



Addressing Predatory Publishing Issues

Tom Olyhoek, DOAJ Editor in Chief
Susan Veldsman, Director of the Scholarly Publication Unit
Academy of Sciences in South Africa

AJOL, ASSAf, DOAJ, EIFL, LIBSENSE and UCT initiative for
African journal editors and publishers

Webinar series 2022



Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

John Bohannon

Dozens of open-access journals targeted in an elaborate *Science* sting accepted a spoof research article, raising questions about peer-review practices in much of the open-access world.

MEDIA JULY 20, 2018

400,000 Scientists All Over the World Have Been Published in Fake Journals

Journalists investigated widespread fraud within the scientific publishing community.

NATURE | NEWS



Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish papers

Conference proceedings removed from subscription databases after scientist reveals that they were computer-generated.

COLLABORATION

New international investigation tackles 'fake science' and its poisonous effects

Hundreds of thousands of scientists worldwide have published studies in self-described scientific journals that don't provide traditional checks for accuracy and quality, according to a new journalistic investigation.

By Scilla Alecci
July 20, 2018

New post on **Retraction Watch**

Elsevier retracts entire issue after mistakenly publishing it online

by [Alison McCook](#)

Publishing giant Elsevier has retracted an entire issue of one of its journals because the contents -- abstracts from a conference about child neurology -- were never supposed to make it online. We discovered the retraction after realizing that every aspect of the issue in *Brain & Development* had been retracted, including the cover, editorial [...]

[Read more of this post](#)

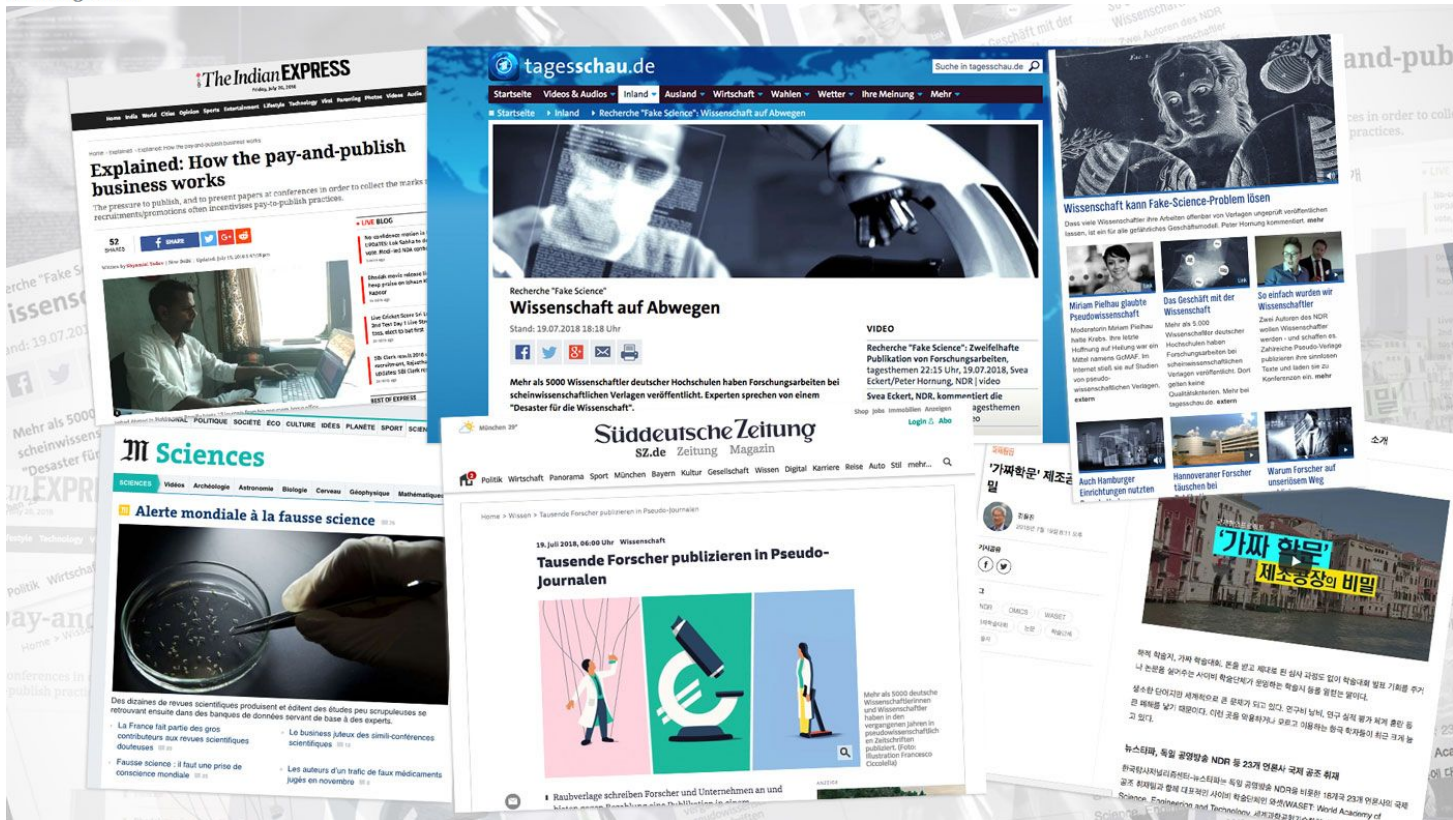
[Alison McCook](#) | August 9, 2017 at 11:00 am | Categories: [Brain and Dev](#) | URL: <http://iretractionwatch.com/?p=51371>

