
- **Retraction Watch**
  - It covers the latest news and incidents of predatory publishing, plagiarism, falsified data and peer review scandals.

### Identifying Predatory Conferences

Many predatory publishers have expanded their business models to make additional profit from fake conferences. These fake conferences do not offer scholarly presentation sessions, but are organised as revenue generating companies. They exploit presenters and attendees and increase profits by collecting registration fees.

### Red flags

Here are some red flags to watch out for:

- Is the conference sponsored by a professional organisation or association?
- Do you recognise the people on advisory boards or conference organising committees?
- Are conference topics focused on your specific field? Are the aims and scope too broad?

- Are the themes current for your field?
- Are conference proceedings from previous years available?
- Is the conference website unclear or misleading?
- Have you heard of the keynote speakers?
- Is the Editorial Committee listed on the conference website?
- Is the conference one of many conferences on various topics? Is the conference held at multiple locations? Organisers of predatory conferences often operate multiple "conferences" on the same date in the same location.
- Do conference papers get published in predatory journals? Do committee organisers, keynote speakers, or presenters have connections with predatory journals?
- Is there a peer review process for submitted papers and presentations?
- Are conference fees similar to other conference fees?

### Open access publisher and international conference organiser

- **World Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology (WASET)**
  - WASET is a predatory publisher of open access academic journals. The publisher has been listed as a "potential, possible, or probable" predatory publisher by Jeffrey Beall and is listed as such by the Max Planck Society and Stop Predatory Journals.
- **OMICS International**
  - Organisation that appears to schedule several conferences in one location at the same time,

specialising in medical, pharma, engineering, science, technology and business.

The conferences you publish in help you get citations and raise your professional profile. It is worth carefully evaluating conferences before you submit.

### Writing Support at IIHS

The following two style guides are designed to help the researchers in the academic writing process.

- [Handbook of Style and Usage](#)
- [IIHS Rough Writing Guides](#)

If you have any questions about writing, publishing and editorial support, reach out to the [Library team](#) and [Word Lab](#).

### DISCLAIMER

This guide is intended to provide information about predatory publishing. Deciding where to publish is solely the responsibility of individual authors.

### Reference:

Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K. D., Bryson, G. L., Cukier, S., Allen, K., ... & Lalu, M. M. (2019). Predatory journals: no definition, no defence. *Nature*, 576(7786), 210-212.  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y>