

# Open Science Poster Series

## 6. Beware: Predatory Publishing

### What is Predatory Publishing?

Predatory publishing refers to dubious publishers that systematically exploit established Open Access models by collecting Article Processing Charges (APCs) or Book Processing Charges (BPCs) without carrying out the necessary quality measures such as peer reviews or editing.

#### What are the consequences?

- Publications are considered unscientific and dubious by the scientific community, even if they are not.
- Publications are published that do not meet scientific standards.
- Negative impact on scientific careers
- Reputational damage for institutions
- Financial losses due to payments for services not rendered

#### Publishing Red Flags

- Aggressive advertising tactics with artificial time pressure
- Discounts for advance payment of APCs
- Open invitations to participate in the editorial board
- Outdated and unkept websites with dubious advertising and typos
- Incorrect or untraceable ISSNs
- Lack of transparency concerning peer reviewing

### How to spot Predatory Publishers

Identifying dubious journals can be very difficult. The following steps can help to assess journals:



Ask colleagues and supervisors for advice.



Use tools such as “Think – Check – Submit” or “Compass to Publish”.



Check the publishers memberships such as OASPA, COPE or STM.



Check if the publisher is listed in trusted directories such as the “Directory of Open Access Journals” (DOAJ).

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