

Please pay attention to Predatory Journals!

In recent years, open access journals have become prevalent. These journals charge publishing fees from the authors and provide peer review process. However, among these open access journals exist some so-called predatory journals.

Q : What are Predatory Publishers?

A : Appearing to be an open access journal with peer review, the predatory publisher **aims to make profits from authors' publication fees (Article Processing Charge: APC) while not providing a proper peer review process.** This results in the low quality of the journal.

Q : What kinds of problems are caused by predatory journals?

A : Predatory journals are an emerging problem for the entire society.
Making a publication in it will cause the following problems:

- The author might be perceived as a “researcher with predatory publishing” and **lose academic credibility**.
- The lack of proper review process harms the quality of publications, and thus **the citation rate might be low**.
- **Problems related to publication fees** might occur.
- The author might not be able to withdraw the publication, and thus **cannot re-submit the work to other journals**.
- **The accessibility of the publication for a long term is not guaranteed**.
- **Public funding coming from tax incomes of the country** goes to the predatory publishers.
- The prevalence of predatory journals will **lower the credibility of all peer-reviewed publications in the community**.

Kearney, M. H., S. Thorne, P. L. Chinn, L. H. Nicoll, R. Pickler, P. D'Antonio, C. Connolly, et al. 2015. Predatory publishing: What authors need to know. *Research in Nursing and Health* 38 (1): 1-3

Q : How can I recognize predatory journals?

A : It is sometimes difficult to recognize predatory journals, and the standards might differ from person to person. However, the characteristics of predatory journals can be summarized as follows:

- The journal is **suspicious in many perspectives**, such as including articles (very far) outside its stated scope.
- The publisher **released an overwhelmingly large suite of new journals during a very short period of time**.
- The journal website does **not reveal the journal's editorial office location**.
- The journal website posts **non-related or non-academic advertisements**.
- The journal website does **not present an editorial board**.
- The journal **mimics another journal title or the website of said journal**.
- The journal gives **unrealistic promises regarding the speed of the peer review process**.
- The journal does **not describe copyright agreements clearly** or demands the copyright of the paper.
- The **submission/publication fees are not clearly stated** on the journal's website.
- The journal displays **no strategies to handle misconduct or conflicts-of-interests**.
- The journal displays **no strategies to secure the archiving of articles when no longer in operation**.

Eriksson, Stefan, and Gert Helgesson. 2017. The false academy: Predatory publishing in science and bioethics. *Medicine Health Care and Philosophy* 20 (2): 163-70.

Q : How to prevent predatory publishing?

A : Please refer to the **whitelist of recognized open access journals**.
Also, refer to the **checklist for more details**.

Whitelist	DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)	https://doaj.org
	Quality Open Access Market (QOAM)	https://www.qoam.eu/journals
	Web of Science	http://mjl.clarivate.com/
Checklist	Think Check Submit	https://thinkchecksubmit.org/