



الجامعة السعودية الإلكترونية
SAUDI ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY
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PREDATORY OR SUSPICIOUS JOURNALS



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What are predatory and suspicious journals:

“Predatory and suspicious journals” are journals that claim to adopt scientific publishing procedures and adhere to recognized scientific research standards. Yet, they do not apply any rigorous scientific review process or accurate peer-review systems. Therefore, they publish articles that do not meet the requirements of scientific integrity, just aiming to the sole purpose of financial gains.

01

A not trusted journal by suspicious publishers using a name that mimics the names of reputed journals to deceive researchers and imply scientific quality, yet nonexistent.

02

A suspicious website for a trusted scientific journal created by a suspicious publisher to deceive researchers.

Characteristics

01

Email

Using unofficial email addresses that are unaffiliated with the publisher's domain, such as Yahoo, Gmail, or Hotmail, instead of an email address showed the journal's or the publisher's name.

Aggressively targets potential authors through emails, including promises of prompt peer review and guaranteed publishing for a fee or joining the editorial board.

Spelling and grammatical errors.

02

Editorial Board

The list of editorial board members often includes people who do not exist, do not have credentials relevant to the topic of the journal, or are real experts who are not aware that they are listed as members.

It lacks clear information about the members, whether on their personal / institutional websites.

The number of editorial board members are very large.

Use of personal or fake email addresses for editorial board members.

03

Journal Content

Predation: Subtly changing the name of a reputed journal to deceive researchers.

Misleading names: Starting with words such as Global, European, American, or International to imply the impression of international standing.

Irrelevant multidisciplinary: The journal exceedingly covers wide scope and lacks a precise specialization. Even though the journal's name may indicate that it has a specific discipline, it accepts research in a discipline far removed from the precise specialization indicated by its name.

Unconventional number of publications: The number of publications may be too many or too few.

Poor quality of articles: It contains research full of scientific and grammar errors.

Incorrect ISSN: Either missing of an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) or adopting a false one.

False information about impact metrics: Claiming to have an incorrect impact factor.

Falsely claiming to be indexing in international databases: such as Scopus, Web of Science, and EBSCO, without actually being listed there.

Poor website design: Newly created, lacking quality and professionalism, and having grammar or technical errors.

It may publish plagiarized or unethical research regardless of intellectual property rights.

It promises to publish research within very short timelines, which indicates the lack of robust peer review.

04

Transparency and Workflow:

Unclear publication fees: Fees are not disclosed in advance, and payment is often required by credit card only.

Lack of clear policies of publishing stages, such as the peer review process, withdrawal, anti-plagiarism, copyright, research ethics, archiving, and publishing process.

Promises of prompt acceptance: it promises that the paper will be accepted promptly, with or without a formality review.

Informal submissions: For example, submissions are sent via email rather than via the publisher's system.

05

Publisher Information

Fake websites or not providing official addresses at all.

Unknown to the scholarly community.

Lack of connection with trusted scientific organizations or academic associations.

How do I assess the quality of a journal?

It is recommended to follow the guidelines provided by the «Think. Check. Submit.» initiative to ensure that a journal meets scientific publishing standards before submitting

your manuscript

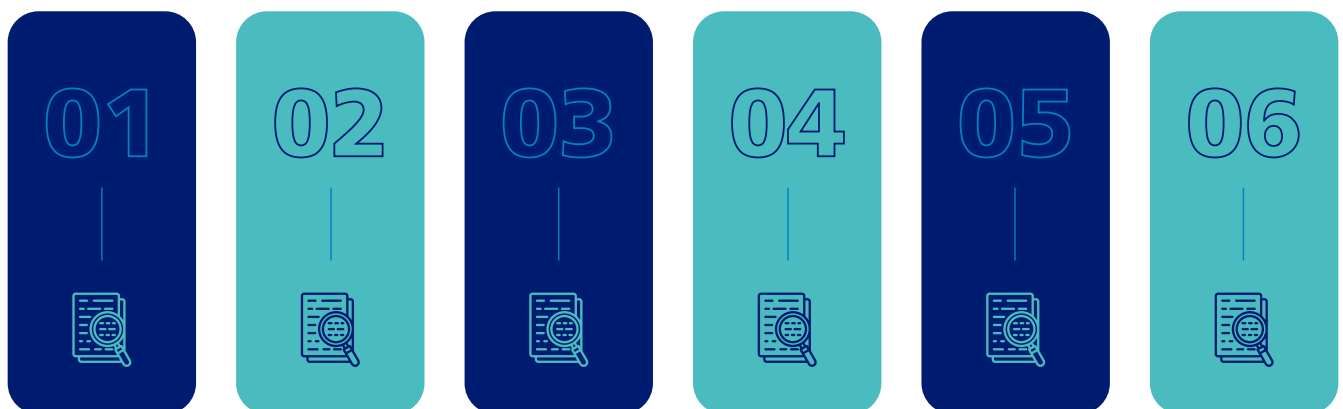


The following are some positive indicators that a journal or publisher is trusted:

- 01 **Scope:** Scope of the journal is clearly defined and clearly stated.
- 02 **Target Audience:** The journal's primary audience is researchers and practitioners.
- 03 **Editors and Editorial Board:** Editors and editorial board members are recognized experts in the field, have clear institutional affiliation, and often have official email addresses.
- 04 **Affiliation:** The journal is affiliated with or supported by a established scientific association or academic institution.
- 05 **Articles:** Articles are within the scope of the journal and meet the standards of the discipline.
- 06 **Fees:** Any fees or charges for publishing can be easily found on the journal's website and are clearly explained.
- 07 **All articles have DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers).** Check the validity through the DOIs official website <https://www.doi.org>
- 08 **Use and Re-Use Rights:** The journal clearly indicates rights for use and re-use of content at article level (e.g., Creative Commons CC BY license).
- 09 **The journal has an ISSN (International Standard Serial Number).** Check the validity using the ISSN Portal <https://portal.issn.org/>
- 10 **Directory of Open Access Journals:** For open access journals, the journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) <https://doaj.org/>
- 11 **Inclusion in Indexing and Abstracting Services:** The journal is included in legitimate indexing and abstracting services or databases such as MEDLINE, Scopus, PsycINFO, or Web of Science.
- 12 If the journal claims to have an Impact Factor, its inclusion in Clarivate Analytics can be verified at <https://mjl.clarivate.com>.
- 13 If the journal claims to be indexed in Scopus, the information can be verified on the official index website <https://www.scopus.com/sources>, and the indexing has been continued.
- 14 **Contact Information:** Verify that the journal's contact information is provided, and email addresses are official and not generic.
- 15 **Review period:** The journal does not promise to publish within a short timeline, but rather generally sets an average timeframe for the review process, which can extend to several weeks.

Publishing research in predatory journals is a violation of academic integrity standards. Faculty members must commit to publishing only in journals that proves its credibility, and they must adopt accurate assessment methods to ensure journals' legitimacy.

References





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Thank You

