IDENTIFYING PREDATORY JOURNALS, NAVIGATING AND OPTIMIZING ACADEMIC PLATFORMS.(Hands-on)

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What are Predatory Journals

- Predatory journals are publications that exploit the open-access publishing model for financial gain, prioritizing profit over scholarly integrity by charging publication fees without providing legitimate peer review, editing, or publishing services.
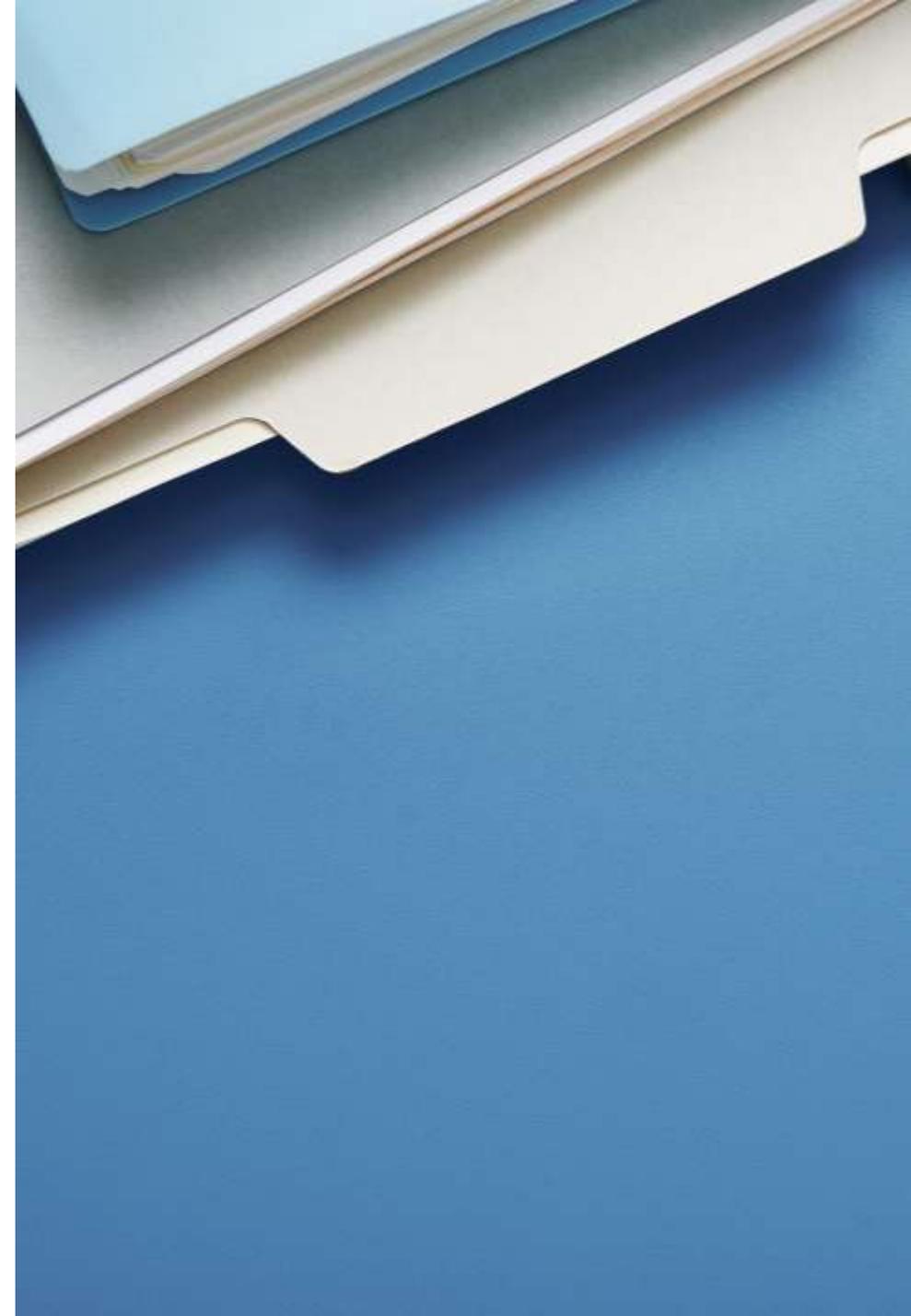
Characteristics of Predatory Journals

