

Predatory Journal – Yes or No??

In 2019, leading scholars and publishers crafted the following consensus definition: “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.”¹

Efforts to combat predatory publishing require collatoration and support. UT Southwestern Health Sciences Digital Library & Learning Center has added [Cabell's Predatory Reports](#) as an additional resource to be used in **combination** with the following checklist to identify potential predatory journals.²⁻⁷ Still can't find the information you need? Use the [Cabell's Predatory Reports: Current Journals Under Review for the Predatory Reports](#) link below the Cabell's Predatory Reports search box or email journals@cabells.com.

Journal Title:		
CHECKLIST	YES	NO
Website Information		
1. Is the publisher a member of reputable publishing organizations, i.e., Committee on Publication Ethics , World Association of Medical Editors , Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association , International Academy of Nursing Editors(INANE) ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Is the journal open access and listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Is the journal indexed in MEDLINE , CINAHL , Web of Science Master Journal List , PsycINFO ? Note: MEDLINE is the largest subset of PubMed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is the journal's impact factor in the InCites JCR (Journal Citation Report) Impact Factor ?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is the journal's editorial board listed with their full names and institutional affiliations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Is the journal's scope of interest/content relevant to the author's research (i.e., biomedical only)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the website free of grammatical and spelling errors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are the website's images clear (i.e., not distorted, not fuzzy)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Is there a verifiable address, telephone and professional contact email on the website?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Review Process		
10. Is the journal peer review process/manuscript handling process defined (i.e., website describes editorial oversight, manuscript processing, number of reviewers, etc.)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Is the manuscript submitted through an editorial management system where the author logs in with a username and password?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Article Processing		
12. Is the article processing fee clearly stated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Is copyright ownership by the author addressed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Is there information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Is there a journal retraction policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If there are more checkmarks in the “NO” column, the journal in question may be predatory.

Other resources:

- [Think.Check.Submit](#) – An international, cross-sector initiative that aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications; includes a checklist and other tools.

REFERENCES

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