New international investigation tackles 'fake science' and its poisonous effects

Hundreds of thousands of scientists worldwide have published studies in self-described scientific journals that don't provide traditional checks for accuracy and quality, according to a new journalistic investigation.



**INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM
of INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISTS**





The Definitive Resource for Trusted Open Science

Conference Locations



March 2022 in London

Event Date: March 11-12, 2022
Submission Due: February 16, 2022



March 2022 in Miami

Event Date: March 11-12, 2022
Submission Due: February 16, 2022



March 2022 in Dubai

Event Date: March 21-22, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Madrid

Event Date: March 21-22, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Prague

Event Date: March 21-22, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Tokyo

Event Date: March 21-22, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Paris

Event Date: March 28-29, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Singapore

Event Date: March 28-29, 2022
Submission Due: March 01, 2022



March 2022 in Sydney



April 2022 in Athens



April 2022 in Cancun



April 2022 in Dubai

**WHAT ? WHO ?
WHY ?**



DEFINITION OF PREDATORY PUBLISHING

Predatory journals: no definition, no defence

Agnes Grudniewicz, David Moher, Kelly D. Cobey and 32 co-authors

Leading scholars and publishers from ten countries have agreed a definition of predatory publishing that can protect scholarship. It took 12 hours of discussion, 18 questions and 3 rounds to reach.

When 'Jane' turned to alternative medicine, she had already exhausted radiotherapy, chemotherapy and other standard treatments for breast cancer. Her alternative-medicine practitioner shared an article about a therapy involving vitamin infusions. To her and her practitioner, it seemed to be authentic grounds for hope. But when Jane showed the article to her son-in-law (one of the authors of this Comment), he realized it came from a predatory journal – meaning its

“Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.”

The proposed definition of predatory publishing from *Nature* 576, 210-212 (2019) ([DOI: 10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y](https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y))

PREDATORY PUBLISHING AND OPEN ACCESS ???



Predatory Publishing

[Info](#) [About](#) [Blog](#) [Twitter](#)

Working to eliminate predatory and fake journals



This web site, and the accompanying Twitter feed and blog, aims to raise awareness of **Predatory Publishing**. If you are unaware of what this is, it is where scientific publishers charge an article processing fee to enable you to publish your paper. However, unlike legitimate open access publishers, there is little (or no) peer review. This means that the scientific archive is being infected by papers that have not been subject to rigorous peer review. If this is allowed to continue this archive, which has taken hundreds of years to develop, is in real danger.

<https://predatory-publishing.com/about/>

Website run by scholars, who publish regularly in (what we believe) high quality journals. High quality, in our world means journals that are listed in Web of Science, ISI journals to use a more commonly used phrased. We have also served as associate editors and editors-in-chief, so we have seen scientific publishing both as authors and as editorS.

WHO? NOT JUST OPEN ACCESS JOURNALS!

