Predatory Journals- A Brief Bibliography

The following is a brief bibliography of issues regarding Predatory Journals. Articles published in peer-reviewed venues regarding this nascent issue were limited. The discussion is rounded out with trade and popular news outlets; as well as internet posts.

Most notable person working in this area: Jeffrey Beall- Watchdog

- Heralded by some
- Some think he is too "trigger happy" when blowing the whistle on journals or believes he is too critical of non-western publishers.

http://scholarlyoa.com/

- Blog of Jeffrey Beale: Predatory Publishing Watchdog, Associate Professor- Scholarly Communications Librarian, University of Colorado

http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/

- List of potentially predatory publishers

http://scholarlyoa.com/2012/11/30/criteria-for-determining-predatory-open-access-publishers-2nd-edition/

- Criteria for selecting Open Access Journals to publish in

Defining the Problem

Beall, J. (2010). Predatory Open-Access Scholarly Publishers. *Charleston Advisor*, *11*(4), p. 10-17.

- Beall attempts to establish criteria for what determines a predatory OA Journal based on reviewing their websites and the products they offer.
- Beall examines nine OA publishes based on the following criteria: Pricing Information/Pricing Options (many times authors are unaware of the fee and can face unethical hurdles to withdrawing their submissions), Content they offer (some publishers have journals listed without a single article published and/or no review boards, User Interface/Searchability of their products online, and Contract Options
- Beall determines based on the aforementioned criteria the nine publishers he reviewed are in fact, predatory and have no interest in publishing quality scientific work.

Beall, J. (2010). Update: Predatory Open-Access Scholarly Publishers. *Charleston Advisor*, *12*(1), p. 50.

-Two more publishers are reviewed based on the criteria mentioned in the above citation.

Crawford, W. (2011). Open access: What you need to know now. Chicago: American Library Association.

- Contains a section for determining predatory OA
- Some "redflags":
    - "A publisher initiates dozens of new OA titles at once

- "Published" titles don't appear to have any, or many, papers
- The publisher sends e-mail to large numbers of researchers asking them to submit papers or to join editorial boards
- The publisher conceals the names of editors or editorial board members
- The business address for the publisher is not verifiable
- There's little evidence of peer review (pp. 30 –31)

Beall, J. J. (2012). Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. *Nature*, *489*(7415), 179. doi:10.1038/489179a

Beall, J. (2013). Five Predatory Mega-Journals: A Review. *Charleston Advisor*, *14*(4), 20-25.

- Using a similar format to the previous reviews, Beall extends his analysis to emerging "Mega-Journals" that model themselves off of successful open access initiatives such as PLoS One.
- This new model is advantageous to predatory publishers because their broad scope enables them to solicit submissions from a larger body of authors.
- Journals reviewed were: British Journal of Science, International Journal of Current Research, International Journal of Science and Advanced Technology, International Journal of Sciences, World Journal of Science and Technology.
    - ***I examined these five journals against IU's holdings and we only have one of them- The World Journal of Science and Technology. It was, interestingly enough after you see Van Noorden (2014), indexed in the DOAJ.***

Beall, J. (2013). Unethical Practices in Scholarly, Open-Access Publishing. *Journal of Information Ethics*, 22(1), 11-20.

- Further analyses into the issue of ethics in open access publishing
- Identifies three broad categories of unethical issues observed in OA: Deception, Negligence/Non-Adherence to Standards, and Lack of Transparency. (pp. 15-18)

Wilson, K. (2013). Librarian vs. (Open Access) Predator: An Interview with Jeffrey Beall. *Serials Review*, *39*(2), 125-128.

- A lot of the same information in here
- Addresses implications for Collection Development, noted that a lot of these journals are indexed in big vendor databases. Suggests Librarians Gain "scholarly publishing literacy". (p. 126)

Criticisms of Beall's position and opposing viewpoints

Emery, J. (2013). Heard on the Net. *Charleston Advisor*, *15*(2), 67-68.

