

Predatory publishing

Predatory journals, publishers, and conferences are defined as the entities that

- prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship
- are characterized by false, non-transparent, and misleading information
- are proceed by an unknown and irrelevant editorial board/organizing committee
- deviate from peer-reviewed publication practices
- use aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.

Common characters of predatory publisher

Imposter	Poses as a well-recognized publisher or reputed journal and selects names with a nominal change from the legitimate ones	
Phisher	Lures with promises then charge high fees after the manuscript has been "accepted"	
Trojan horse	Has a legitimate-looking website; however, a closer inspection ensure journals and proceedings with fake or plagiarized articles	

Identification of predatory journals and conferences

Money matters!

Rapid service!

No archiving!

Holiday!

spam

Journal Quality Spectrum: Fraudulent (High Risk) - Deceptive - Unacceptable low-quality - Low-quality - Promising low-quality - Questionable quality - Quality (Low Risk)

- High Risk (Fraudulent/Deceptive):**
 - Non-existent or improper peer review and misrepresenting
 - No or fake editorial board
 - Lies about being indexed
 - Hides the cost for publishing
- Unacceptable low-quality:**
 - Low quality peer review
 - Inactive editorial board
 - Use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices
 - Unclear about publishing charges
- Low-quality:**
 - Thorough peer review
 - Strong editorial board
 - Clear about publishing costs
 - Occasionally encourages in predatory practices but takes proper action when criticized

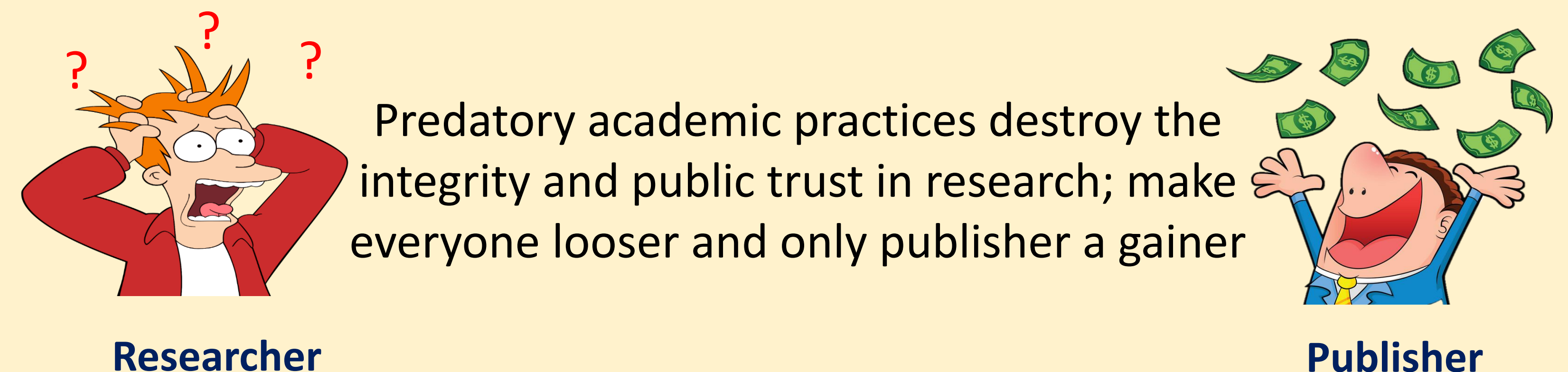
Predatory conferences

Conference Quality Spectrum: Fraudulent (High Risk) - Deceptive - Unacceptable low-quality - Low-quality - Promising low-quality - Questionable quality - Quality (Low Risk)

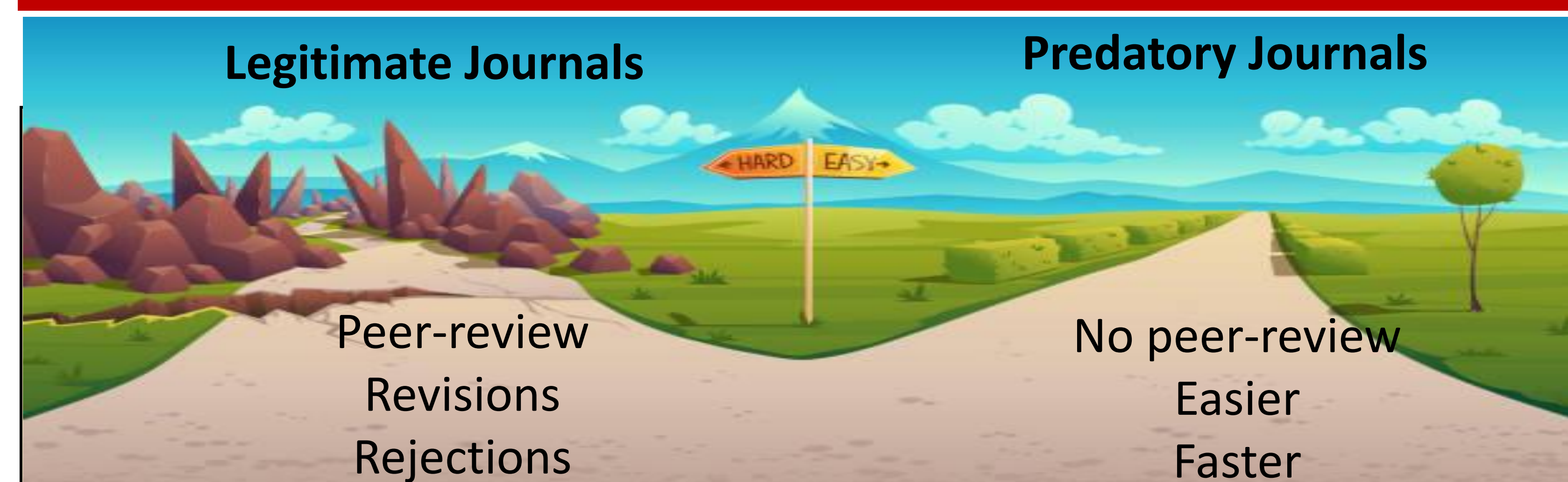
- High Risk (Fraudulent/Deceptive):**
 - Webpage used for criminal/fraudulent purposes
 - Registration fees are not returned if cancelled
 - Target unsuspecting early-career researchers with flattering invitations
 - In most serious cases, emptying out bank accounts of unsuspecting registrants
- Unacceptable low-quality:**
 - The organizer holds many conferences in different fields at the same time
 - The titles are too broad so conference lacks focus
 - Invitees are asked to speak/present on subjects unrelated to their research
 - Exaggerate the event's prestige and/or location
- Low-quality:**
 - Well-planned and with an appropriate venue/online platform
 - The conference has a clearly defined scientific purpose
 - Funded and/or arranged by reputable organizations
 - Thorough peer review of submissions
 - Clear about conference costs

