

# PUBLISHING WISELY

**John Chen and Xun Xu**

**February 2018**



**ENGINEERING**

# PUBLISHING WISELY

**What are 'predatory' journals?  
How to identify them?**

**John Chen**



**ENGINEERING**

## **Research & Publications**

- Publications eligible for the 2012-2017 PBRF Round is now over.**
- Prepare for the next PBRF round, 2018-2023**
- Planning for your academic career**

Getting published is important, but not so important that you should publish in an inappropriate or disreputable journal.

**Royal Society of New Zealand**

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/research-practice/publishing-guidance/>

Research » Christmas 2016: Food for Thought



## We read spam a lot: prospective cohort study of unsolicited and unwanted academic invitations

BMJ 2016 ; 355 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.i5383> (Published 14 December 2016)

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2016;355:i5383

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Andrew Grey, associate professor<sup>1</sup>, Mark J Bolland, associate professor<sup>1</sup>, Nicola Dalbeth, professor<sup>1</sup>, Greg Gamble, statistician<sup>1</sup>, Lynn Sadler, epidemiologist<sup>2</sup>

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**Accepted** 28 September 2016

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## Introduction

Unsolicited and unwanted (spam) electronic invitations to speak at or attend conferences, or to write for or edit journals are a burgeoning aspect of academic life. Colleagues regard such invitations with wry amusement, intense frustration, or resignation. Two of us (AG, ND) have reviewed travel grant applications from colleagues who received spam invitations to give conference presentations.



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# Academics and scientists: Beware of predatory journal publishers

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August 26, 2016

by Lisa Lake

Consumer Education Specialist, FTC

If you're a scholar or scientist, you know the value of being published in an academic journal. Unfortunately, some dishonest publishers also understand this — and have used it to *profit* from rather than *promote* legitimate advancements in research and academia.

In its [lawsuit against OMICS Group](#) — which operates hundreds of online journals in a variety of fields — the FTC says the company bombards people with emails soliciting articles, misrepresents the reputation of its publications, and doesn't disclose that authors have to pay substantial fees — ranging from hundreds to thousands of dollars — to be published.

<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2016/08/academics-and-scientists-beware-predatory-journal-publishers>

# The Rise of Predatory Journals: What Difference Does It Make?

Foad Nahai, MD, FACS

Accepted for publication April 23, 2015; online publish-ahead-of-print June 2, 2015.

Aesthetic Surgery Journal  
2015, Vol 35(8) 1042–1043  
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journals.permissions@oup.com  
DOI: 10.1093/asj/sjv085  
www.aestheticsurgeryjournal.com

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## REVIEW ARTICLE

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# Discriminating Between Legitimate and Predatory Open Access Journals: Report from the International Federation for Emergency Medicine Research Committee

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Full text available through open access at [http://escholarship.org/uc/uciem\\_westjem](http://escholarship.org/uc/uciem_westjem)

DOI: 10.5811/westjem.2016.7.30328

# Research integrity corner: Special issue on predatory journals

## Review

### Ethical issues in publishing in predatory journals

Lorraine E. Ferris<sup>\*1</sup>, Margaret A Winker<sup>2</sup>

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#### Abstract

Predatory journals, or journals that charge an article processing charge (APC) to authors, yet do not have the hallmarks of legitimate scholarly journals such as peer review and editing, Editorial Boards, editorial offices, and other editorial standards, pose a number of new ethical issues in journal publishing. This paper discusses ethical issues around predatory journals and publishing in them. These issues include misrepresentation; lack of editorial and publishing standards and practices; academic deception; research and funding wasted; lack of archived content; and undermining confidence in research literature. It is important that the scholarly community, including authors, institutions, editors, and publishers, support the legitimate scholarly research enterprise, and avoid supporting predatory journals by not publishing in them, serving as their editors or on the Editorial Boards, or permitting faculty to knowingly publish in them without consequences.

