

Planning to submit your paper to open access journal?

Take care to avoid predatory journals



"Predatory journals" are malicious journals that exploit the Open Access business model. This targets the Article Processing Charge (APC) paid by the author. Many predatory journal editors do not conduct proper peer-review. That is why the quality of the submitted papers is not guaranteed.



By publishing in predatory journals, you may be involved in trouble which could harm your career as a researcher.



Possible troubles

- Publishing in predatory journals may result in the authors or their institutions losing public trust and reliability.
- Authors may be charged an unreasonably high publication fee.
- Withdrawal of the article or resubmission to another journal may not be permitted.
- There is no guarantee of stable access to articles.
- With the growth of articles without secured quality, academic journals (including peer-reviewed articles) may lose their trustworthiness.
- Invitations to predatory conferences may result in high participation fees.

※ The content in this poster is based on the website of Hokkaido University Library (Caution "Suspicious Journals")

Visit HU's Writing Center website for more details or inquiries.

✉ E-mail : wrc@hiroshima-u.ac.jp

🌐 URL : <https://www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/en/wrc/resource/predatory>



The website is accessible via QR code, too.

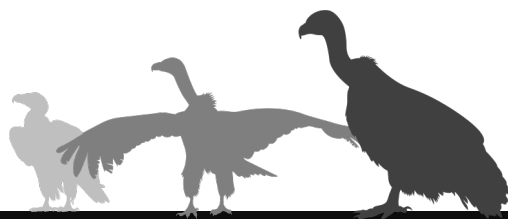
Characteristics of predatory journals



Use this checklist to decide if a journal is reliable or not.

If any of the following points applies to your intended journal, the journal might be suspicious and needs more careful examination.

- ☐ The name of editors and editorial board members are not clearly listed.
- ☐ The editors and board members are not reliable and recognized researchers in the research field.
- ☐ The information about editing and peer-review is not clear.
- ☐ The period from peer review to publication is too tight.
- ☐ The journal is not registered in reliable databases such as Web of Science, SCOPUS, DOAJ.
- ☐ The publisher is not registered with reliable associations such as Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA).
- ☐ The amount of APC and the billing schedule is not clear.
- ☐ The aim and target field of the journal is not clear.
- ☐ The target field is too wide.
- ☐ Your colleagues and researchers in your field do not know about the journal.
- ☐ The quality of papers published in the journal is not good.
- ☐ Contact information such as email address and postal address are not listed on the website or they do not exist..
- ☐ The journal title and logo resemble those of other well-known journals.
- ☐ The email address of the editor or inquiry office are not the one in his/her organization.



Check the journal information carefully before submitting!