

PREDATORY PUBLISHING

Concurrent to the increase in open access publishing is a proliferation of predatory publishers and conferences. The journals and conferences sound legitimate; however, the claimed peer-review process is a sham. Common hallmarks of predatory publishers may include a required fee to publish or present (though fees for publication in respected open access publications legitimately support publishing overhead), a short period between submissions and acceptance, a high acceptance rate, and fraudulent listings of editorial board members and impact measures.

Legitimate scholarship outlets are often differentiated from predatory publishers by the following:

LEGITIMATE JOURNALS/CONFERENCES	PREDATORY JOURNALS/CONFERENCES
Full contact information including a physical mailing address	Web contact information only
Editorial Board members are recognized with full affiliation information	Few members, often regionally located May use names of respected scholars without their permission
Solicitations rare, individualized, and most often associated with special subject matter editions	Mass e-mail solicitations
Established publication record with many issues	Few volumes and issues; more common in developing nations
Clearly-described peer-review process	Vague process with short submission/acceptance interval
Legitimate, confirmable impact factor*	Low or lacking impact factor in disciplines where impact factor can be properly gauged
Submission/acceptance process should be rigorous	Easy submission/acceptance process; if it looks too good to be true, it most likely is

* Journal Citation Reports (<https://clarivate.com/products/journal-citation-reports/>) provide confirmation of journal Impact Factor.

If there is doubt of the legitimacy of the journal or conference, discuss the outlet with departmental colleagues and other discipline peers.

The University Libraries have developed the following LibGuides which include links to *Cabell's Directory of Publishing Opportunities*, the *Directory of Open Access Journals*, and other resources:

Predators, Prey, and OA: Evaluating Open Access Publications

<https://libguides.southalabama.edu>

Scholarly Communications: Home

<https://libguides.southalabama.edu/scholcommun>