



Using a Worksheet to Evaluate Predatory Journals

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“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.”

Grudniewicz A, Moher D, Cobey KD, et al. Predatory journals: no definition, no defence. *Nature*. 2019;576(7786):210-212. doi:10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y.



Some authors argue that there can be no “black and white” definition because predatory publishing encompasses a spectrum of activities, wide-ranging in type and degrees of ethicality and legitimacy (p. 27)

Why is this a problem?

Lack of
transparency

Dilutes quality
of science

Leaves authors
vulnerable

Puts researchers'
work at risk

One Possible Solution

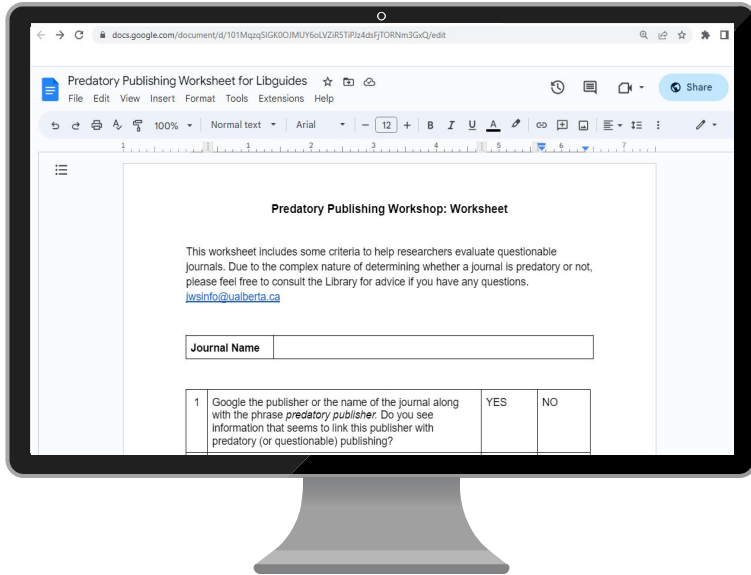
Predatory Publishing Worksheet

<https://tinyurl.com/yc4z kf88>



1	Google the publisher or the name of the journal along with the phrase <i>predatory publisher</i> . Do you see information that seems to link this publisher with predatory (or questionable) publishing?	YES	NO
2	Have you or any of your colleagues heard of this journal before?	YES	NO
3	Is the scope of the journal generic?	YES	NO
4	How long has this journal been around for?		
5	Does this journal publish articles regularly?	YES	NO
6	Are there an unusual number of editors?	YES	NO
7	Does that seem like a lot of editors for the number of articles published?	YES	NO
8	Is it easy to identify who the publisher is?	YES	NO
	Who is the publisher of this journal?		
9	Does the journal have an ISSN?	YES	NO
	If yes, what is the ISSN?		
10	Look the journal up in Ulrich's International Periodicals Directory Access through UofA Library databases.		
	Is it indexed there?	YES	NO
	Is the journal indexed in databases where you would expect to find the journal's subject area indexed?	YES	NO

11	How much is the author processing charge?		
12	Are the author guidelines generic or do they appear to reflect the specific aims of the types of research this journal publishes?	Generic	Specific
13	Does the homepage language target authors or readers?	Authors	Readers
14	Does the website contain any of the following: Spelling errors	YES	NO
	Grammar errors	YES	NO
	Distorted/fuzzy images	YES	NO
	Dead links	YES	NO
15	Is the publisher a member of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)? http://publicationethics.org/members/publishers	YES	NO
16	Is the journal listed in the DOAJ ? https://doaj.org/	YES	NO
17	Does the publisher belong to the Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association (OASPA)? http://oaspa.org/membership/members/	YES	NO



Thanks!

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