TIPS TO AVOID PREDATORY PUBLISHING PRACTICES

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WHAT IS PREDATORY PUBLISHING?

“Predatory publishing is the practice of publishing journals that exploit the emerging acceptance of open-access academic journals to undermine peer-review processes”

(Source: Beall J. Predatory publishers are corrupting open access. Nature news. 2012;489:179)
MYTHS ABOUT OPEN ACCESS

There are many misconceptions/myths about OA, particularly about its quality, impact factors and peer-review processes.

There are good and not-so-good OA journals, just like there are good and not-so-good subscription-based journals.

Read about these myths at:
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication/myths
CAUTIONARY CHECK LIST (1)

- Email invitation to publish – think first! - Do research
- Is the email's tone overly informal, of full of flattery?
- Who is the email addressed to and who signed it?
- Check the Chief Editor and Editorial Board.
- Never submit to or rely on research from a journal that has no editorial board or editor-in-chief
- Ask your librarian, your Faculty, or colleagues for advice
CAUTIONARY CHECK LIST (2)

- Review the journal's scope – too broad? Does it publish any topic?
- No ISSN or DOI (digital object identifier) number
- No contact details or website
- Titles have a incorrect country name in them
- Titles mimic or hijack other journal titles
- Excessive advertising on website
- No links to international accredited publishing bodies
- Almost instantaneous publishing time – little or no peer-review
- Authors not required to rework material - publish without changes
CAUTIONARY CHECK LIST (3)

- Author fee schedules are vague or hidden – some charge a handling fee regardless.
- Publisher invites authors to review/write for journals unrelated to their fields
- Publisher guidelines are copied from other publishers
- Journal claims to have an impact factor - but no way of confirming this
- A number of journals have exactly the same editorial boards
- When did the journal start? Is it regular? Not just v.1, issue 1?
- Has anyone suggested the journal is questionable? Check!
- Has it been removed from any accredited list in your country?
CAUTIONARY CHECK LIST (4)

- The publisher claims to be a “leading publisher” even though it just got started
- A new journal provides an impact factor – too early to measure this
- The journal claims an unrealistically high impact factors (higher than good journals)
- The journal website posts non-related or non-academic advertisements
- The journal gives unrealistic promises regarding the speed of the peer review process, or boasts an equally unrealistic track-record
- Hides costs from author, until acceptance or publication of the paper
- Uses false metrics or the Index Copernicus Value (ICV) – almost always associated with illegitimate entities.
CAUTIONARY CHECK LIST (5)

- Description of the manuscript handling and peer review processes is lacking.
- Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email, not via e-system.
- No strategies for how to handle misconduct, conflicts-of-interests, or secure the archiving of articles.
- There is no retraction policy.
- Information is absent on digital preservation.
- Journals should not demand to keep the copyright – it’s OA!
AVOID PREDATORY PUBLISHERS

DO NOT PUBLISH IN THESE PUBLICATIONS:

Predatory OA publishers & journals *(Beall’s archived list up to 31.12.2016)*
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication/predatory_publishers

Predatory book publishers:

- Lambert Academic Publishers
- VDM Verlag (and Its Affiliates & Imprints)
  (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/vdm_publishing)
PUBLISHING SCAMS

• Bogus journals
• Fake conferences
• Fake News
• Plagiarism
• Honorary credits
STOP THEM!

- Unsubscribe, if possible
- Do not respond - ignore emails and delete
- Filter your email to avoid receiving spam
- Where possible, state your email online as follows: name [at]gmail.com to avoid automatic harvesting
- Stop predatory journals - https://predatoryjournals.com/publishers/
- Beall’s list (up to Dec 2016) - http://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication/predatory_publishers
- New Cabell’s black list – subscription-based
PUBLISHING YOUR WORK

• Check your Library’s printed journals & e-resources

• Is it indexed on ISI, Scopus, IBSS, or other indices?

• Check if registered with the Directory of Open Access Journals.

• Is the publisher a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers’ Association; Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE); or International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers? Does the publisher have a good reputation/track record?

• Check for plagiarism and possible copyright infringement, before submitting

• Attach an Author’s Addendum (http://libguides.wits.ac.za/ld.php?content_id=5267791)
USE TRUSTED WITS RESOURCES

- E-resources & library catalogue - https://www.wits.ac.za/library/find-e-resources-and-library-catalogue/

- E-books – https://www.wits.ac.za/library/online-resources/e-books/#d.en.35386

- E-databases - https://www.wits.ac.za/library/online-resources/databases/#d.en.57189

- E-journals - http://wits.worldcat.org/openurlresolver/search
CREATE A WEB PRESENCE

• Become visible on the web - use a research identifier (ORCID) -
  https://orcid.org (unique ID for researchers)
  http://libguides.wits.ac.za/Scholarly_Research_Resources/ORCID
  http://libguides.wits.ac.za/ORCID

• Use academic platforms and social media

• Set up Google Scholar profile for citations and h-index

• Deposit copies of your publications in your OA institutional repository
USEFUL RESOURCES

Open Access Resources
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/openaccess_a2k_scholarly_communication

Open Access Directory
http://oad.simmons.edu/oadwiki/Main_Page

Open Educational Resources
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/Open_Educational_Resources

Data Management Resources
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/digitisation_preservation_and_digitalcuration/datamanagementresources

Plagiarism and Citation Resources
http://libguides.wits.ac.za/plagiarism-citation_and_referencing
CONCLUSION

• Know your rights as authors
• Do research first and select reputable publishers
• Use an Author’s Addendum & negotiate rights
• Avoid predatory publishers and bogus conferences
• Make sure you have an online presence
• Always deposit in your institutional repository.
• Encourage colleagues and students to use Open Access resources
• Publish in peer-reviewed Open Access journals, preferably without APCs.

Showcase your research on the global stage
Embrace Open Access Today!
THANK YOU!!

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Libguides

http://libguides.wits.ac.za/prf.php?account_id=25548

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see: http://africanlii.org/blogs/denise