

Predatory publishing

Predatory publishing is the “black sheep” of open access journals

Many open access journals are funded by article processing charges (APCs), also known as publication fees. A small number of these journals are “black sheep” which provide little or no editorial or publishing services in return for the money they charge.

These kinds of business practices are often referred to as “predatory publishing”. In many cases this method of doing business is associated with spam emails which encourage authors to submit their work. These emails often include details designed to tempt authors, such as unrealistically short deadlines by which the journal insists it can complete the peer review process.

While the dubious nature and intentions of some journals are obvious at first glance – for example due to multiple typing and printing errors in their emails and on their website – others may initially appear legitimate until some further investigations are carried out. The reason some of these predatory journals appear professional is that they often make their website and academic credentials look very similar to those of well-known, legitimate journals in order to deliberately confuse people. Sometimes they even pretend that their editorial board includes well-known scientists who, in reality, have nothing whatsoever to do with the journal.

It is therefore important to remain sceptical when considering where to submit your article, especially if you’re dealing with lesser-known open access journals.
(Zitat: Dr. Jasmin Schmitz, Open Access Advisory Services, Publisso, ZBMed)

Sharing research results with the world is key to the progress of your discipline and career. But with so many publications, how can you be sure you can trust a particular journal?

More and more publishers contact authors and ask them to publish in their journals – and more and more of them are fake or very-low-quality. Here are some examples

- OMICS International
- WASET
- Sciencedomain
- VDM
- Syrwood

To avoid publishing with such a publisher, you can use this check list:

Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
 - Have you read any articles in the journal before?
 - Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
 - Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
 - Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post?
- Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
- Are articles indexed in services that you use?
- Is it clear what fees will be charged?
 - Does the journal site explain what these fees are for and when they will be charged?
- Do you recognise the editorial board?
 - Have you heard of the editorial board members?
 - Do the editorial board mention the journal on their own websites?
- Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?
 - Do they belong to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) ?
 - If the journal is open access, is it listed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) ?
 - If the journal is open access, does the publisher belong to the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association \(OASPA\)](#) ?
 - Is the journal hosted on one of INASP's [Journals Online](#) platforms (for journals published in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Central America and Mongolia) or on [African Journals Online](#) (AJOL, for African journals)?
 - Is the publisher a member of another trade association?

[This list and more information can be found here: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>]

And last but not least: contact us ([bibliotheksleitung@geomar.de](mailto:bibliothek@geomar.de)) in case you have any questions!

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Further information:

- Think-check-submit: <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/> Sharing research results with the world is key to the progress of your discipline and career. But with so many publications, how can you be sure you can trust a particular journal? Follow this check list to make sure you choose trusted journals for your research.
- Erklärung der drei Nationalen Akademien der Wissenschaften Académie des sciences, Leopoldina und Royal Society zu wissenschaftlichen Publikationen https://www.leopoldina.org/fileadmin/redaktion/Publikationen/2016_Joint_Statement_on_scientific_publications.pdf
- Beall's List: *Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers* – URL: <http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>
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