




# ***Publishing Power Hour 2***

**Predatory journals and (Un)ethical publishing**

Presented by: Kitty Delaney & Jaya Ralph

Faculty Librarians

September 2022



Curtin University acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which Curtin Perth is located, the Wadjuk people of the Nyungar Nation; and on our Kalgoorlie campus, the Wongutha people of the North-Eastern Goldfields.

# What we will cover

- Overview of predatory publishing
  - What is it?
  - Why it is happening?
  - What are the risks?
- How to identify a predatory publisher
  - Examples and case studies
- Which tools to use
- Where to get advice

# Predatory Publishing – What is it?

## **Confusing!**

In 2019, 43 leading scholars, librarians, research funders and publishers from ten countries agreed on a definition of predatory publishing that would protect scholarship. It took 12 hours of discussion, 18 questions and 3 rounds to reach.

[Nature](#), 11 December 2019

“Put plainly, predatory journals are fake academic journals. Despite these breaches of good publication practices, their articles often appear in Google searches”

[HealthyDebate blog](#), July 20, 2020.

# Predatory Publishing and OA

- Open Access (OA) models are designed to make research accessible to all
  - This may involve paying Article Processing Fees (APCs)
  - Still uses the most rigorous peer review and editing processes
  - Funding agencies mandating that research be available for free
- Predatory Publishers are an unintended consequence of the OA model
  - Payment required
  - No quality checks
  - Quick turn around time

# Predatory Publishing – the Risks

- Damage to the reputation of the researcher & institution
- No proper peer review is carried out to preserve the quality of the research output
- Researchers will most likely be unable to publish their article in other journals
- The publisher will retain the copyright to the article
- Candidacy may be compromised
- Loss of research or loss of trust in research
- Getting harder to distinguish legitimate journals from predatory journals

# How Big is the Problem?

- A study suggests that predatory spam targeted at scholars cost universities \$1.1 billion annually.  
*(January 2020)*
- Analysis of Cabell's Predatory Reports indicates that 8.5% of all predatory Open Access journals are in the field of management.  
*(September, 2019)*
- More than 90 Checklists exist to help identify predatory journals – an overwhelming number for authors.  
*(September, 2019)*
- The US Federal Trade Commission won a **US \$50 million** court judgement against OMICS in 2019.

# At least 25% of respondents have either published in a predatory journal, participated in a predatory conference, or don't know if they have.

**They were not aware at the time**

“The conference looked very legitimate and non predatory. There was support from the university and several well known professors were in the invitations.”

**They needed to advance their career**

“You need to publish in a predatory journal to stay in the race.”

**It was a faster, easier, or cheaper option**

“I feel guilty but it is necessary to publish (in predatory journals) for my students to complete their study faster due to the limitation of time and scholarship.”

**They were encouraged by their peers**

“The lead author suggested we publish in a predatory journal after a few rejections and one co-author was an editor at the journal, which made it difficult to criticize.”

**If left unchallenged, the majority of respondents believe predatory practices will have detrimental effects.**

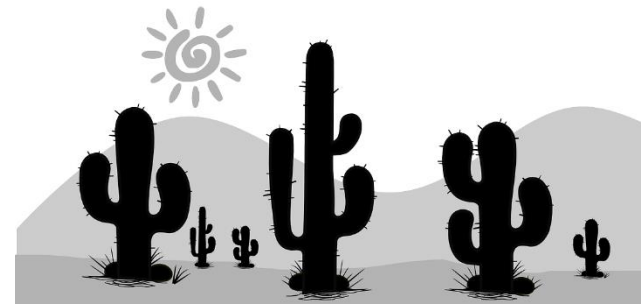


# The Predatory Landscape

- [Hijacked journals](#) – [Arctic](#) & [Arctic](#) (Predatory Journal)
- [Cloned journals](#) – example “[Current Science](#)” – has 2 cloned journals
- Fraud - Make up their own journal titles
- Present very professional websites (*or sometimes not*)
- Constantly evolving and changing
- Some publishers start out less credible and then raise standards - MDPI
- Send unsolicited emails to get you to submit your research
- Some have a large number of titles in a variety of subjects
- Some have conferences associated with them

## Note:

- Not all are based in developing countries
- Not all unprofessional looking websites are predatory
- It can be tough to distinguish a predatory journal from a journal that is under-resourced.



