BEWARE OF PREDATORS:
How to Avoid Getting Ripped off by Predatory Journal Publishers

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PREDATORY PUBLISHERS ARE OUT TO GET YOU (YES, YOU)
WHERE DID THEY COME FROM?

Green OA

Gold OA

REPOSITORY

JOURNAL

OPEN ACCESS
1 MILE AHEAD
They’ve got lots of tricks up their sleeves...

- Mimicking the style and/or name of an established journal
- Listing names of prominent scholars on editorial boards without their knowledge or permission
- Failing to notify authors of fees until after acceptance
- Accepting every submission
- Charging fees for editorial review of submissions, but not actually doing the work
- Be proactive about reviewing publishing agreements
- For OA journals, only agree to non-exclusive licenses to publish and distribute your work.
- For OA journals, retain the copyright in your work: avoid assignments or transfers of copyright, as well as exclusive licenses to publish
- Make sure you understand the terms of the agreement before you sign a publishing agreement
- Retain copies of all publishing agreement
TOOLS FOR SELF-DEFENSE

- Beall’s List
- Journal Quality Indicators (GVSU)
Beall’s list 2009 – present.

Published criteria by which a publisher is considered predatory.

There’s now an appeal process.

See “Affinity marketing”
Open Access movement is really “an anti-corporatist movement that wants to deny the freedom of the press to companies it disagrees with.”

“...Open access has fostered the creation of numerous predatory publishers...increasing research misconduct... and pseudo-science that is published as if it were authentic science.”

The “Scholarly Kitchen” (a moderated, independent blog) published “Parting Company with Jeffrey Beall”- they believe he over-stated his case, is dwelling on an us-vs.-them mentality, and is wrong about this.
## Scholarly Open Access

Critical analysis of scholarly open-access publishing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of predatory publishers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>225</td>
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<td>2014</td>
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Positive Indicators

- Journal appears in one of several respectable OA registries such as the Directory of Open Access Journals, Bentham Open, Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, the Open Access Directory.

- Journal is established in the field and:
  - Presents a competent web site that presents the scope and mission of the publication, statement of ownership, transparency of its management and leadership.
  - Maintains the integrity of the academic record and includes links to other scholarly organizations, publications, and conferences in the field.
  - Includes noted (or known) editors, editorial board members.
  - Presents public facing and well defined standards of professional ethics and conduct (including policies regarding plagiarism, take down, corrections and retractions, etc).
  - Publishes on a regular schedule and has an electronic International Standard Serial Number (e-ISSN).
  - Outlines well-established policies and procedures for digital preservation of the journal's content (uses CLOCKSS, etc).
- Submission procedures and terms of acceptance clearly spell out responsibilities of all parties
- Peer review process clearly defined, including policies regarding conflict of interests between editors, authors, reviewers
- Clear Consent to Publish Agreements with Authors, that includes:
  - Which rights are transferred and assigned, and control of distribution are clearly defined
  - Aligned with common standards of academic freedom
  - Restrictions on commercial reuse clearly defined
- Article will be placed in reputable institutional repository—perhaps even one’s own
- Article will be easily discoverable once deposited/published
- Appropriate licensing information appears in all forms (PDF, HTML, etc) of an article’s presentation
- Article has proper Document Object Identifier (DOI)
NEGATIVE INDICATORS

- Publication is not widely recognized in the field
- No statement of ownership, their editorial management team is not listed on their web site, there is no verifiable contact information (including address).
- Journal is not listed in DOAJ, Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE: http://www.publicationethics.org/)
- The journal has a name mean to confuse itself with a legitimate scholarly journal in the same field. For instance:
  - Legitimate: International Journal of Medical and Health Sciences
  - Bogus: Global Journal of Medical and Health Sciences
- Journal misrepresents citation metrics (contrived Impact Factors, references misleading metrics companies), usage statistics, etc
NEGATIVE INDICATORS

- Journal is listed on Beall’s List of PPPSOAJs: Potential, Possible, or Probable Predatory Scholarly OA Journals at [http://scholarlyoa.com/](http://scholarlyoa.com/)
- Opaque Editorial Workflow
- Article Processing Fees (APFs) are either extraordinary high or are not disclosed
- No article processing occurs (no peer review, proofreading, copyediting, etc.)
- The publisher engages in deceptive marketing practices and relies heavily on e-mail solicitations (SPAM) to encourage submissions
- Once published, the article appears gated, or in a locked format (gated, password protected or inaccessible PDF)
WOULD YOU PUBLISH IN THIS JOURNAL?
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