- Not all subscription journals are in Scopus or WoS: only 30,000 of 100,000 (data Ulrich's Web)
- Not all open access journals are in DOAJ: only 18,000 of 40,000

*** Walt Crawford
<http://citesandinsights.info/civ17i1.pdf>

***CONCLUSION* Percentage of Low Quality Journals and possible Predatory Journals in both Open Access and Subscription Journals is considerable**

WHY? PROFITS AND PUBLICATION PRESSURE

combined with closed peer review practices



Jon Tennant
@Protohedgehog

...

Every researcher knows the “publish and/or perish” culture: the fact that we are evaluated primarily based on the journals that we publish in, rather than any intrinsic merit or quality of our work. Countless ink has been spilled criticising this system.

10:14 AM · Apr 8, 2020 · Twitter Web App

- We have an academic system where researchers are forced to enter into a publication-based economy dictated by commercial values.
- The mantra ‘**publish or perish**’ is dead, replaced by ‘**publish and perish**’ due to under-funding and competitiveness in climbing the academic career ladder.
[Open Science is just good science - cloudfront.net](https://cloudfront.net)

The money behind academic publishing

The academic publishing industry has a large financial turnover. Its worldwide sales amount to more than USD 19 billion, which positions it between the music industry and the film industry (4). The market is largely dominated by five large publishing houses: Elsevier, Black & Wiley, Taylor & Francis, Springer Nature and SAGE, which control more than 50 % of the market between them. Elsevier is the largest, with approximately 16 % of the total market and more than 3000 academic journals. As an industry, these publishing houses are unique in terms of their profitability, generating large net profits. Elsevier has a profit margin approaching 40 %, which is higher than that of companies such as Microsoft, Google and Coca Cola, and the curve is pointing upwards (4–6).

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Tidsskr Nor Legeforen 2020
doi: 10.4045/tidsskr.20.0118

WHERE ?




Predatory journals can be found in all parts of the world, Europe and North America not excluded


Authors from all parts of the world are lured into publishing in predatory journals, even reputable scientists

Some very big predatory publishers are based in N America and Far East:

OMICS and SCIRP



 Make the best use of Researched information from 700+ peer reviewed, **Open Access Journals** operated by 50,000+ Editorial Board Members and esteemed reviewers and 1000+ **Scientific associations** in **Medical, Clinical, Pharmaceutical, Engineering**, Technology and **Management** Fields.

Meet Inspiring Speakers and Experts at our 3000+ Global **Conferenceseries** Events with over 600+ Conferences, 1200+ Symposiums and 1200+ Workshops on Medical, Pharma, Engineering, Science, Technology and Business 

About SCIRP

What is SCIRP?

Scientific Research Publishing (SCIRP) is one of the largest Open Access journal publishers. It is currently publishing more than 200 open access, online, peer-reviewed journals covering a wide range of academic disciplines. SCIRP serves the worldwide academic communities and contributes to the progress and application of science with its publication.

The “problem” of predatory publishing remains a relatively small one and should not be allowed to defame open access – LSE Impact Blog (Tom Olijhoek and Jon Tennant | September 2018)

Big publishers profit from the predatory publisher “problem” to promote their own toll access journals



A recent investigation led by an international group of journalists raised concerns over the scale of the problem of deceptive publishing practices, with many researchers of standing and reputation found to have published in “predatory” journals. However, while the findings of this investigation garnered significant media attention, the robustness of the study itself was not subject to the same scrutiny. To Tom Olijhoek and Jon Tennant, the profile afforded to investigations of this type causes some to overstate the problem of predatory publishing, while often discrediting open access publishing at the same time. The real problem here is one of education around questionable journals, and should not distract from more urgent questions around the shifting scholarly ecosystem.

The problem is real but exaggerated

Huge increase in predatory publishing??

FACT CHECK: It is estimated that about 5% of scientific publishing is in fact predatory

According to a study* by Walt Crawford, the number of questionable publishers in 2014 was about 3275, publishing about 121,000 articles - and not 420,000 (Shen and Björk ** reported 8000 journals and 420,000 articles!!) (most cited study)

Shen and Björk. *BMC Medicine*201513**:230

* <http://walt.lishost.org/2015/11/ppppredatory-article-counts-an-investigation-part-1/>

WHAT ABOUT LISTS OF PREDATORY JOURNALS ?

