

Predatory Journals

Definition of a Predatory Journal

“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.”

Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K. D., Bryson, G. L., Cukier, S., Allen, K., Ardern, C., Balcom, L., Barros, T., Berger, M., Ciro, J. B., Cugusi, L., Donaldson, M. R., Egger, M., Graham, I. D., Hodgkinson, M., Khan, K. M., Mabizela, M., Manca, A., ... Lalu, M. M. (2019). [Predatory journals: no definition, no defence](#). *Nature* 576(7786), 210–212. <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y>

Example of a Predatory Journal

Predatory journals can sometimes be difficult to identify, and of course, no predatory journal would admit to being one. Based on the opinion of this librarian, the following title is likely a predatory journal:

- [International Journal of Arts and Humanities](#)

Here is an example of a call for papers for this journal

- [Call for Papers](#)

Characteristics of a Predatory Journal

1. False or misleading information on website/emails:
 - contradictory statements
 - fake impact factors
 - incorrect addresses
 - misrepresentations of editorial board
 - false claims of indexing, membership of associations, or rigour of peer review
2. Deviation from editorial/publication best practices:
 - not having a retraction policy
 - requesting a transfer of copyright when publishing an open-access article
 - not specifying a Creative Commons licence in an open-access journal

- unprofessional-looking web page, with spelling or grammar mistakes, or irrelevant text
3. Lack of transparency:
 - no contact information or details about article processing charges
 - editors and members of their editorial boards are often unverifiable
 4. Aggressive, indiscriminate solicitation:
 - repeated email soliciting submission
 - tone often excessively flattering
 - may mention past publications and solicit related submission for a forthcoming issue
 - red flag: invitee's expertise outside the journal's scope

Avoiding Predatory Journals

Here are some ways to avoid incorporating predatory content in your research:

- Search for content in Omni or one of the Library's [subject databases](#)
- Despite its merits, Google Scholar does not discriminate on what it indexes
- Try to locate the publication title in [Ulrich's Global Serials Directory](#)

Questions?

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