PREDATORY PUBLISHING

WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF
WHAT IS A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

“Predatory journals are pseudo-academic journals that exist for the sole purpose of collecting fees from authors. They have emerged to exploit the Open Access publishing business model whereby authors pay a fee to make their work freely available to the public. Predatory journals are a concern because they are sometimes difficult to identify. They pose as high quality Open Access journals but fail to deliver meaningful editorial and peer review.”

--- Dalhousie University Libraries
WHAT IS A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

“Predatory journals—also called fraudulent, deceptive, or pseudo-journals—are publications that claim to be legitimate scholarly journals but misrepresent their publishing practices. Some common forms of predatory publishing practices include falsely claiming to provide peer review, hiding information about article processing charges, misrepresenting members of the journal’s editorial board, and other violations of copyright or scholarly ethics.”

--- Susan Elmore and Eleanor Weston


A title search of Google Scholar reveals that nearly all (97%) scholarly publications refer to this phenomenon as predatory journals or predatory publishing.
WHAT IS A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

“Predatory Publishers – “are individuals or companies that use the open access financial system (author pays, rather than library subscribes) to defraud authors and readers by promising reputable publishing platforms but delivering nothing of the sort.”

---  Pippa Smart (editor)

JEFFREY BEALL AND HIS LIST

Jeffrey Beall, librarian at the University of Colorado, created and maintained a list of predatory open-access publishers from 2008-2017.

An archive of the Beall’s List is maintained at https://beallslist.net/ and has been updated anonymously as recently as December, 2021.
ASSESSING JOURNAL QUALITY

The following ranking systems will provide measures of relative impact within a discipline for legitimate journals. Problematic periodicals are not included.

- **JCR** – Journal Citation Reports
- **SJR** – SClmago Journal Rank
- **CiteScore (SCOPUS)**
ASSESSING JOURNAL QUALITY

Directory of Open Access Journals – DOAJ – strives to provide a list of non-predatory open-access journals:

- Quality of DOAJ Journals
- Myth Busting: DOAJ Indexes “Predatory” Journals
- Are We Overestimating the Problem of “Predatory Publishing?”
ASSESSING JOURNAL QUALITY

The following guidelines are an alternative to lists of problematic periodicals:

• **Determining Journal Quality – ACRL**
• **How Open is It? – SPARC**
• **How to Assess a Journal – CARL**
• **Open Access Journal Quality - GVSU**
THE PENDULUM SWINGS (TOO FAR?)

While acknowledging that deceptive publishing practices continue to be a problem - some recent authors argue that journal blacklists (such as Beall’s) and even the term “predatory” can unfairly impact both legitimate non-Western journals and open-access journals in general.
MORE ABOUT JOURNAL QUALITY – AND PREDATORY JOURNALS

For more on this topic (and journal metrics) …

Google:

Where to Publish Rod Library

… or visit:

https://guides.lib.uni.edu/where-to-publish

Chris Neuhaus – 10/2022