PREDATORY PUBLISHING

How to protect your work and avoid becoming prey

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Learning Outcome

• Evaluate journals and publishers for credibility and identify trustworthy places to publish your scholarly output
What is predatory publishing, really?

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/system/files/26696/Shark2.jpg
What is predatory publishing, really?
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- Potential, possible, or probable predatory scholarly publishers
  - Exploits faculty, researchers, & students for money
  - Solicits authors, reviewers, & editors via spam emails
  - Provides incomplete, incorrect, or no information about fees
  - Steals legitimate journals’ identities, content, & logos
  - Implies value by using misleading or fake metrics
  - Performs little or no copyediting, proofreading, or peer review, or reviewers may be unqualified
  - No editor, fake editors, no review board, insufficient number of board members, or same editors for journals of different disciplines
  - Publishes a large set of unrelated journals

- See Beall’s Criteria for Determining Predatory Open-Access Publishers AND Open Access Journal Quality Indicators
What is it not?

- Not all Open Access (OA) is predatory
- Not all OA is fee-based
- Not all fee-based journals are predatory
- Not all journals with questionable practices are predatory
Keep in mind

• Open Access is required by NIH Public Access Policy for grant-funded research

• You can still submit to Carolina Digital Repository or PubMed Central (PMC) for free open access

• Questions about copyright and authors’ rights? Contact Anne Gilliland, UNC’s Scholarly Communications Librarian
Common tricks

- Unsolicited contact following recent publication/presentation
- Doesn’t match your field of research
- Acknowledges you as a busy and important researcher (doing a favor)
- Charges excessive fees for publication
- Accepts just about anything
- Things just don’t quite add up

But these aren’t always the case…
## Common measures of impact

See the HSL guide on [Measuring Your Scholarly Impact](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure of...</th>
<th>Impact Factor (IF)</th>
<th>Eigenfactor</th>
<th>ScImago Journal Ranking (SJR)</th>
<th>Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency with which the 'average article' in a journal has been cited in a particular year or other defined time period</td>
<td>Measure of importance: overall value provided by all articles published in a journal in one year</td>
<td>Measure of prestige; accounts for number of citations received by a journal and importance of the journals that citations came from</td>
<td>Measures citation impact by weighting citations based on the total number of citations in a subject field</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fake measures of impact

- CiteFactor
- Digital Online Identifier-Database System
- Global Impact Factor
- Institute for Science Information
- Journals Impact Factor (JIFACTOR)
- Science Impact Factor
- Scientific Journal Impact Factor
- SCIJOURNAL.ORG (International Scientific Institute)

‘Academic’ publishers and titles identified as predatory, 2011-16

Source: Jeffrey Beall, Scholarly Open Access http://scholarlyoa.com
Questions to ask

• Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
• Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
• 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?
• Do you recognize the editorial board?
• Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?
Questions to ask

• Search for the journal on the web
  • Don’t EVER click links in your email if you don’t know the sender
  • Are there angry posts or negative articles about the journal?
  • Beall’s list still “exists” but you can evaluate journals yourself!

• Check out the journal’s website! Look for
  • the journal’s contact information
  • what the journal has published (past issues)
  • the editorial board
  • author instructions/ article fees
  • what other journals the company publishes

• Check where it is indexed
Case 1:

Cuckoo for Coco Puffs? The surgical and neoplastic role of cacao extract in breakfast cereals

Running title: Cuckoo for Coco Puffs?

Pinkerton LeBrain¹, Orson G. Welles²

¹Department of Statistical Research, Green Mountain Institute of Nutrition, Sharon, MA 02067, USA
²Asuza Atlantic University, Department of Nutrition and Tomography, Westchester, NY, USA

Email address:
bb8c5297@opayq.com (P. LeBrain)

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to examine the role that cacao extract plays in breakfast cereals. We examine cacao extract in breakfast cereals. Rigorous statistical analysis is performed. We find that cacao extract has a significant role in breakfast cereals.

Keywords: xxxxxxxxxxxxx

1. Introduction

In an intention dependent on questions on elsewhere, we betrayed possible jointure in throwing cocoa. Any rapid event rapid shall become green. Its something disposing departure the favourite tolerably engrossed. Truth short folly court why she their balls. Excellence put unaffected reasonable introduced conviction she.

For who thoroughly her bay estimating conviction that. Stood her place one ten spoke yet. Head case knew ever set why over. Marianne returned of peculiar replying in moderate. Roused get enable garret estate old county. Entreaties you devonshire law dissimilar terminated.

