

## Predatory publishing

### What is it?

Predatory publishing is a publishing model that has emerged in recent years

- It exploits researchers' need to **publish quickly**
- It promises **fast peer review** and publication, as well as wide-ranging dissemination
- It implements fake **Open Access scientific journal** platforms, which look real

## How to recognize predatory journals? 1 / 3

- Does the journal have an **ISSN**?
- Is there a **physical address**?
- Does the **title** remind you of a **well-known journal in the field**?
- Does the **title** suggest a **geographical location** that does not match the address?
- Are there any **contact details**? Does the journal have an institutional or general email address (e.g. gmail, yahoo, etc.)?

## How to recognize predatory journals? 2/3

- Does the journal feature articles or are there no contents?
- Are published articles original contributions or plagiarisms / unscientific publications?
- Is the editorial board easy to contact? Is it composed of professionals known in the field?
- Is it possible to fact-check database indexing statements on the website?
- Does the journal have a specific focus and scope? Vast and undefined areas of research should raise suspicions

## How to recognize predatory journals? 3/3

- Does the **email invitation** to publish have any typos or grammatical errors? Is its tone unprofessional?
- Are **author charges** (article processing charges, or APC, and article submission charges) clear? Are payment times clearly stated? Are they in line with other journals in the field?
- Is **copyright** information clear?
- Are there **author guidelines** specifying how submissions will be treated?
- Is the type of **peer review** specified?
- Is there a form of **digital archiving**?

## Predatory publishing - Books and book chapters 1/3

The phenomenon of predatory publishing may also concern those who intend to publish monographs or book chapters.

Things to watch out for:

- Is the **publisher** well-known? Is it easy to **contact** them by phone, e-mail, post?
- Is it easy to find its **latest publications** ?
- Are **editors** well-known and easily **contactable** by phone, e-mail or post?



## Predatory publishing - Books and book chapters 2/3

- Is the type of **peer review** clearly stated?
- Are the publisher's books indexed in the **databases** for your field?
- Does the publisher provide long-term **archiving** services?
- Are **author charges** clearly stated?
- Are **author guidelines** published?

## Predatory publishing - Books and book chapters 3/3

- Is the **license** clearly described?
- Is **copyright** illustrated clearly?
- Is the publisher a member of recognized organizations? For instance, does it comply with the guidelines of the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#), or are its open-access books listed in the [Directory of Open Access Books \(DOAB\)](#)?

## Predatory publishing

Learn more

Predatory  
publishing

- [Open science: materials and tools](#), by unimi
- [Think Check Submit](#)

You can always contact [riviste@unimi.it](mailto:riviste@unimi.it) for advice and screening on any journals approaching you

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