

How to recognize predatory journal - memory refresh card

Predatory journals collect money for peer review, which they don't do at all; they publish anything for everyone.

Verify the journal directly on its website. Also, go through a few articles that are published in the journal. The journal can sometimes change, from predatory to serious and vice versa.

suspicious signs

- peer review - too fast, cheap and unexplained why
- bibliometric data (impact factor, h-index, etc.) - false, misused, meaningless values
- the journal is not indexed - in the Web of Science, in Scopus
- publisher - no address, no email, no contact information
- editors, reviewers - fake identities or do not know that they cooperate with the journal
- publication fees (APC) - not clear to whom, for what, only how much; price suspiciously low
- licence - it is not explained what I can do with the article (preprint? postprint? upload in the repository?)
- archive of older volumes - no, older issues are unavailable
- too many topics - especially if they are completely different
- emails on commercial domains - @google, @yahoo, etc.
- spam - the offer to publish came in an unsolicited email

false negatives

- broken website - may be down
- low quality and web features - not everyone has money, skills, time and taste
- the journal is not in DOAJ - it doesn't have to be, DOAJ is just a community project
- title - reminiscent of another, famous journal; it may or may not be the intention
- the printed version is missing - the journal can be fully electronic
- the journal is listed in some list of predatory journals

false positives

- the journal has an ISSN - it is a purely identifying information, it is granted on a request
- the journal is indexed in Scopus, the Web of Science - their effort to catch predatory is not perfect
- the journal is indexed in Google Scholar - Google Scholar is not a managed database, but an automatic search engine
- the journal is quoted by someone else - anyone can be quoted
- someone has already published in the journal - you can publish anywhere
- the journal is not listed in any list of predatory journals

When everything fails, contact your librarian! :-) → marta.zizenova@tul.cz