Coyle, K. (April 4, 2013). Predatory Publishers. *LJ Academic Newswire*. Retrieved from: http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2013/04/opinion/peer-to-peer-review/predatory-publishers-peer-to-peer-review/#_

- Critical of Beall's 'binary' position to the issue (i,.e. good or bad publisher)
- Beall's criteria are either impossible to quantify or can be applied to good publishers (n.p.)

Dudley, M. (2013). The Curious Case of Academic Publishing. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal Of Library & Information Practice & Research*, *8*(1), 1-4.

- Reactions and implications regarding the lawsuit filed by Edwin Mellen Press against the librarian Dale Askey.
- Suggests the academic model of promotion and tenure and the pressures on academics to publish in vast quantities creates an economic demand for predatory publishing (i.e. predatory publishing is a symptom of a bigger issue in the academy).

How Bad is the Problem? Predatory 'Sting' Operations

Bohannon, J. (2013). Who's Afraid of Peer Review? : Communication in Science. *Science*, *342*(6154), 60-65. DOI:10.1126/science.342.6154.60

- Bohannon submits a "mundane" and poorly constructed research article to several OA publishers (n=304) he discovered from both the Directory of Open Access Journals and Beale's predatory OA list.
- Just about half of the journals accepted the paper, including 45% from the DOAJ and 85% from Beale's list.
    - Notable finding: 15% of the Journals from Beall's list rightfully rejected the paper, suggesting that Beall's methods for identifying predatory OA journals is by no means perfect.
- Indicative of little to no peer-review standards and questionable ethical practices (i.e. asking for money up front)

Spears, T. (2014, April 21). 'Seismic platelets': How a phoney paper got accepted by scientific journals. *Ottawa Citizen,* p. A1.

- Tom Spears took Bohannon's work a step further. He thoroughly plagiarized and created a scientific article that was copied and pasted half from a Geology paper and half from a Hematology paper.
- He submitted it to 18 OA publishers
- Eight of the journals accepted the paper.
- Two rejected but would allow resubmission if he 'tweaked' some of the wording.

Julie, H. (2014, May 7). Predatory journals fail the test. *The Australian*. p. 27.

- An Australian report on Tom Spears' expose of 18 OA published who received a 'bogus' submission from Spears.

Van Noorden, R. (2014, February 24). Publishers withdraw more than 120 gibberish papers. Nature News. Retrieved from: http://www.nature.com/news/publishers-withdraw-more-than-120-gibberish-papers-1.14763

What is Being Done?

Kaiser, J. (May 9, 2013). U.S. Government Accuses Open Access Publisher of Trademark Infringement. *ScienceInsider.* Retrieved from: http://news.sciencemag.org/2013/05/u.s.-government-accuses-open-access-publisher-trademark-infringement

- Accused of embellishing NIH trademarks.
- OMICS took them off their site.
- Article also mentions the conference experience of Ken Witwer. He attended with the hope of meeting an advertised researcher he was not in attendance.
    - Note- there were no more recent mentions of this issue that I could find.

Jump, P. (2014). Lecturer wins battle to erase name from board of 'predatory' journal. *Times Higher Education*, (2155), p. 9.

- The article reports that Coventry University principal lecturer in graphic design Simon Bell has succeeded in having his name erased from the list of the editorial board of the "International Journal of Education and Research," a suspected predatory journal supposed to operate in Australia.
    - This is similar to Dr. Sawitzke's fight to do the same thing.

Van Noorden, R. (2014). Directory of open-access journals gets tough over predatory publications. *Nature*, *512*(7512), 17.

- A reaction to a recent study published in a web-based journal found here: http://citesandinsights.info/civ14i7.pdf

- DOAJ was shocked to discover the number of disreputable titles (around 900) that were found to exist on the Beall List.

-Since May 2014, all entries in DOAJ are forced to reapply with stronger criteria.

- It is suggested that up to 10% will not pass reapplication.