**Key words:** predatory journals; publication ethics; medical publishing

*Received: March 12, 2017*

*Accepted: May 11, 2017*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access

# 'Predatory' open access: a longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics



Cenyu Shen\* and Bo-Christer Björk

## Authors' information

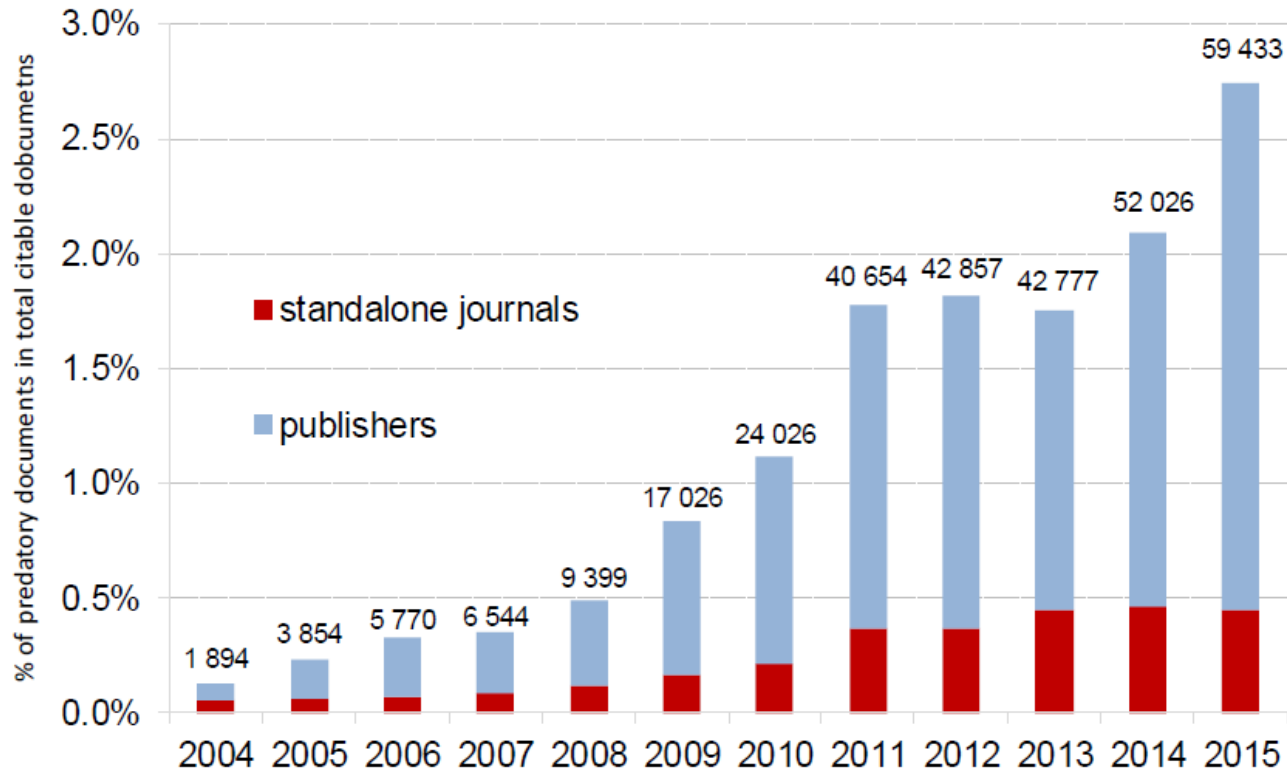
CS is a doctoral student in Information Systems Science at the Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland. B-CB is professor of Information Systems Science at the Hanken School of Economics, Helsinki, Finland.

Received: 30 April 2015 Accepted: 1 September 2015  
Published online: 01 October 2015

Using our data for the number of articles and average APC for 2014, our estimate for the size of the market is 74 million USD. The corresponding figure for OA journals from reputable journals has been estimated at 244 million USD in 2013 [29]. The global subscription market for scholarly journals is estimated to be around 10.5 billion USD [30].

