

WATCH OUT FOR PREDATORY PUBLISHERS!

Predatory publishers disguise themselves as credible open access (OA) publishers. They employ deceitful tactics and operate profit-driven schemes that can harm academics' reputations, undermining their chances of disseminating authentic research through established and credible publishing models. Here are tips for avoiding predatory publishers to help you safeguard your work and maintain scholarly honesty while publishing open access.

1 Know Common Predator Types



Impostor/Hijacker

Uses misleading branding by adding minor variations to existing publications or cloning legitimate websites



Trojan

Creates visually appealing websites with stolen, plagiarized, or gibberish content. Publication history, frequency, and article quality are typically off



Phisher

Aggressively recruits academics through emails and mailing lists and lures them in with false promises, then charges hefty fees and demands advanced payment



Papermill

Mass produces shoddy work made to order, often using machine learning or plagiarism






Unicorn

Falsely promises numerous benefits and fake services such as fast peer review, database indexing, impact factors, etc.

2 Be Attentive to Red Flags

-  The scope is vague or overly broad
-  Ownership or responsibility is unclear
-  Promotes rapid turnaround times for publication
-  Communication either focuses on fees or hides that information until the last minute
-  Inexistent or suspicious editorial board
-  Lack of or vague information about retractions, corrections, errata, or plagiarism
-  Poor quality, duplicated, or unavailable papers
-  Inconsistent issues/frequency of publication
-  Lacks information about licensing, archiving, and preservation
-  Presents unofficial impact factors and metrics
-  Article editing is of low quality or nonexistent

3 Check, check, and check!

-  If the journal is indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
-  If the title is on the black Beall's List of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers.
-  Consider using the Think, Check, Submit checklist to identify trusted publishers.

DOAJ
Directory of Open Access Journals

BEALL'S LIST

 **THINK**

 **CHECK**

 **SUBMIT**

Want to learn more about OA publishing models?

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