# Case Studies and Examples

- Email soliciting
- Hijacking
- Evolution of a predatory publisher
- Known predatory publishers
- When good journals go bad

From: Managing Editor - AFNS <[hfns@hspcorporation.org](mailto:hfns@hspcorporation.org)>

Sent: Wednesday, 4 September 2019 11:34 PM

To: Diana Blackwood <[D.Blackwood@curtin.edu.au](mailto:D.Blackwood@curtin.edu.au)>

Subject: Your article promotion also one of our services

**Dear Diana M Blackwood,**

Myself Williams K, working as a Journal Assistant for [Archive of Food and Nutritional Science](#) (ISSN: 2575-0194).

Doctor, as a part of our search for the eminent scholars and there research works, we have come across your recently published articles and got impressed by your valuable work.

So, I cordially take this opportunity to invite you to publish your next article in our Journal so that the scientific community will get one more eminent research work for the upcoming scientific studies.

Article submissions by **September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019**.

Hence, keeping in view of friendly association with you, we have put our humble request and hope you would not disappoint us.

Anticipating for your response regarding the submission.

Best regards,

Williams K

<https://www.heighpubs.org/hfns/>

# International Medical Journal

- An impressive editorial panel
- Direct link to Scopus to show impact
- APCs
- Various metrics and certificates

**International Medical Journal**

International Medical Journal (ISSN:13412051) originally formed in 1996 till now by [Japan international cultural exchange foundation](#) and [Japan medical association](#). International Medical Journal is a scopus indexed medical journal that wants to make the best use of Medical and pharmaceutical Research with information from our 700+ leading-edge peer reviewed, Open Access Journals that operates with the help of 5,000+ Editorial Board Members and esteemed reviewers and 1000+ associations in Medical, Clinical, Pharmaceutical Fields.

Scopus Link



jicef



Google Scholar



Our Certificates








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All articles published for full open access. In order to provide free access to readers, and to cover the costs of peer review, copyediting, typesetting, long-term archiving, and journal management, an **article processing charge (APC)** applies to papers accepted after peer review. In addition to US Dollar, we also accept payments like Euros (EUR), US Dollars (USD) or British Pound Sterling (GBP), Swiss Francs (CHF) etc.


Journal	Publication Fee (USD)
<a href="#">International Medical Journal (IMJ)</a>	\$150

**International Medical Journal Editors-Panel**



**Prof. Hidetoshi Sama khor**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

E-mail: [profHidetoshi@gmail.com](mailto:profHidetoshi@gmail.com)  
 Web:



**Fabio Caradonna**  
**Co-Editor**

Fabio Caradonna, PhD, was born in Erice (TP-Italy) on the 31-7-1964. He is a biologist from 1987 discussing an experimental thesis in cancer cytogenetics and taking a degree with maximum honors. He is PhD from 1992 (Cellular and Developmental Biology), Medical specialist from 1998 (Clinical Pathology) and assistant professor of Genetics from 2004. Like testified by his publication list, from 1987 up today he carried out (in Italy and at EMBL, Heidelberg) research work in cancer cytogenetics, mutagenesis, molecular genetics, polymorphisms in life styles, evolutionary genetics. In particular, in normal and cancer in vitro systems, he is studying DNA methylation changes, at genome, chromosome and gene level, induced by small molecules contained in foods. Recently he's engaged as referee of strategic regional and national research projects. From 1992 he carried out teaching activity at University of Palermo concerning Genetics, Evolutionary genetics, Population genetics and, today, he is assistant professor of Genetics and Cytogenetics at the same University.

