

Predatory journals

Predatory journals are a global threat. They accept articles for publication along with authors' fees without performing promised quality checks for issues such as plagiarism or ethical approval. Naive readers are not the only victims. Many researchers have been duped into submitting to predatory journals, in which their work can be overlooked.

Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices

Salient features of predatory journals

Some of the salient features of predatory journals are:

- The website contains spelling and grammar errors.
- Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized.
- The homepage language targets authors.
- Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking.
- Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email.
- Rapid publication is promised.
- There is no retraction policy.

- Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent.
- Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright.
- The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com).

Many predatory journals are claiming they are indexed by DOAJ and JCR Master List, while they are not. In this regard the authors, should always check whether a journal is telling the truth. If a journal is indexed by JCR or/and DOAJ, that is usually a very good indicator that the journal is not predatory.

Hijacked Journals

A list of hijacked journals has been created by a librarian, *Jeffrey Beall* (<https://beallist.net/hijacked-journals/>). Sometimes someone will create a counterfeit website that pretends to be the website of a legitimate scholarly journal. The website creators then solicit manuscript submissions for the hijacked version of the journal, pocketing the money. In some cases, the legitimate versions of the journals are only published in print form and they may not have websites.

SI No.	Hijacked Journal	Authentic Journal
1	Education Journal	Education
2	Journal of Information System Management	Information System Management
3	Journal of Psychology and Theology	Journal of Psychology & Theology
4	WIWO Report	WIWO report

Misleading metrics

Misleading metrics was created by a librarian *Jeffrey Beall*. This is a list of questionable companies that purport to provide valid scholarly metrics at the researcher, article, or journal level. Some of the criteria for determining the misleading metrics are:

- The website for the metric is nontransparent and provides little information about itself such as location, management team and its experience, other company information, and the like.
- The company charges journals for inclusion in the list.
- The values (scores) for most or all of the journals on the list increase each year.
- The company uses Google Scholar as its database for calculating metrics (Google Scholar does not screen for quality and indexes predatory journals).
- The metric uses the term “impact factor” in its name.
- The methodology for calculating the value is contrived, unscientific, or unoriginal.
- The company exists solely for the purpose of earning money from questionable journals that use the gold open-access model. The company charges the journals and assigns them a value, and then the journals use the number to help increase article submissions and therefore revenue.

Some of the misleading metrics as mentioned in the website of Jeffrey Beall

(<https://beallslist.net/misleading-metrics/>) are:

- CiteFactor (<https://www.citefactor.org/>)
- General Impact Factor (<http://generalimpactfactor.com/index.php>)
- International Journal Impact Factor (IJIF)
- Journal Impact Factor (<http://jifactor.org/>)
- Journal Influence Factor (http://journalsmetrics.com/journal_influence_factor)

References

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03759-y>

<https://beallslist.net/>

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