Is at purse tried jokes china ready decay an. Small its shy way had woody downs power. To denoting admitted speaking learning my exercise so in. Procured shutters mir it feelings. To or three offer house begin taken am at. As dissuade cheerful overcame so of friendly he indulged
Is it legit?

- Title sounds fancy
- Author affiliations sound fancy
- Abstract seems vague but could be real
- Reasonable list of references
- Author names- Pinky & The Brain, Orson Welles
- Article is total gibberish

CONCLUSION:
- The article is not legit, yet it was still accepted by 17 OA medical journals (as long as he paid)
Case 2: Email to a professor

We have room for a few more manuscripts in the next issue and I would like to inquire if you or one of your students might be able to submit a research or review article on your recent research. I have looked at your paper on [name of author’s previous work], but if you could also tell me more about your current projects that would be helpful. The deadline for submissions is September 10th. Please let me know whether or not this is a possibility for you and if there are any questions I can answer.

May I send you a copy of our author guidelines?

Thank you,
D Fazel
Interim Editor-in-Chief, Medical Research Archives
journals.ke-i.org/mra
Email: fazel@journals.ke-i.org
Phones: +1 612-524-5565, +48 128811154
Is it legit?

- Used title of recent article from faculty member with no other knowledge of field
- Previous article not on medical research at all
- Publisher address in CA, phone number in MN and Poland
- Editor is also editor of physics, engineering, astronomy, economics, chemistry, and biology journals
- Charges $100 for submission, $49 for publication OR $75 for 2 or more co-authors or if the institution pays… PER PAGE
- Also solicits reviewers and pays $5 per review

CONCLUSION:

- **Archives of Medical Research**: Legitimate journal by Elsevier
- **Medical Research Archives**: Possibly predatory and from Poland?
Case 3: The Perfect Article

Journal of Herbal Medicine and Toxicology 3 (2) 1-7 (2009)
ISSN : 0973-4643

PRESENT STATUS OF HERBAL MEDICINES IN INDIA

Mohammed Ali

Department of Pharmacognosy and Phytochemistry, Faculty of Pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard,
New Delhi – 110062, India.
Email: maliphyto@gmail.com; mali_hamdard@yahoo.co.in

Received- 13th April, 2009, Revised- 30th April, 2009, Accepted – 10th May, 2009
Is it legit?

- Formatting of the article was inconsistent/not professional
- Clicking the PDF link was a virus warning
- PDFs found only on ResearchGate, journal website

Conclusion:
- Possibly not legitimate/possibly predatory
Case 4: Email to a professor

Subject: Reg: Editorial board invite manuscript - Nursing and Advanced Health Care

Dear Dr. Jessica K

Greetings from the Nursing and Advanced Health Care!

We are pleased to announce that our newly launched open access journal is now open for submissions.

Nursing and Advanced Health Care is an international peer-reviewed open access journal and is devoted to publication of a wide range of research findings and discussions reflecting the diversity of fields related to pediatric nursing, oncology nursing, urologic nursing, critical care medicine, diabetes care, social health, psychiatric nursing, pain management, nursing diagnosis, mental health care, nursing education, neonatal intensive care and health systems management.

Nursing and Advanced Health Care will offer a reduced open access publication charge for the articles submitted by September 07th, 2017. The publication fee will be USD250, representing a 50% discount on actual publication fee USD500.

You may submit your valuable submissions to the journal online at: http://www.scientificoajournals.org/submit-manuscript.php (or) as an e-mail attachment to the journal office at: nursing@scientificoajournals.org

We look forward to welcoming your papers to our journal and to sharing in the success of this new publication with you.

Thanks and Regards
Editorial Manager
Vijven Dennis
Nursing and Advanced Health Care
Trolley Square, Wilmington, DE
United States
Is it legit?

- Subject does not match content of email
- Not author’s correct name
- Huge range of topics covered
- Sense of urgency- publication deadline
- MAJOR DISCOUNT
- Website lists different fee ($300)
- Vague contact info
- Submissions IMMEDIATELY published online

CONCLUSION:
- Possibly predatory
How can I tell the difference?