E-mail: [caradonnafabio@yahoo.com](mailto:caradonnafabio@yahoo.com)  
 Web:

## Source details

### International Medical Journal

Scopus coverage years: from 1996 to Present

Publisher: Japan International Cultural Exchange Foundation

ISSN: 1341-2051

Subject area: Medicine: General Medicine

Source type: Journal

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CiteScore 2020  
0.4

SJR 2020  
0.183

SNIP 2020  
0.204

### International Medical Journal

International Medical Journal (ISSN:13412051) originally formed in 1996 till now by [Japan international cultural exchange foundation](#) and [Japan medical association](#). International Medical Journal is a scopus indexed medical journal that wants to make the best use of Medical and pharmaceutical Research with information from our 700+ leading-edge peer reviewed, Open Access Journals that operates with the help of 5,000+ Editorial Board Members and esteemed reviewers and 1000+ associations in Medical, Clinical, Pharmaceutical Fields.

Scopus Link



Jicef



Google Scholar



[CiteScore](#) [CiteScore rank & trend](#) [Scopus content coverage](#)

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CiteScore 2020 counts the citations received in 2017-2020 to articles, reviews, conference papers, book chapters and data papers published in 2017-2020, and divides this by the number of publications published in 2017-2020. [Learn more >](#)

CiteScore 2020  
 $0.4 = \frac{145 \text{ Citations 2017 - 2020}}{372 \text{ Documents 2017 - 2020}}$   
Calculated on 05 May, 2021

CiteScoreTracker 2021  
 $0.2 = \frac{82 \text{ Citations to date}}{337 \text{ Documents to date}}$   
Last updated on 04 September, 2021 • Updated monthly

CiteScore rank 2020

Category	Rank	Percentile
Medicine		
General Medicine	#601/793	24th

[View CiteScore methodology >](#) [CiteScore FAQ >](#) [Add CiteScore to your site >](#)

Scopus link in the predatory journal takes you to the actual link for the legitimate journal!!!

# International Medical Journal

International Medical Journal Information for Authors Back Number

ISSN: 1341-2051  
CODEN: IMJOF5

## Editors

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L. R. Sutherland, Canada  
F. Marotta, Italy



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## The original URL was hijacked

Authentic Journal  
<http://www.seonjihou.co.jp>

Fake Journal  
<https://www.seonijihou.com/>

Current URL for authentic journal:  
<https://www.imj-1994.com/>

Fake Journal:  
ISSN: 13412051

Wrong format for ISSN

Authentic Journal:  
ISSN: 1341-2051



## Warning on Authentic Journal website

The difference between the two IMJ is as follows.

	Original IMJ	Fake IMJ
title	International Medical Journal	They are Saying International Medical Journal
volume	Vol. 26 in 2019 established in 1994 We have data from 1994 to 2019.	They are saying vol. 24 in 2019
ISSN	1341-2051	They are saying 13412051 no hyphen This is not a ISSN
CODEN	IMJOFS	nothing
Name of Publisher (Copyright holder)	Japan International Cultural Exchange Foundation (JICEF) Japan Health Sciences University	No description, Journal name only
Editorial Office (Company name)	Seron Jiho sha Co., Ltd.	No description, Journal name only
Office address	2-25-15, Sakura-Shimmachi, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 154-0015, Japan	No description
Databases	SCOPUS and EBSCO, etc	Not included in any databases
publication charge	Completely free of charge	They ask USD300 (article processing)
Editor-in-chief	Tsutomu Sakuta	They are saying Prof. Hirose Family name only.
Style of publication	Printed hard copy	e-journal only
Editorial Board	real editorial board and peer referee	fake editorial board

IMJ has come to know the existence of this fake journal from one submitter quite recently. Now we are discussing about this problem with our lawyer to get rid of it from web world. But it might be a bit difficult to delete the fake one from the net world so soon. Therefore, for the time being, please disregard this fake home page and never submit your valuable paper to the site and never pay any publication charge to the fake site.

## Scimago Conversation about the journal



**Dr. aklima** 2 months ago

@uchida san,  
then why are you advertise imj-1994.com

i literally can not understand. you are using 2 website too. you seems to be fraudulent too. or explain the situation.



