

Understanding and Avoiding Predatory Journals

Awareness, Cases, and Recommendations

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What are Predatory Journals?

Jeffrey Beall, librarian at the University of Colorado, coined the term "**predatory publishers**":

"Organizations that publish counterfeit journals to exploit the open-access model in which the author pays."

- Dishonest, lacking transparency
- Focus on **profit over quality**
- Deceptive practices

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Key Characteristics

- No rigorous peer-review
- Rapid, superficial editorial processes
- Fake editorial boards
- **Misleading metrics and claims**

Main goal: Maximize fees with minimum effort

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Why You Should Avoid Them

Predatory publishers often lure authors via flattering, unsolicited emails.

Tactics include:

- Over-the-top praise
- Guaranteed acceptance
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Example: Solicitation Email

"Estimado/a J. Avila-Martinez,

Mi nombre es Tatiana Manastyrlly y soy editora en Eliva Press. Revisé su lista de publicaciones recientes y es impresionante. Estamos interesados en publicar un libro de sus trabajos, incluyendo este: "Slab Jet estudio numérico usando el marco de la RRMHD".

Nos especializamos en la publicación y difusión de libros académicos. La publicación es gratuita para nuestros autores. Conservará los derechos de autor y ganará hasta un 50% de regalías. Además, el libro se distribuirá a través de los canales de distribución de Amazon y también otros.

¿Quiere saber más sobre nuestros servicios y acuerdo de publicación?

Su respuesta sería muy apreciada.

—

*Saludos cordiales,
Tatiana Manastyrlly
Editora"*

- Fake peer review undermines scientific discourse
- Work may be invisible or inaccessible
- Publishers may vanish or never publish
- No formal copyright or contracts may exist

How to Protect Yourself

To avoid predatory journals, you can:

- **Review journal archives:** off-topic or low-quality content?
- **Check website transparency:** peer-review process, APCs
- **Scrutinize emails:** look for typos, vague claims
- **Use tools like Think. Check. Submit. or DOAJ**

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Vigilance is key.

- Prioritize reputable publishers
- Seek guidance from experienced researchers or librarians
- Trustworthy science demands rigorous channels

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References

References

- [1] Susan A. Elmore and Eleanor H. Weston. **“Predatory Journals: What They Are and How to Avoid Them”**. In: *Toxicologic Pathology* 48.4 (Apr. 2020), pp. 607–610. ISSN: 1533-1601. DOI: [10.1177/0192623320920209](https://doi.org/10.1177/0192623320920209).

Thank you!

Questions or comments?