- List of the [alleged] bad guys:
  - scholarlyoa.com/publishers/

- List of hijacked journals:
  - scholarlyoa.com/other-pages/hijacked-journals/

- List of misleading metrics:
  - scholarlyoa.com/other-pages/misleading-metrics/

- Lists of the good guys:
  - PubMed
  - NAHRS Selected list of Nursing Journals
  - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
  - Directory of Open Access Journals
  - Committee On Publication Ethics (COPE)
  - International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers (STM)
Where else to check

- Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory
- Web of Science - Journal Citation Reports
- Scopus - Sources
- PubMed PubReMiner

- Databases often list journals publishing recently on the topic as a filter/limit

- Also on the web...
  - SCImago Journal Ranking Lists
  - Google Scholar Metrics
Can use Ulrich’s to determine if journal is indexed and where; previous titles; peer review status; etc.
### Journal Titles Ranked by Impact Factor

**Compare Selected Journals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Full Journal Title</th>
<th>Total Cites</th>
<th>Journal Impact Factor</th>
<th>Eigenfactor Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Soft Robotics</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>8.649</td>
<td>0.00149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ROBOTICS RESEARCH</td>
<td>8,754</td>
<td>5.301</td>
<td>0.01298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Journal of Field Robotics</td>
<td>2,267</td>
<td>4.882</td>
<td>0.00322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IEEE Transactions on Robotics</td>
<td>12,478</td>
<td>4.036</td>
<td>0.01226</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IEEE ROBOTICS &amp; AUTOMATION MAGAZINE</td>
<td>2,383</td>
<td>3.276</td>
<td>0.00380</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Swarm Intelligence</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>3.115</td>
<td>0.00090</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Bioinspiration &amp; Biomimetics</td>
<td>1,824</td>
<td>2.939</td>
<td>0.00630</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add Journals to New or Existing List**

**Customize Indicators**

[Show Visualization +]
Scopus - Sources

mAbs
Scopus coverage years: from 2009 to Present
Publisher: Landes Bioscience
ISSN: 1942-0862  E-ISSN: 1942-0870
Subject area: Medicine: Immunology and Allergy

CiteScore 2016: 4.66
SJR 2016: 1.616
SNIP 2016: 1.250
PubMed PubReMiner

Uses your search terms to identify the most common records in PubMed

This is a search for e-cigarette use in adolescents
So where CAN I publish?
So where CAN I publish?

• Good signs!
  • indexed in subscription library databases like Pubmed, CINAHL, Scopus, Web of Science
  • listed in Ulrich’s
  • Well-known in field

• Look in databases!
• Look online!
• Ask a librarian!
PubMed PubReMiner

Type in the most important parts of your topic

PubReMiner will give you a list of top journals, top authors, etc.
Other databases

Do a search for the basic parts of your topic

Look in the filters for a list of publications that match
On the web

Use your abstract to find a journal:

- [EDANZ Journal Selector](#)
- [Journal Author Name Estimator (JANE)](#)
- [Elsevier Journal Finder](#)
- [BioMedCentral Journal Selector](#) (uses EDANZ)
- [Springer Journal Selector](#) (uses EDANZ)
- [Cofactor Journal Selector](#)
- [Journal Guide](#)
Can search for journals by title, keyword, or abstract, and filter by field of study, impact factor range, and open access options.
These journals have articles most similar to your input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confidence</th>
<th>Journal</th>
<th>Article Influence</th>
<th>Articles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memory &amp; cognition</td>
<td>Psychonomic bulletin &amp; review</td>
<td>1.00883</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychonomic bulletin &amp; review</td>
<td>Psychological reports</td>
<td>1.34439</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological reports</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.11805</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of experimental psychology.</td>
<td>Learning, memory, and cognition</td>
<td>1.69665</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning, memory, and cognition</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.76367</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memory (Hove, England)</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.15246</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neuropsychologia</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.70618</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brain and cognition</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.11252</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive, affective &amp; behavioral</td>
<td>neuroscience</td>
<td>3.01055</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of cognitive neuroscience</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.68531</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frontiers in psychology</td>
<td>Open access, PubMed Central; after 0 months</td>
<td>0.792</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brain research</td>
<td></td>
<td>0.96522</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acta psychologica</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.40901</td>
<td>Show articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology and aging</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For more information:

- Check
  - Ulrich’s
  - Web of Science or Scopus
  - library databases
  - scholars in the field
  - the web

- Visit [guides.lib.unc.edu/nursing/publish](http://guides.lib.unc.edu/nursing/publish)
- [Ask a librarian!](http://Ask a librarian!)