- Progess: http://doajournals.wordpress.com/2014/05/22/doaj-publishes-lists-of-journals-removed-and-added/

An Issue with Litigation

Spears, T. (August 28, 2014) Stopping predatory journals actually harder than it sounds; They operate across borders, and might not be breaking any laws. *Ottawa Citizen,* p. A4.

- Cost of litigation is an issue
- International Borders make this challenging to determine what laws are being broken\

Outreach and Instruction

Workshops

http://lgdata.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/docs/605/951821/Predatory_Journals_Liaison_Fall_2013.pdf

Addressing Faculty Concerns

Beaubien, S, Eckard, M. (2014). Addressing Faculty Publishing Concerns with Open Access Journal Quality Indicators. Journal of Librarianship and Scholarly Communication 2(2):eP1133. http://dx.doi.org/10.7710/2162-3309.1133

- Here is the website: http://gvsu.edu/library/sc/open-access-journal-quality-indicators-2.htm

Libguides/Webpages

https://www.gvsu.edu/library/sc/open-access-journal-quality-indicators-2.htm

http://richmond.v1.libguides.com/content.php?pid=543597

http://libguides.govst.edu/content.php?pid=331122

http://guides.emich.edu/content.php?pid=531037

http://libguides.caltech.edu/content.php?pid=80242

http://libguides.indianatech.edu/content.php?pid=544497&sid=4564917

The Predators Fight Back

Schwartz, M. (2013). Academic: Alleged Defamation Worth $1B. *Library Journal*, *138*(11), 19.

- OMICS, a notable target of Jeffrey Beall's criticism is threatening defamation charges against Beall.
- They want $1 billion in damages.
- Full text of OMICS' letter is available here: http://www.infodocket.com/2013/05/15/publisher-threatens-librarian-jeffery-beall-with-1-billion-dollar-lawsuit/

Dudley, M. (2013). The Curious Case of Academic Publishing. *Partnership: The Canadian Journal Of Library & Information Practice & Research*, *8*(1), 1-4.

- Annotation is in earlier section

New Predators Born

Spears, T. (2014). Canadian cardiac journal turns "predatory". *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, in press. Retrieved from http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2014/09/02/cmaj.109-4889.full.pdf+html

- Reputable journal for 17 years began having financial issues
- Were bought out for a good price by an unknown publisher and has since been demonstrating 'predatory behaviors'

Predatory Conferences

http://scholarlyoa.com/2013/01/25/omics-predatory-meetings/

- A report of OMICS' venture into predatory conferences

Kolata, G. (April 7, 2013). Scientific Articles Accepted (Personal Checks, Too). *The New York Times*. p. A1. Retrieved from: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/08/health/for-scientists-an-exploding-world-of-pseudo-academia.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

- Scholars were tricked into attending a conference because a legitimate conference, "Entomology 2013" was being held at the same time as an illegitimate conference "Entomology-2013" (notice the hyphen).

http://scholarlyoa.com/2013/09/12/conference-attendee-to-omics-i-want-out/#more-2225

- The case of Dr. James Sawitzke and his attendance of one of OMICS' conferences

Impact Factor Forgery

- There are several websites, many indicated in the blog posts below, that sell impact factor and other metrics to publishers. Makes one need to be extra cautious when evaluating the potential impact of the journal one plans to publish in.

Beall, J. (May 1, 2014). Counterfeit impact factors are devaluing the real one. Retrieved from: http://scholarlyoa.com/2014/05/01/counterfeit-impact-factors-are-devaluing-the-real-one/

Beall, J. (June 25, 2013). Publishers' journals boast amazingly high impact factors. Retrieved from: http://scholarlyoa.com/2013/06/25/publishers-journals-boast-amazingly-high-impact-factors/

Beall, J. (August 6, 2013). Bogus impact factor companies. Retrieved from: http://scholarlyoa.com/2013/08/06/bogus-impact-factor-companies/#more-1979