Blacklists are technically infeasible,
practically unreliable and unethical.
Period. Cameron Neylon

CABELLS

SCHOLARLY ANALYTICS

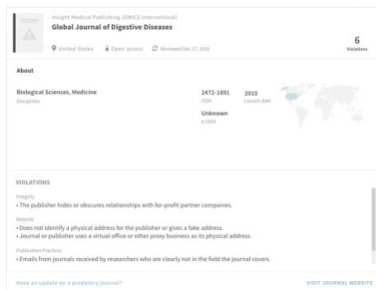
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Journalytics
Predatory Reports
Author Services

Predatory Reports

Specialists analyze over 60 behavioral indicators to keep the community aware of the growing threats and to keep academia protected from exploitative operations.

Get a quote



BEALL'S LIST

OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

PUBLISHERS STANDALONE JOURNALS VANITY PRESS CONTACT OTHER

Search for publishers (name or URL)

Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers

Instructions: first, find the journal's publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the 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.

All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.

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.

GO TO UPDATE

Useful pages

- List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOI
- DOI: Journals added and removed
- Nonrecommended medical periodicals
- Retraction Watch
- Flaky Academic Journals Blog
- List of scholarly publishing stings

If you want to find a good hotel are you going to look for a list of bad hotels??

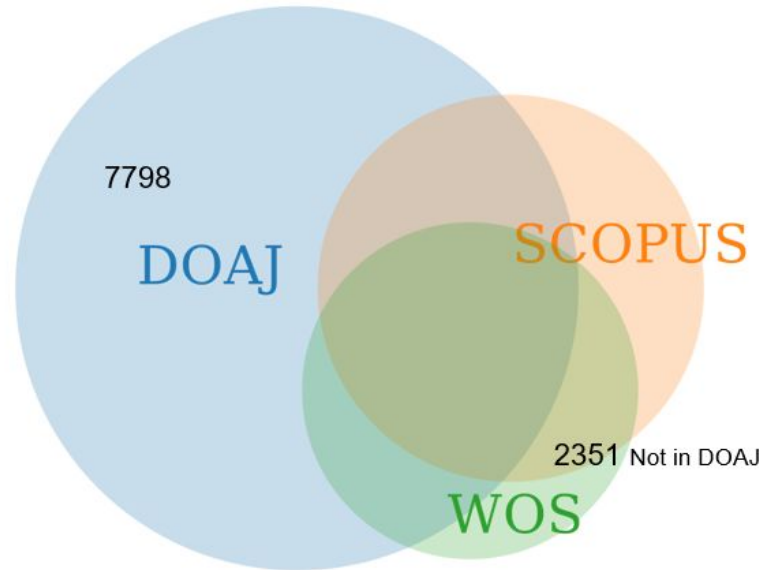
WHAT ABOUT LISTS OF QUALITY JOURNALS ?

COMPARISON OF INCLUSIVENESS

DOAJ-SCOPUS-WOS journal overlap
ISSN GOLD-OA 3.0 Bielefeld

Data 2019

<https://doi.org/10.4119/unibi/2934907>



Impact factor – quality indicator or marketing ploy?

HOW to detect

HOW to avoid



Common properties of predatory journals



- FAKE IMPACT FACTORS

- Spamming of authors / prospective editors
- Very wide scope
- Short review times
- No (current) affiliations given for editorial board members
- Editorial board members linked to known predatory publishers
- Journal names resembling known reputable journals
- Shady business details like location, business structure, ownership
- Bad copy-editing

Predatory journals recruit fake editor

An investigation finds that dozens of academic titles offered 'Dr Fraud'
— a sham, unqualified scientist — a place on their editorial board.
Katarzyna Pisanski and colleagues report.

**HOW TO MAKE
PREDATORY
PUBLISHING MORE
DIFFICULT**



MARGINALIZING IT BY BETTER QUALITY CONTROL

- GO FOR OPEN SCIENCE Jon Tennan
- OPEN PEER REVIEW
- PUBLIC PEER REVIEW REPORTS
- SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES AS AN AUTHOR / EDITOR



USE YOUR HEAD.....THE RIGHT WAY



<https://www.illustrationsource.com/stock/artist/gary-hovland/>



Thank you!

Tom Olyhoek, Editor-in-Chief
Susan Veldsman, Director of the Scholarly Publication Unit
Academy of Sciences in South Africa