Note: APC=Article Processing Charges

**Figure 1: Share of predatory documents in Scopus (%)**



*Note: The absolute number of indexed predatory documents is reported above each column.  
Source: Scopus (on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016), Beall's lists (on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016), authors' calculations.*

Vít Macháček & Martin Srholec, "Predatory journals in Scopus", March 2017, Institute for Democracy & Economic Analysis, Czech Academy of Sciences. (available on the web by simply googling the entire citation.)

## **What are Predatory Journals?**

Are predatory journals the publishing equivalent of what Donald Trump might call “a bad hombre”? our colleague asked in a recent [commentary](#). In [research](#) just published, we dived in to have a look.

For the unfamiliar, the term “predatory journals” has been used to refer to online-only scholarly publishing entities with murky operations. They claim to be open access and to provide basic editorial services (peer review, perpetual archiving), yet they are failing on all accounts. They make money by collecting fees (article processing charges) from authors who publish with them.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that>

However, we're calling them "illegitimate publishing entities" instead of "predatory journals". In our opinion, these entities should be considered similar to the pseudo banking sites that sprang up in the early days of email, enticing people to send money abroad. They are not technically "journals" as they appear not to be authorised or in accordance with accepted publishing standards or rules.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that>

In addition, the term “predatory” suggests that that the problem is one-way (that such entities are preying on innocent researchers), when, in fact, the relationship might be more symbiotic (some authors knowingly participate). “Predatory”

Thousands of these impostors are infiltrating the world of scientific publishing. And they are possibly giving a voice to very low-quality or bogus research (aka “alternative facts”), whereby agendas can be spun and spurious data released stealthily, free from the watchful eye of peer review. Even more disturbing is

## Thirteen ways to spot a 'predatory journal' (and why we shouldn't call them that)

Larissa Shamseer and David Moher have taken a close look at what it is that sets dodgy journals apart from the rest

March 27, 2017



By [Larissa Shamseer](#)

Twitter: [@LarissaShamseer](#)

By [David Moher](#)

Twitter: [@dmoher](#)

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-and-why-we-shouldnt-call-them-that>





ways to spot a predatory journal



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### Thirteen ways to spot a 'predatory journal' (and why we shouldn't call ...

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/.../thirteen-ways-to-spot-a-predatory-journal-a...> ▼

Mar 27, 2017 - Larissa Shamseer and David Moher have taken a close look at what it is that sets dodgy **journals** apart from the rest.

### 8 Ways to Identify a Questionable Open Access Journal | AJE ...

<https://www.aje.com/en/arc/8-ways-identify-questionable-open-access-journal/> ▼

So if it is important to avoid **predatory** companies masquerading as scholarly **journals**, **how** do you **spot** those **journals**? Here are a few warning signs. These points are only potential indicators of a **journal** or **publisher** being dishonest. Some legitimate **journals** may meet a few of these points, particularly when they have just ...

You visited this page on 13/02/18.

### How to recognize predatory journals - Beall's List of Predatory ...

<https://beallslist.weebly.com/how-to-recognize-predatory-journals.html> ▼

Salient features of potential **predatory journals**. The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics; The website contains spelling and grammar errors; Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized; The homepage language targets ...

# BEALL'S LIST OF PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

[PUBLISHERS](#)

[STANDALONE JOURNALS](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[OTHER](#)

[THINK CHECK SUBMIT](#)

 Search for publishers (name or URL)

## Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

**Instructions:** firstly, find the journal's publisher - it is usually written at the bottom of journal's webpage or in the "About" section. Then simply enter the publisher's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the [Standalone Journals](#) list.

## Original list

This is an archived version of the Beall's list - a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian [Jeffrey Beall](#). We will only update links and add notes to this list. A list of new predatory publishers is available below the original one.