**w.uchida** 2 months ago

TO: Dr. Aidil

Please let me explain it a little bit.

The fake IMJ's URL is seronijihou. Whereas seronijhou is original IMJ's developed URL. Originally IMJ's editorial company's name is Seronjihou in Japanese. The fake one mimicked its name and changed it a bit into Seronijihou. SERONJIHOU and SERONIJIHOU are different. The two are very alike. It is very hard to discriminate it. SERONJIHOU has 10 letters and SERONIJIHOU has 11 letters (plus one letter, it is I)

Please do not be perplexed.

Mr. W. Uchida

# The Evolution of a Predatory Journal

## Scholars International journal of Law, Crime and Justice

(An open access, International, Indexed, Peer- Reviewed Journal)

ISSN: 2616-7956 (Print), ISSN: 2617-3484 (Online)

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- Peer Review within 3-4 days
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- Name almost identical to an Elsevier journal

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### LAW & JUSTICE



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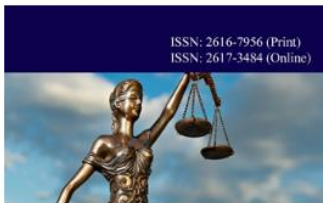


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**Scholars International Journal of  
Law, Crime and Justice**  
(An Open Access peer reviewed International Journal)



**Scholars International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice (SIJLCJ)**

**Abbreviated key title:** *Sch Int J Law Crime Justice*

(An open access, International, Indexed, Peer- Reviewed Online and Print Journal)

**ISSN:** 2617-3484 (Online)

**ISSN:** 2616-7956 (Print)

**Frequency:** Monthly

**Language:** English

**Chief Editor:** Professor Rakesh Raj Kumar Bhala

**Country of Origin:** United Arab Emirates

**Publisher:** Scholars Middle East Publishers, UAE

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Journal Metrics

> CiteScore: **1.5** ⓘ

Impact Factor: **0.773** ⓘ

5-Year Impact Factor: **0.919** ⓘ

Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP): **1.136** ⓘ

## International Journal of Law, Crime and Justice

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# Check list – warning signs

- Unsolicited communications
- Hard to distinguish titles from legitimate journals – can sound similar
- Grammar and spelling in communications and web pages
- Email address (e.g. Gmail or different country from address)
- Fast turnover times
- Low cost publishing charges
- Board of Editors – affiliations
- Impact Factors – very creative



Call for manuscripts for September 2020

Follow up. Start by Monday, 31 August 2020. Due by Monday, 31 August 2020.

## Welcome to IJER

International Journal for Innovation Education and Research

ONLINE ISSN 2411-2933 PRINT - ISSN: 2411-3123

Call for manuscripts for September 2020

[www.ijer.net](http://www.ijer.net)

The International Research Journal, IJER, announces the call for manuscripts for the April edition. IJER is an international research journal with double-blind peer review, which is published by International educative research foundation and publisher in Bangladesh.

Authors are invited to submit papers to the upcoming Edition of IJER in **Volume 8, Issue 9 – September - 2020**. Submissions must be original and should not have been published previously or be under consideration for publication while being evaluated for this Journal.

