Watch Out for Predatory Journals

What They Are and How to Avoid Them

Dr. Andrea Hacker, Universitätsbibliothek Bern – @ahacker, andrea.hacker@ub.unibe.ch
Mai 2019 Coffee Lecture
Predatory Publishing and Conferences

Exploitative scams where companies pose as publishers, journals or conference organizers that charge for services that they do not or only minimally provide:

• Manuscripts are accepted unread and the author is charged APCs
• Conferences accept presentations unread and charge high participation fees. The conference itself is a shambles

Facilitated by

• Publish-or-perish culture in academia
• Author Processing Charges (APC) opened a loop-hole in publishing; conference costs were there for the taking.
• Scholarly publishing is a very lucrative business, so is the conference circuit

The Problem of Predatory Journals
What are they? Where did they come from?
Beware of jumping to conclusions

Three Misconceptions

1. Predatory publishing affects only journals - NO
2. Predatory publishing is exclusively an Open Access issue - NO
3. All research published by predatory publishers is bad - NO

[Link to Vox.com article on scientific paper scam]
### Authors and methods

**Who:**
- Duped academics
- Desperate academics
- Academics who do not care

**Why:**
- Lured by aggressive spamming and emails
- Indifference as to where research appears
- Intentional placement of information (e.g. politics, nutrition, medicine)

### Fallout

- Devalues research
- Spreads unreliable information
- No retractions offered
- Negative effect on early career scholars
- Negative effect on funding decisions
- No archiving
- Waste of funding
- Damages public trust in scholarship
Some numbers

- The amount of international publications in dubious journals rose from 53’000 manuscripts in 2010 to more than 400’000 in 2014.*
- A sample test of 17500 articles suggests that only 0.5% are authored by academics at Swiss institutions.**

**Markus Pössel, “Abzock-Zeitschriften, Datenauswertung Teil 1: Methoden, Ländervergleich, Gesamtzahl.” Blog 22.07.2018
Predatory Journals

How to recognize a predatory publisher

Sample mail

**EPH Journal**
(https://ephjournal.com/)
editor@ephjournal.com

EPH Journal is an endeavor to promote innovation and new ideas in various fields of research and development. It is a scholarly online, open access, peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, monthly, and fully refereed journal focusing on theories, methods and applications in technology and relevant fields.

It is an international open-access research journal that aims to contribute to the current research and development efforts of various researchers and scholars across the globe. The journal invites for the latest investigations are come from small research groups encouraging us to reach every corner of the materialistic world in the hunt of the advance research and development. This journal contains research papers which deal with the contemporary issues of international economics, education, theory, methodology and practice of mankind.

It welcomes Scientists, Researchers, and Scholars to submit their work in the form of Case Study, Research Papers, Review Articles or Book Review which can add value for various stakeholders of the society and help them to learn about your work.

Important Dates: Volume 5, Issue 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Submission Deadlines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27th April, 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Online Publishing
Author Notification
30th April, 2019
2 days of submission

Contact for Conference
editor@ephjournal.com
editor@ephjournal.com

- Very short time between submission and publication
- No specifics about or small publishing fees
- High output
- Generic email addresses
- Faulty English and bad formatting
Predatory Journals

How can they be avoided?

Instruments to check a journal's integrity

- Whitelists
  - www.thinkchecksubmit.org

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THINK</th>
<th>DOAJ</th>
<th>Scopus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHECK</th>
<th>PubMed</th>
<th>COPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBMIT</th>
<th>CASPA</th>
<th>WEB OF SCIENCE™</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Predatory Journals

How can they be avoided?

List at Uni Bern

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predatory journals checklist</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editorial board and contact persons</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Familiarity and subject area of the journal</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer review process</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication charges</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifiers</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associations and verification platforms</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UniBe predatory journals checklist can be found at [this link](#)
Predatory Journals

What is available at Uni Bern?

Open Science Team: services and support

Open Access Publishing:
- BORIS (www.boris.unibe.ch)
- Bern Open Publishing (bop.unibe.ch)

Support:
- Questions concerning publishing
- Questions concerning Open Access

We can be found here:
- http://www.unibe.ch/ub/openscience
- Twitter: @opensciencebern
- Blog: biblio.unibe.ch/bosb
Thank you

Dr. Andrea Hacker, Universitätsbibliothek Bern - @ahacker, andrea.hacker@ub.unibe.ch
Mai 2019 Coffee Lecture