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)](https://publicationethics.org), or are its open-access books listed in the [Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB)](https://doaj.org)?
Predatory publishing

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You can always contact riviste@unimi.it for advice and screening on any journals approaching you

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