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Anton van den Hengel

Professor

School of Computer Science

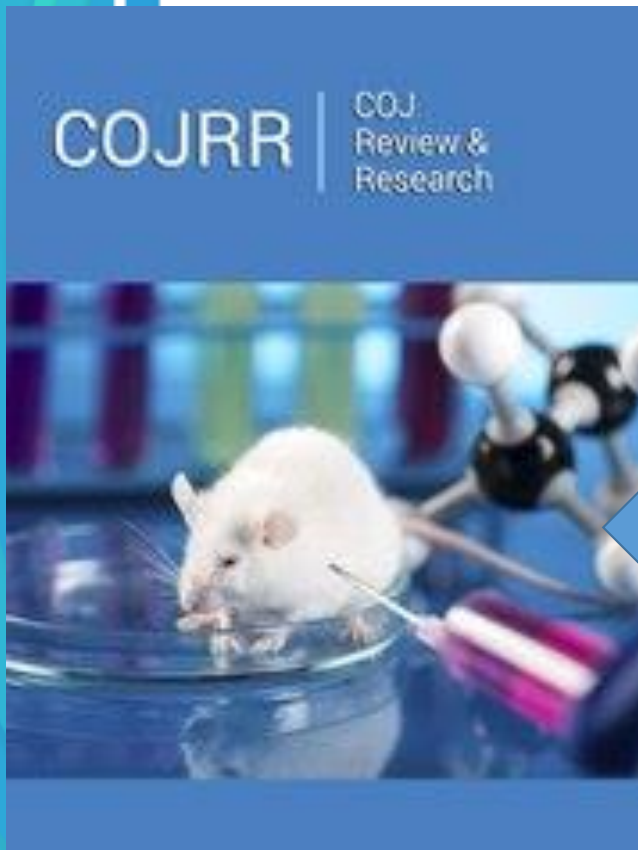
University of Adelaide

South Australia

<https://www.ijer.net/ijer/about/editorialTeam>

I emailed and asked if he was on the board - he is not.

# COJ Review and Research Journal



## Editorial Board:

Checked a number of Australian Academics listed as Editors.

## Cover Page:

Description calls the journal “COJ Reviews & Research”, whilst the Cover Page displays “COJ Review & Research”

A blue arrow points from the text 'Checked a number of Australian Academics listed as Editors.' to a profile card for Ian James Martins. The card has a blue header with the text 'Editor In Chief'. Below the header is a square portrait of Ian James Martins, a man with short brown hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and green tie. Below the portrait, his name 'Ian James Martins' is written in a blue, sans-serif font. Underneath his name, his credentials are listed in a smaller, black, sans-serif font: 'Fellow of International Agency for Standards and Ratings (IASR), Edith Cowan University, Sarich Neuroscience Research Institute'. At the bottom of the card, the text 'Advancements in Case Studies' is written in a blue, sans-serif font.

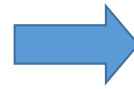


Provides “evidence” that the journal is widely indexed

Most are fake or irrelevant

The publisher – Crimson - is a well-known predatory publisher

List of misleading metrics can be found [here](#)



Indexed In

Listed In

Member In

# When good journals go bad....

## Journal of Contemporary Issues in Business and Government

A joint project between Swinburne and Curtin Librarians to:

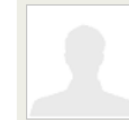
- Contact databases to remove any references to institutions as current publishers
- Alert WorldCat about the publishers
- Inform ABDC and ERA lists
- Contact the editors of the journal

During the past 12 months:

- Numerous emails to editors
- Enquiry by Indian academic about colleague's paper

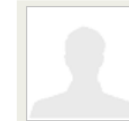
### Editorial Board

#### Editor-in-chief



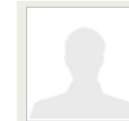
Randy Ontonia  
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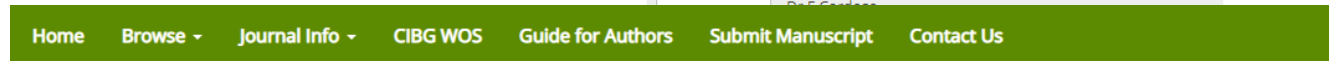


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### CIBG WOS

JOURNAL OF CONTEMPORARY BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT

Publisher: SWINBURNE UNIV TECHNOLOGY, FAC BUSINESS AND LAW, C/O ARRAN GARE, PHILOSOPHY & CULTURE INQUIRY, PO BOX 218, HAWTHORN, AUSTRALIA, VIC 3122

ISSN/eISSN: 1323-6903 / 2204-1990

Web Of Science Core Collection Emerging Sources Citation Index

OMICS International is an example of a predatory publisher:

