Predatory journals and conferences: 
Identification, consequences and solutions

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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 | Lures with promises then charge high fees after the manuscript has been “accepted” |
| Phisher  | Poses as a well-recognized publisher or reputed journal and selects names with a nominal change from the legitimate ones |
| 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!

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!!

Predatory academic practices destroy the integrity and public trust in research; make everyone looser and only publisher a gainer

Consideration and recommendations

Legitimate Journals  Predatory Journals

Peer-review  No peer-review
Revisions  Easier
Rejections  Faster

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 valuable
➢ 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

Acknowledgement: https://www.interacadies.org/publication/predatory-practices-report-English