Consequences of predatory practices

- Damage the reputation of the researcher, research group, institution, and country
- Cause for punishment in academic career, e.g., demotion or termination of the job
- Waste of valuable resources, efforts, and time
- Mislead the manufacturers through the false/unverified outcomes
- Deteriorate scientific integrity and confidence of the researchers
- Create chances to lose the credit forever if the journal ceases to exist!!



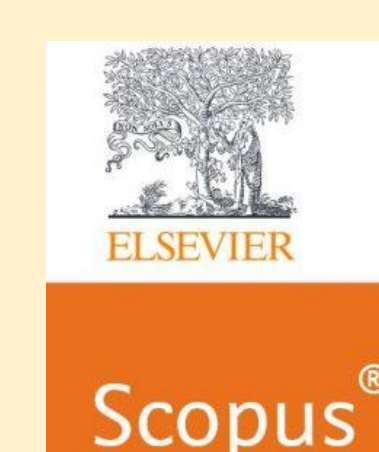
Consideration and recommendations



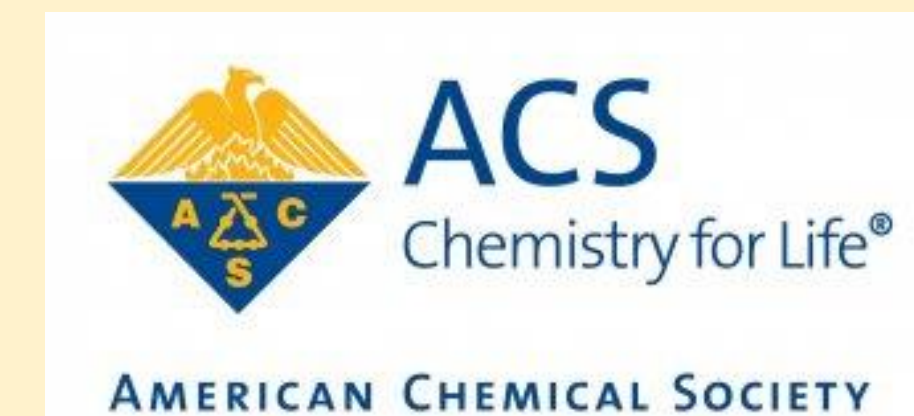
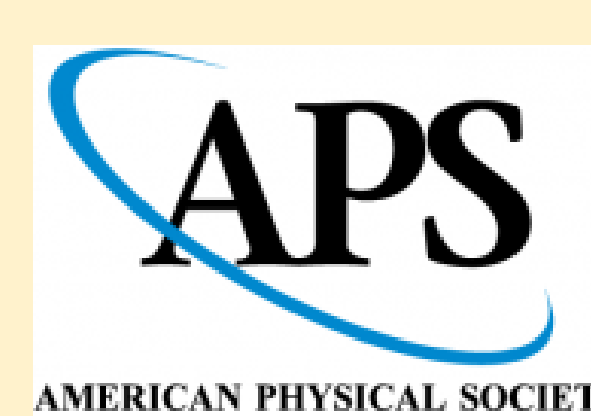
Check whether the selected journal is legitimate or not

- In general, indexed journals are legitimate, publish quality contents and maintain peer-review standards
- There is much greater risk that a non-indexed journal may have questionable peer review. However, local/regional journals struggle to get indexed. JPPS and/or Latindex Catalogue may be checked for local/regional journals

Know the reliable journal indexing agencies



Examples of some reliable publishers



Checklists to choose trusted journals/conferences

Search

- thinkchecksubmit.org ; thinkcheckattend.org

Search also recommendations by

- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, and The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

Check the Cabell's safelist and take help from AUTHORAID

<https://www2.cabells.com/>, <https://www.authoraid.info>

Last but not the least,

- awareness creation against predatory practices should be continued
- recruitment and promotion policies should be amended so that articles published in predatory journals are not considered
- quality should override quantity during the evaluation
- a "nose" for detecting suspicious activity should be developed in any scholarly platform.

Predatory cartels are cunning, hence, protect your research, integrity and reputation confidently and sophisticatedly

Credits: <https://www.interacademies.org/publication/predatory-practices-report-English>