



Predatory Publishing and the Importance of Curation

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Predatory Publishing

- What is it?
- How and why did this happen?
- How to spot an “unethical publisher”
- Beall’s List – Benefits and Pitfalls
- How can universities and researchers protect themselves?

Predatory Publishing = Exploitative OA Publishing

"those publishers that are charging publication fees to authors without providing editorial and publisher services associated with a legitimate journal"

– Jeffery Beall, University Librarian and Associate Professor at University of Colorado, USA and founder of "Beall's List"

"Predatory journals have rapidly increased their publication volumes from 53,000 in 2010 to an estimated 420,000 articles in 2014, published by around 8,000 active journals."

-Cenyu Shen and Bo-Christer Björk
Hanken School of Economics

How and why did this happen?

- OA growth = opportunities for predation; there are always going to be a few bad apples
 - STM publishing is deeply rooted in monetary grants and therefore financially rewarding and lucrative
 - It's not illegal; it's just unethical!
 - How to control for predatory publishers while not punishing legitimate, new start OA titles?
 - Informed and uninformed researchers
 - Career advancement, recognitions and varying requirements for publishing around the world
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How to spot an “unethical publisher”

- Spelling mistakes in journal titles
- Journal launch dates
- No/few articles?
- Regularly publishing
- Many “Edited volumes”
- Editorial Board
- Articles published without complete author approval
- No/little peer review
- Aggressively campaigns for academics to submit articles
- Listing academics without permission
- False location
- Improper use if ISSN
- Fake/non existent impact factor
- Website will be mimicked

Examples taken from Bealls' List

[Academy of Science and Social Science \(ASSS\)](#)

[Academy of Scientific and Applied Research \(ASAAR\)](#)

[Acta Scientifica](#)

[BioMed Press](#)

[BioMed Research](#)

[Canadian Science and Research Group \(CANSRG\)](#)

[Digital Science Press](#)

[World Science Publisher](#)

Beall's List – benefits and limitations

- Beall has independently chosen the list of about 1000 journals
- [list of “potential, possible, or probable” predatory publishers](#).
- There is no “board” to decide who goes on the list – based on one individual's own research and criteria
- “Judge, Jury and Executioner”
- Many academics have questioned the validity of this list, but is there a better alternative?
- Ethics and Access 1: The Sad Case of Jeffrey Beal by Walt Crawford :
Volume 14, Number 4: April 2014 ISSN 1534-0937 Walt Crawford

Alternatives

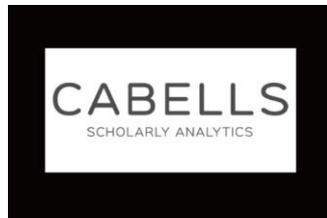
- Standards organizations

- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)



- Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA)

- Cabell's Black List



- Selective, subject-area focused databases like BioOne, Project MUSE, and JSTOR

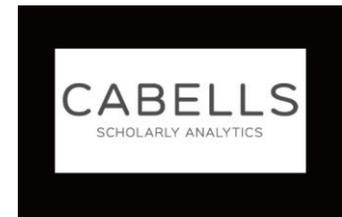
- Directories of hosted OA content



Cabell's Black List Violation

Cabell's policy "establishes *the criteria for identifying deceptive, fraudulent, and/or predatory journals for inclusion in Cabell's Blacklist. Cabell's Blacklist Review Board uses the following criteria to evaluate all journals suspected of deceptive, fraudulent, and/or predatory practices.*"

- Integrity
- Peer Review
- Website
- Publication Practices
- Indexing and Metrics
- Fees
- Access and Copyright
- Business Practices



What can researchers and academic institutions do?

- Understand the journal landscape in your field
- When reviewing new publications, review the editorial board and see who is involved
- Check with Clarivate Analytics JCR Index
- See where journals are indexed, or which databases they are a part of
- Make sure you are submitting precious research funds to a valid entity!
- Provide mentorship to junior faculty members and researchers
- Take away the incentive for bad publishing behaviors

Best Practice COPE, OASPA, WAME & DOAJ:

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing

Introduction

The Committee on Publication Ethics, the Directory of Open Access Journals, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, and the World Association of Medical Editors are scholarly organizations that have seen an increase in the number of membership applications from both legitimate and non-legitimate publishers and journals. Our organizations have collaborated in an effort to identify principles of transparency and best practice that set apart legitimate journals and publishers from non-legitimate ones and to clarify that these principles form part of the criteria on which membership applications will be evaluated.

These criteria are largely derived from those developed by the Directory of Open Access Journals. Note that additional membership criteria may also be used by each of the scholarly organizations. The organizations intend to share information in order to develop lists of legitimate journals and publishers. We do not intend to develop or publish a list of publishers or journals that failed to demonstrate they met the criteria for transparency and best practice.

This is a work in progress and we welcome feedback on the general principles and the specific criteria. Background on the organizations is below.

<http://oaspa.org/principles-of-transparency-and-best-practice-in-scholarly-publishing/>

BioOne's Approach

- BioOne assesses journal candidates for its OA collection (19 journals)
- We recognize our role as a content **curator** – our reputation is on the line!
- We use the same criteria as for our subscribed collection, including:
 - Is the journal indexed?
 - Is the editorial board comprised of leaders in the field?
 - Does the journal publish regularly/adhere to a strict publication schedule?
 - Has the journal been requested by our community of researchers?

Further Reading on Predatory Publishing

- Society for Scholarly Publishing – *Scholarly Kitchen*
<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/tag/predatory-publishers/>
- Springer Link Article <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11019-016-9740-3>
- Article in the New Statesman -
<http://www.newstatesman.com/2015/10/predatory-journals-are-distorting-brave-new-world-open-science>
- Archived Beall's List <http://beallslist.weebly.com/>

Thank you!

Please contact me with any questions:

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