Predatory Publishing – How to support researchers in identifying trusted journals and publishers for their research

UKSG webinar
Our discussion today

• Lorraine will discuss the problem of predatory publishing and why Think. Check. Submit provides a tool to help researchers.

• Katherine will provide practical examples of how she has used the principles of Think. Check. Submit when helping researchers think about where to publish.

• We look forward to hearing about your experiences and discussing the issues.
If it looks like a duck, it must be..

- Researchers cannot trust everything that looks like a journal as a venue for their research.
- Predatory journals set up to make money, by charging authors to publish their articles, but without the proper checks and processes expected from academic journals.
- Or publishers set up to make money, by charging authors to publish their books and chapters, but without the proper checks and processes that we expect from academic publishers.
- For instance, they may say that they do editing and peer review when in fact they do not.
Characteristics of predatory publishers

- Misleading information
- Names like those of reputable journals or publishers
- Even experienced researchers can be taken in
Why are they a problem

• Unchecked research can give it undeserved credibility.
• Other researchers may build upon poorly conducted or even false research.
• Unsound articles may mislead the public who find that information online and reduce public trust in science.
• The research community may question good research if it is published in one of these journals, and this can harm the reputation and career of a researcher.
Block lists, white lists and Think. Check. Submit

• A first response to the problem was ‘block lists’ for ‘unsafe’ journals and ‘allow lists’ for ‘safe’ journals.
• Lists do not build up researchers’ journal assessment skills in the long term.
• Lists may not be 100% reliable and the criteria they use is not always transparent.
• Think. Check. Submit checklists that guides researchers through the process of deciding where to publish their research.
How to support researchers in identifying trusted journals and publishers for their research

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• Bit of background
• How we frame publishing
• Three scenarios and what we do
• Other things to consider
• Final words of advice
BIT OF BACKGROUND
Journal Finders and Scopus for Publishing

Introduction to Scival for Researchers

Publishing Open Access: Institutional APC Deals

Metrics and Me: What They Mean and How We Can Use Them

How do you choose a journal?
Benefits of Open Access publishing
Photo by [Tyler Easton](https://unsplash.com/photos/P2s2QTh8kxQ) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com)

[Feedback Group Communication](https://pixabay.com/illustrations/feedback-group-communication-2044700/)
Identify trusted publishers for your research

Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.

https://thinkchecksubmit.org
There is a ‘home’ for your work.
There is not a single list to check.
You are not the list.
Authors have a choice.

Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash
3 SCENARIOS
AND WHAT WE DO
1. I have never heard of this journal

2. Does this journal cost money?

3. Where should I publish and how do I know if predatory/problematic?

Photo by Tony Hand on Unsplash
1. I have never heard of this journal. Should I publish here?
1. Search (and go past the first page of results)

Check:

- Aims and scope?
- Archived articles?
- Archived issues?
- Editors listed?
- Author guidelines?
- Costs to publish
- Metrics check out

Photo by Markus Winkler on Unsplash
2. Does this journal cost money?

Photo by Tony Hand on Unsplash
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Currency</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USD 1,900</td>
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<td>USD 2,950</td>
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</table>

€9,500.
3. Where should I publish and how do I know if predatory/problematic?

Photo by [Tony Hand](https://unsplash.com) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com)
Authors have a choice.
• Who/where do you read?
• Where do they publish?
• Who/where do your colleagues/people you admire publish?
• What can you afford?
• You do not need to pay to make your work open access—is this the right home for your work?
• Who will be able to read this work if you publish here? Could your audience read it?
• All about your options....and this will depend on what’s available at your institution
OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER
• Don’t panic. It happens.
• If there’s a way out, ask your legal department (if you have one).
• Don’t link or refer to paper (if you don’t feel like you can).
• That work still stands, despite it’s home.
• Don’t be tempted to resubmit somewhere else.
• Move on.
• Be obvious and clear about charges
• Be honest and clear about costs (and why they are what they are)
• Stop narrative of mainstream ‘known’ publishers ‘GOOD’ and the rest are ‘problematic’
• Stop using metrics as an advertisement and marker for quality (and lack of one as negative)
• Make sure your information is aligned with policy
WHAT CAN EMPLOYERS DO TO SUPPORT?
• Rethink how you measure
• Do you check publications on CVs?
• Consider a narrative CV approach?
FINAL WORDS
OF ADVICE
ASK FOR HELP
There is not a single list to check.
Think
Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal or publisher? Is it the right journal or book for your work?

Check
Use our check list to assess the journal or publisher.

Submit
Only if you can answer ‘yes’ to the questions on our check list.
Thank you!