

# Predatory Publishers

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In every scientific field and since more than 10 years ago already, a significant number of publishers have come out and, thus, there is a great deal of new “scientific” journals that offer the ways and means for the publication of scientific papers given the fact that Open Access makes it really easy.

This publishers charge the authors who want to publish their papers on the grounds that they have to remunerate the journals reviewers.

In the scientific milieu this publishers have been called “predatory” or “parasitic”. The common characteristics of them all are:

1. There are not such Reviewers and the papers are published without any kind of peer review.
2. They are not indexed in any international database.
3. They offer neither edition help nor assistance to authors to improve their work.
4. They do not file the papers in international repositories or records.
5. They do not follow institutional standard guidelines such as those issued by the World Association of Medical Editors (WAME), the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) and the Council of Science Editors (CSE).
6. They send authors massive e-mails offering quick publication of their work.
7. They charge authors some fee for publication. This should not be taken as the charges made by some journals for the papers to be published on Open Access; for example, the Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery.
8. They have a great online catalog which is inaccessible and non-functional (due to broken links, for instance); they have none or poor-quality papers published.
9. They neither have an operating telephone number, nor do they have fixed mailing address (a mailbox, for instance), or it is a residential address, not a commercial address.
10. They affirm falsely that they are indexed in databases such as DOAJ, Scopus, Web of Science, or PubMed Central. In Spanish, Dialnet, REDIB, RedALyC, SciELO, etc. They also lie about being members of the OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association) and the COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics).
11. The peer review process is not trustworthy, since they give the “reviewed” papers back to the authors very soon (about a week).
12. Many times the Executive Editors and the Reviewers are appointed as such in journals from diverse unrelated disciplines or specializations.
13. The names of the journals are similar to those of reputable, prestigious journals.

Jeaffrey Beall, a librarian at the Colorado University, Denver, was who coined the term “Predatory Publishers”, and since he has detected an astonishing great number of deceits of this sort. Beall used to keep a blog where he uploaded the names of such predatory publishers and, strikingly enough, some months ago he decided to delete this blog. When he was asked about his reasons, he stated that he was fed up with threats and insults, and he also alleged “political reasons”.

This should come as proof of the huge problem that this “Publishers” represent for the scientific knowledge, already sufficiently afflicted by diverse forms of fraud.

I decided to publish this Editorial to inform all users (Authors, Readers, Reviewers, etc.) for them to be aware of this state of affairs and for authors not to be taken in sending papers to these fake journals.

## Consulted and recommended bibliography

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