

Guideline for identifying predatory and non-predatory publications-FAHS

A) How to identify a predatory publishing of research articles?

Predatory publishing is an exploitative open access publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without proper editorial & publishing procedures and scientific standards or merit associated with legitimate academic journals. Predatory publishing includes many open-access journals.

B) Why it is important to get rid of predatory publishing?

1. University of Ruhuna has prepared a report based on a survey conducted on publications done by the academics of all the universities in Sri Lanka in different disciplines. Based on this report, a letter has been circulated to Vice Chancellors of all universities to make an awareness to all academic staff regarding the predatory publishing. This letter has been circulated to Deans of all the faculties in year 2019.

2. In promotion circular issued by UGC for the promotion to the Post of Professor/Associate Professor (Commission Circular 11/2019), it has clearly mentioned in the method of application in pages 2-3 that an application for a merit promotion or recruitment should be accompanied by evidence of substantive citation of the applicant's research work by the others (d), a declaration that each publication claimed for appointment/promotion is **not published in a predatory journal or by a predatory publisher** and for each publication, evidence for the journal is refereed, the journal has been published at least two issues per year during the preceding three years and the journal is non- predatory. UGC recommendation to check for predatory publishing is "Beall's List", a regularly updated report (<https://beallslist.weebly.com/>) (<https://beallslist.net/>) created by Jeffrey Beall to ensure that the journal is non-predatory (page 2-3 of the Commission Circular attached). You can check for predatory publishers, standalone journals and vanity press using this.

3. Council of the University of Peradeniya has decided to request for a compilation of research publications made by the academic staff of all the faculties each year. The letter circulated to Deans of all the faculties indicated that the faculty research committee has to check for the "appropriateness" of the publications which are included in the compilation.

Based on all the information gathered, FRC felt the need of a guideline to check for predatory publishing.

C) Some indications that the journal is predatory:

1. The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics.
2. The website contains spelling and grammar errors.

3. Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized.
4. The homepage language targets the authors.
5. The Index Copernicus value is promoted on the home page of the journal.
6. Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking.
7. Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email.
8. Rapid publication is promised.
9. There is no retraction policy.
10. Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent.
11. The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., < \$150 USD).

D) Non-predatory Journals

If an article is published in journals listed in the following recognized indices/ directories/databases it can be considered as a non-predatory journal.

1. Web of Science core collection (Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Emerging Sources Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, Book Citation Index, Conference Proceedings Citation Index) listed at <http://mjl.clarivate.com/>
2. National Library of Medicine catalogue (MEDLINE, PubMed and other NCBI databases) – <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/>
3. Scopus –<https://www.scopus.com/sources>
4. EBSCO – <https://www.ebsco.com/title-lists>
5. EMBASE – <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/embase-biomedicalresearch/embase-coverageand-content>
6. Journal Citation Reports (JCR) –<http://mjl.clarivate.com>
7. DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) – doaj.org
8. IMSEAR (Index Medicus of South East Asia Region) – WHO
[https://www.who.int/library/databases/searo/en/ 2 |](https://www.who.int/library/databases/searo/en/2)

or

8) If a journal which is a member of the following,

- COPE (Committee on Publishing Ethics)
- OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association)
- STM (International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers) □ WAME
(World Association of Medical Editors)

Screening of publications for FAHS Research Award

Publication in a non-predatory journal is one of the primary criteria used for annual FAHS research awards. The committee will apply the guidelines set in this document to screen the publications to check whether they are non-predatory publications by focusing specifically to identify questionable, predatory journals and publishers. The professional/academic body of the journal affiliated to, the number of years of continuous publication, on line only or print, article processing fees, would be taken into consideration when assessing publications in refereed, non-indexed journals. In instances where the journal is not listed in any of the listed databases the committee would go through the credentials of the journal independently and to evaluate the publications to be considered for a merit award.