

## The Dangers of Predatory Publishing

Predatory publishers use a business model that lures researchers to publish with them but does not provide peer review or editing. The business model they use is known as the Gold Open Access. However, it is not the predatory model, but the publishers who exploit the weaknesses in the model. The gold open access means that the articles are made available for free immediately on the journal's website. Predatory publishers take advantage of this by charging authors a publication fee, but the publishers make money since the content is available for free.<sup>1</sup> Many websites that these publishers use seem high quality, but they do not engage in a formal peer review. Instead, the websites accept and publish as many articles as possible to gain the most profit.<sup>2</sup>

Although predatory publishers use tactics to make false impressions, predatory publishers have common characteristics that are typically detectable:

1. Lack of establishment:
  - The name of their journals are similar to accredited journals<sup>1</sup>
  - They are not listed anywhere, with the exception of Google Scholar, which include most journals regardless of their quality<sup>1</sup>
2. False/lack of information:
  - They boast that their journals are 'leading journals' in their fields<sup>1</sup>
  - They do not provide information about where they are located, the owners of the publishing company, and other publishers they are associated with<sup>1</sup>
  - Some publishers may lie about impact factors,<sup>1</sup> which represents the average articles in the journal that have been published within a period of time and is used to evaluate the relative importance of the journal<sup>3</sup>
3. Non-standard procedures:
  - Many publishers use spam email to ask for article submissions<sup>1</sup>
  - They are only looking to make money, so there will be fees<sup>2</sup>
  - They do not care about the quality of the work being published and there is no or little editing or peer-review<sup>2</sup>

There are a lot of dangers to working with a predatory publisher:<sup>2</sup>

- With predatory publishers, your work may have poor peer-review which prevents the ability to improve the quality of the publication
- Responsible publishers commit to preserving your work, while predatory publishers are just looking to make a profit; hence, your job could easily disappear if anything happens to the publisher
- Some predatory publishers claim that they are included in databases that are well-known when they are not, so your work might be hard to find online

It is critical to research the publisher you are planning to work with to ensure that the effort and resources you spent on your article are valued. Your work is appropriately published and of high-quality.

Below is a real-life example of a predatory publisher's email:

Dear Researcher,

**Call for paper**  
**Fast Review Process**  
**Indexed in Reputed Databases**  
**Low Article Processing Charges (30 US \$ only)**

Indexed in Reputed Database (<http://jsaer.com/indexed>): Open J Gate, Worldcat, , ZB Med, indianscience.in, SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, EZB etc.

Website: [www.jsaer.com](http://www.jsaer.com)

With this regard we request you to send original research papers relevant to your work for publication in the journal. The manuscript may be submitted along with a filled scanned copy right by e-mail at [submit@jsaer.com](mailto:submit@jsaer.com) or through our SUBMIT MANUSCRIPT link at our website.

Please refer:

Author's guidelines: <http://jsaer.com/download/pdf/Instructions-to-Authors.pdf>

Regards

Editor

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## References

<sup>1</sup> Beall, J. (2016). Dangerous Predatory Publishers Threaten Medical Research. *Journal of Korean medical science*, 31(10), 1511–1513. <https://doi.org/10.3346/jkms.2016.31.10.1511>

<sup>2</sup> O'Donnell, M. N. (2020, October 7). *Understanding Predatory Publishers: What is a Predatory Publisher?* Iowa State University. Retrieved October 17, 2020, from <https://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory>

<sup>3</sup> University of Illinois. (2020, February 8). *Measuring Your Impact: Impact Factor, Citation Analysis, and other Metrics: Journal Impact Factor (IF)*. Retrieved October 17, 2020, from <https://researchguides.uic.edu/if/impact>

<sup>4</sup> Salisbury University. (2019, March 28). *Predatory publishing: Understanding predatory publishing*. Retrieved October 17, 2020, from <https://libraryguides.salisbury.edu/PredatoryPublishing>