- The group started publishing in 2008 and by 2015, it claimed over 700 journals, although about half of them were defunct
- In 2016 OMICS became **the first academic publisher to be sued by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for deceptive practices** and the FTC was awarded a summary judgement of over US\$50 million
- It acquires legitimate publishers but does not continue with the quality
- Fake list of editors or uses names without consent of academics

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# It's time to publish your thesis

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J

**Jack Lin** 1 year ago

Yes, there are a lot of fake websites. Once I tried to delete the fake websites out of the web world. But fake one has no face, no name, no address, no nationality. It is absolutely impossible to sue them legally. It is just like fighting ghosts in the virtual new world. It is also impossible to delete the fake website technically. The provider of the fake website is unable to discriminate original one and a fake one. Even though they know which is fake, the fake one is also their customer. And provider has a lot of customers, it is impossible to patrol the fake one. Originally, they are not police in the net world. There is no police in the

There is no police in the virtual network world.

I once sent letters to the victims who submitted papers to the fake journal and I wrote that please let your colleagues know the presence of fake journal and put a warning text on the bulletin board of the university. However, there is no response from them. This might be due to the fact they tend to hide the stigma of being deceived. That is why this kind of crime does not decrease. Although this is not the main reason, this is also one reason, I think.

In the net world, there is a lot of fake websites. At least, Beall's list must be taught at school.

Anyhow, self-dense is the key to this matter.

Anyhow, self-dense is the key to this matter.

# What to do when a journal targets you



- It is like being a detective – evaluate all the evidence
- Lots of different pieces of information lead to the decision
- Ask your colleagues
- If it was easy – it wouldn't be a problem!
- Use the tools we will talk about next

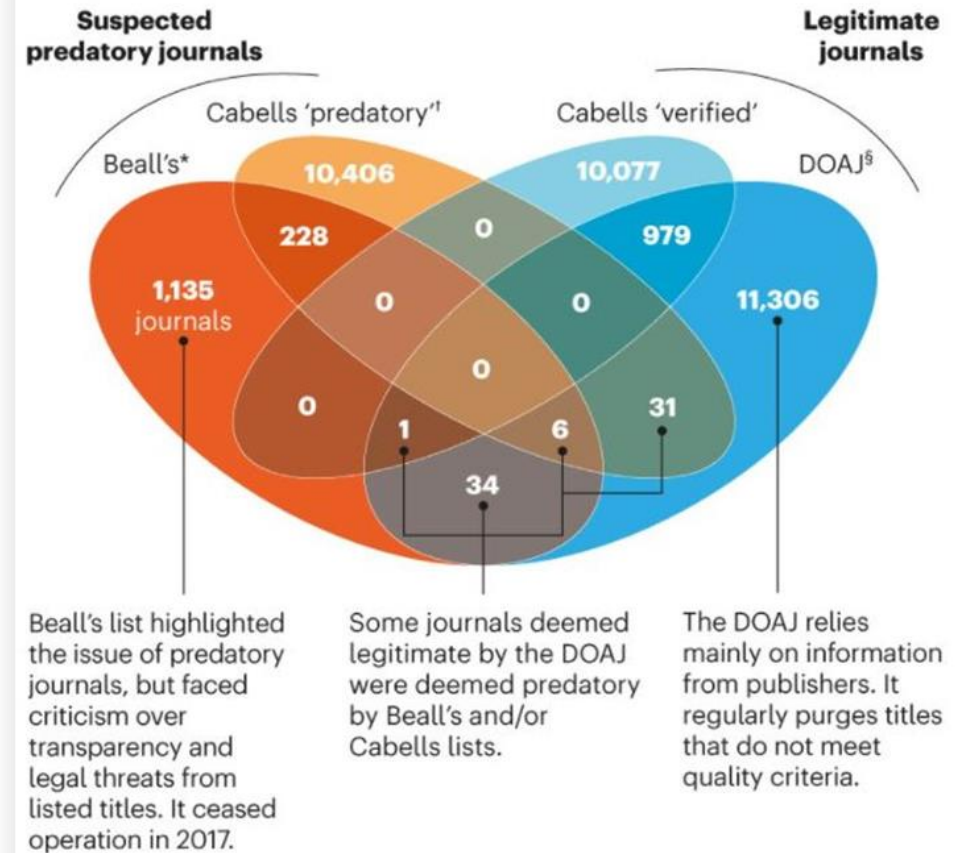
# Evaluation Tools

Before we start.....