Poor Quality Indicators

Minimal or no peer review

Rapid publication promises

Poor grammar/spelling on website

Misleading journal names

Fake impact factors

Missing/fake editorial board

Characteristics of Predatory Journals

Suspicious Practices

Aggressive email solicitation

Hidden publication fees

False claims about indexing

Fake office addresses

Missing or vague peer review process

Lack of proper archiving

Characteristics of Predatory Journals

Promises of quick publication

Unusual submission email addresses (e.g., gmail)

Poor website quality

Scope too broad or vague

Missing or fake ISSN

Not listed in legitimate databases

VERIFICATION TOOLS

Beall's List (https://beallslist.net/)

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) (https://doaj.org/)

Scimago (https://www.scimagojr.com/)

Journal Citation Reports from Clarivate (https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr/home)

How to Prevent Publishing in Predatory Journals

CHECK LEGITIMATE JOURNAL LISTS

VERIFY INDEXING CLAIMS

RESEARCH PUBLISHER REPUTATION

CONSULT SENIOR COLLEAGUES

CONSULT THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

USE JOURNAL EVALUATION TOOLS

JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR (JIF)

Measure of journal's citation frequency

Calculated by Clarivate Analytics

Based on citations over two-year period

- Calculation Formula: JIF = (Citations in current year to items published in previous 2 years) ÷ (Total citable items published in previous 2 years)

- Example: For 2024 Impact Factor:

- Citations in 2024 to articles published in 2022-2023

- Divided by total articles published in 2022-2023

HOW TO CALCULATE JOURNAL IMPACT FACTOR

QUARTILE RANKINGS (Q1-Q4)

Journals ranked in four quartiles based on JIF within their subject category

Q1 (Top 25%):

- Highest impact factor range

- Most prestigious journals

- Highest visibility

Example: 75-100th percentile

Q2 (25-50%):

- Above average impact

- Well-respected journals

- Good visibility

Example: 50-75th percentile

QUARTILE RANKINGS (Q1-Q4)

Q3 (50-75%):

- Average impact

- Moderate prestige

- Moderate visibility

Example: 25-50th percentile

Q4 (Bottom 25%):

- Lower impact

- Lesser-known journals

- Limited visibility

Example: 0-25th percentile

GOOGLE SCHOLAR

- It is a **search engine**, not a networking site.

- Indexes scholarly articles, books, theses, conference papers, patents, and citations across publishers and repositories.

- Provides **Google Scholar Citations profiles** where authors can track citations, h-index, and i10-index.

- Very **broad coverage** (often more inclusive than Scopus or Web of Science).

- Free and widely used for quick discovery of academic content.

ACADEMIA

- Functions more like a **social networking platform for academics**.

- Focused on **sharing PDFs** of research papers (though sometimes criticized for paywalls or commercialization).

- Allows researchers to **follow** others, see analytics (views, downloads, mentions).

- More informal and popular among researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

ResearchGate

- A **professional networking platform** specifically for scientists and researchers.

- Stronger in **STEM fields**.

- Features: Q&A forums, project sharing, collaboration requests.

- Provides statistics on **reads, citations, and impact**.

- More community-driven than Academia.edu, with emphasis on interaction.

ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID)

- Not a database or networking site, but a **persistent digital identifier** (like a DOI but for people).

- Provides a **unique ID** to distinguish researchers with similar names.

- Ensures correct attribution of scholarly works across systems (journals, publishers, funders, repositories).

- Interoperates with platforms like Scopus, Web of Science, CrossRef, PubMed, institutional repositories.

- Crucial for grant applications, manuscript submissions, and academic profiling.

H-index

The largest number **h** such that the researcher has at least **h papers** with **h or more citations each**.
•**Purpose:** It balances **quantity of publications** and **quality (citations)**.
•**Example:**
•If you have **10 papers**:
  •5 papers cited **≥ 5 times each** → your **h-index = 5**
  •If only 3 papers cited ≥ 3 → then h-index = 3.

i10-index

The number of a researcher's publications with **at least 10 citations**.

- **Purpose:** Simpler than h-index, it just counts how many works passed the 10-citation threshold.

- **Example:**
  - If you published 20 papers:
    - 12 papers have ≥10 citations each → your **i10-index = 12**.

Conclusion

- It is important that researchers publish their works in impactful journals that will showcase their contributions to knowledge. The credibility of a journal is very important, and researchers are expected to check for quality and not quantity.