- [1088 Email Press](#)
- [2425 Publishers](#)
- [The 5th Publisher](#)
- [ABC Journals](#)
- [A M Publishers](#)
- [Abhinav](#)
- [Academe Research Journals](#)
- [Academia Publishing](#)

<https://beallslist.weebly.com/>

## Other important lists

[List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOAJ](#)

[DOAJ: Journals added and removed](#)

[JCR Master Journal List](#)

[Questionable conferences](#)

[How to avoid predatory conferences](#)

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[Journal Evaluation Tool](#)

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## News

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# Publishing guidance

The document 'Selecting a quality publisher' provides guidance on assessing the quality of publishing venues and discusses key issues in academic publishing.

*Published November 2017*

 [Selecting a quality publisher](#) [PDF 547.78 kb] is available as a PDF and as an online document below.

**Selecting a quality publisher**

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/research-practice/publishing-guidance/>

**Highly Recommended: Writing in the Sciences – course video from Stanford University**

<https://www.coursera.org/learn/sciwrite/lecture/RObTP/6-8-predatory-journals>

**Publishing guidance – Royal Society of NZ**

<https://royalsociety.org.nz/what-we-do/research-practice/publishing-guidance/>

**Getting published: Choosing a journal – Bodleian Libraries, Oxford**

<http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/publishing/choosing-journals>

**Predatory publishers – University of Cambridge University**

<https://osc.cam.ac.uk/about-scholarly-communication/author-tools/considerations-when-choosing-journal/predatory-publishers>

**Publishing a Journal Article Workshop – UBC, Vancouver**

**Evaluating Open Access Journals: Ensure You're Submitting to a Legitimate Journal**

<http://guides.library.ubc.ca/publishjournalarticle/predatory>

**Avoiding Deceptive, Unethical, Predatory and Vanity Publishing – Melbourne Univ.**

<https://blogs.unimelb.edu.au/researcher-library/2017/11/08/avoiding-deceptive-unethical-predatory-and-vanity-publishing/>

**8 Ways to Identify a Questionable Open Access Journal**

How to watch out for predatory journals in the Open Access world

<https://www.aje.com/en/arc/8-ways-identify-questionable-open-access-journal/>

# PUBLISHING WISELY

**Why do I care?  
What if I got trapped?**

**Xun Xu**



**ENGINEERING**

## Why

- Affect readership and impact of your paper/research work
- PBRF
- ADPR, Continuation/Promotion
- Quality vs. quantity
- Bottom-line: career development or career termination

## What-If...

- What if I “accidentally” submitted a paper to a predatory journal what has been accepted?
  - Do NOT sign the copyright agreement
  - Contact the editor of the predatory journal to withdraw the paper
  - Choose a legitimate journal to submit
  - Add an editorial note on the paper explaining what has happened
- What if a good article was published in a predatory?
  - Check out the copyright agreement you signed
  - Damage control mode:
    - Do NOT list it in your CV, PBRF EP, promotion application, funding application, etc.

## What-If...

What if I got listed in these biographical dictionaries:

- Marquis Who's Who in the World
- Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award Winners
- 2000 Outstanding Intellectuals of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, IBC
- Cambridge Certificate for Outstanding Scientific Achievement, IBC
- Who's Who in Science and Engineering
- Leading Educators of the World, IBC

**Keep these “accolades” to yourself or even better bin them!!**



Money buys "Fame", or does it?

<https://www.marquiswhoswho.com/collections/whos-who-publications>

Home

**PRODUCT TYPE**

- Book

**PUBLICATION YEAR**

- 2009
- 2010
- 2011
- 2012
- 2014
- 2015
- 2016
- 2017

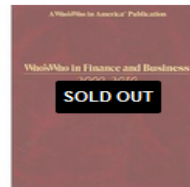
**TITLE**

- America
- America: East
- America: Midwest
- America: South and Southwest
- America: West
- American Art
- American Law
- American Politics
- American Women
- Asia
- Corporate America
- Finance and Business
- Medicine and Healthcare
- Science and Engineering
- World

## MARQUIS WHO'S WHO PUBLICATIONS

The family of Marquis Who's Who print directories provides unmatched coverage of the lives of leaders and achievers from the United States and around the world, representing virtually every field of endeavor, from both past and present.