- Not all lists agree on titles
- Some need a subscription
- Some can be biased
- Even Scopus has been fooled
- Some rely on information from publishers
- Legitimate publishers are being bought by predatory publishers

## NO LIST TO RULE THEM ALL

Assessments of which journals are likely to be predatory or legitimate do not tally, and titles can appear in both categories. There is no way to know which journals were considered for a list but left off, or which were not considered.



\*Informally assessed by University of Colorado Denver librarian Jeffrey Beall in -2008-17; <sup>†</sup>Pay-to-access lists from Cabells, a scholarly analytics company; <sup>§</sup>The Directory of Open Access Journals, a community-curated list requiring journal best practices such as peer review and statements on author fees and licensing.

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[Nature](#), 11 December 2019

# Tools - Free

- [Beall's list](#) (use with caution)
- [SCImago](#) Journal ranking
- [ERA 2023 Submission Journal List](#)
- [ABDC List](#)
- [Harzing.com – Journal Quality List](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)
  - [DOAJ list of journals added & removed](#)
- [Directory of Open Access Books](#)
- [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](#)
- African [Journals Online](#)
- INSAPs [Journals Online](#) – increase visibility of peer reviewed journals in developing countries



# Tools – Subscription based

- [Cabells Directories](#) – Library Database
- [Ulrichsweb](#) – Library Database
- [Scopus sources](#) – Library Database
- [Journal Citation Reports](#) – Library Database

# Tools – Evaluation Tips

- <http://thinkchecksubmit.org/> - a process to follow
- Cabell's Predatory Reports [Criteria](#)
- Journal Evaluation [Tool](#) - Loyola Marymount University
- Check any claims of where they are indexed
- Check any [impact factors](#) or metrics they list
- Check google for independent information
- ResearchGate has interesting discussions on predatory publishers – use with caution!

# Finally.....

- Use the tools we have shown you
- Use reputable Discipline Specific lists (e.g. ABDC list)
- Get yourself on alerts for “Calls for Papers” from journals and databases
- If you have doubts talk to colleagues, your librarians, google the journal for reviews
- Research Toolkit – [Strategic Publishing](#)

**If it is too good to be true – it usually is**

# *Publishing Power Hours 2022*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1: Publishing in quality journals</b>  | Tuesday 13 September   12 – 1pm   |
| <b>2: Predatory journals and unethical publishing</b>   | Tuesday 20 September   12 – 1pm   |
| <b>3: Publishing your research data</b>   | Friday 23 September   12 – 1pm  |
| <b>4: Publishing your software code</b>   | Tuesday 4 October   12 – 1pm  |
| <b>5: Publishing copyright essentials</b>   | Friday 7 October   12 – 12.30pm   |
| <b>6: Getting your article published</b>  | Tuesday 11 October   12 – 1pm   |
| <b>7: Measuring the impact of your research publications</b>  | Tuesday 18 October   12 – 1pm   |
| <b>8: Open Access publishing</b>  | Tuesday 25 October   12 – 1pm   |
| <b>9: Using the institutional repository (espace) to make your research open access</b> <i>For academic staff only.</i> | Thursday 27 October   12 – 1pm  |
| <b>10: Making EndNote work for you and your publications</b>  | Thursday 3 November   12 – 1pm  |
| <b>11: Preprints</b>  | <a href="#">This is a pre-recorded workshop available at this link.</a> |

# *Your Faculty Librarians*



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Vanessa Varis

**Business and Law,  
Humanities**  
Jaya Ralph &  
Kitty Delaney



**Science & Engineering**  
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