Sort by Date, new to old ▾



Who's Who in Finance and Business 2009-2010 - 37th Edition

**\$349<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who of American Women 2010-2011 - 28th Edition

**\$305<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who in Science and Engineering 2016-2017 - 12th Edition

**\$345<sup>00</sup>**



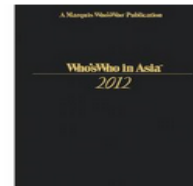
Who's Who in Corporate America 2011 - 1st Edition

**\$365<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who in American Law 2015-2016 - 19th Edition

**\$345<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who in Asia 2012 - 2nd Edition

**\$365<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare 2011-2012 - 8th Edition

**\$365<sup>00</sup>**



Who's Who in the South and Southwest 2016 - 42nd Edition

**\$345<sup>00</sup>**

## Some references

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5493173/>

<https://publicationethics.org/case/withdrawal-accepted-manuscript-predatory-journal>

<https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/71872/what-to-do-if-predatory-journal-wont-withdraw-paper-after-acceptance>

<https://www.editage.com/insights/can-i-submit-an-accepted-paper-from-a-predatory-to-a-reputable-journal-without-a-confirmation-of-withdrawal>

<https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/84244/what-to-do-when-a-good-article-is-published-in-a-predatory-online-journal-that-d>

<https://academia.stackexchange.com/questions/93902/what-to-do-when-you-have-accidentally-submitted-an-article-to-a-predatory-journal/93908>

<https://www.intranet.engineering.auckland.ac.nz/en/foe-intranet/foe-research/researcherwise.html>

# Selecting a quality publisher

## Assessing the quality of publishing venues, and key issues in academic publishing

*Guidance from Royal Society Te Apārangi*

Getting published is important, but not so important that you should publish in an inappropriate or disreputable journal. This guide provides information to help you navigate the publishing world, with questions to ask of a potential publisher and information on key issues in academic publishing.

**Contents**

- Questions to ask of a potential publisher ..... 1
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## Engineering Intranet

### Researcher Wise seminar series

A series of seminars that target engineering researchers and are aimed to answer some of your frequently asked questions.

- » [Researcher Wise seminar #1: Publishing and Conferencing](#)
- » [Researcher Wise seminar #2: Authors' Identifiers and Researcher Networks](#)
- » [Researcher Wise seminar #3: Your Face to the World](#)
- » [Researcher Wise seminar #4: Social Media for Research](#)
- » [Useful links](#)




#### Researcher Wise seminar #1: Publishing and Conferencing

This seminar discussed how to identify high quality journals by discipline. Topics included:

- Strategies on how to identify quality journals and conferences and how to spot predators
- Advice on identifying the "cold call" invites to be a guest editor, an editorial board, book publications (e.g. Lambert), keynote speaker at a conference, inclusion in "Who's Who ....", and more
- An overview of Open Access publishing models
- How to make your work open access, including tips for archiving your work in the University Research Repository and ResearchSpace

 [Professor Brian Mace: Journals](#)  
(786.9 kB, PDF)

 [Professor John Chen: Cold Call Invites](#)  
(3.9 MB, PDF)

 [Professor Xun Xu: Conferencing](#)  
(1.2 MB, PDF)

 [Rosanne van Leeuwen: Open Access](#)  
(270.7 kB, PDF)

 [Rosanne van Leeuwen: Open Access flowchart](#)  
(59.2 kB, PDF)

[Top](#) ▲

#### Researcher Wise seminar #2: Authors' Identifiers and Researcher Networks

This seminar covered best practice and new developments in ORCID. It also explained:

## Final Thoughts

- NO complete list of “legitimate” or “predatory” journals
- Reputable publishers may also publish predatory journals
- Scholarly databases (e.g. WoS, Scopus) may also include predatory journals
- Clarivate Analytics Impact Factor, or simply IF (Impact Factor)?
- If in doubt, talk to
  - Experienced colleagues
  - HoDs
  - Library staff members