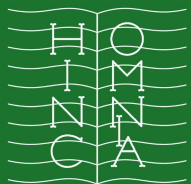




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Predatory journals and identity fraud of scientific journals

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Predatory journals

Predatory journals seem to be a well-recognized subject among scholars and research funding agencies, at least in developed countries.

There are some schemas of recognizing and avoiding publishing at predators.



Predatory journals

- Aggressive email campaign to submit articles / conference papers, or serve on editorial boards
- Predatory publishers often choose names confusingly similar to reputable titles (ex. Cambridge Scholars Publishing)
- The publisher claims to be a "leading publisher" even though it just got started
- Accepting articles quickly with little or no peer review or quality control (ex. "Fast, fair, and friendly proposal review")
- Charging publication fees to authors without checking articles for quality and legitimacy
- And without providing editorial and publishing services that legitimate academic journals provide (The publishing schedule is not clearly stated)
- Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission

<https://www.redactionmedicale.fr/2021/05/la-these-de-l-shamseer-ottawa-est-la-meilleur-analyse-des-revues-predatrices>

<https://lalist.inist.fr/?p=50181>

New challenge...



... the identity fraud of scientific journals

- hijacked journals
- cloned journals
- replica journals

Hijacked journals

- Establishing a fake website of scholarly journal, imitating the real one
- Identical or almost identical
- Contains authentic journal data (title, ISSN, address, editorial board members...)
- Modifications: more in English, enlarge journal profile, new bank account, new frequency, new e-mail addresses
- Modification: WEB domain address differs slightly
- Main goal: maximization of financial profit

Hijacked ≠ Predatory

- ★ They publish or not
- ★ They charge the access to journal archives

Investigations



- Less „popular” topic than predatory journals
- Investigations since 2014, including:
 - Short, warning, introductory articles
 - Open letters to editorial boards
 - General tips and algorithms helping to recognize hijacked journals
- Research provocations vs. research investigations

“The full story of 90 hijacked journals from August 2011 to June 2015”

An article by Mehردادا Jalalian and Mehdib Dadkhah (Iran)

Geographica Pannonica, 2015, vol. 19, p. 73-87

They revealed:

Nicknames of three biggest, working independently, cyber criminals:

- “James Robinson”
- “Ruslan Boranbaev”
- A professor of informatics from Saudi Arabia (with his team in Pakistan)

Characteristics of cyber criminals

- Advanced IT skills
- Complex strategy
- Newest achievements in email marketing
- Knowledge of research evaluation issues and academic career path (ex. the need of „publish or perish”)
- Thoughtful selection of „victims”
- Young researchers from developing countries & elder researchers less technologically savvy

Characteristics of hijacked journals

- Prestige of journal
- Citation index
- Indexed in databases
- However, not highest in the rankings (email invitation would not be reliable...)
- Most endangered:
 - less known specialized, non-English journals
 - published by small learned societies (Fr. *sociétés savantes*)
 - in print version only
- High positioning in Google
- Hacking of Wikipedia websites and/or Web of Science (by inserting links to fake journal websites)

★ Difficult to chase and punish:

- hidden websites
- registered not in the country of original journal
- registered in countries beyond the Western legal regulations
- the only way to warn: announcements and alerts on websites of original journals

★ One of the first hijacked journals (2011): *Archives des Sciences* (<http://www.unige.ch/sphn/>) published by Société de Physique et d'Histoire Naturelle de Genève.

Dadkhah et al. (2016a; 2016b) elaborated an algorithm helping detect hijacked journals.

They created a decision tree based on nine potential attributes of hijacked journals.

Date	Number of hijacked journals
22/06/2014	16
07/02/2015	34
04/12/2015	96
29/02/2016	106
19/12/2016	115

Source: (Białka, 2020)

Based on black lists of Jalalian and Beall (both are archived and not currently updated!)

Example from Poland - Sylwan

<http://sylwan.ibles.org/>

<https://sylwan.lasy.gov.pl/apex/f?p=105:1:.....>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sylwan>

Risks

- Endangering integrality of scholarly communication
 - Violating the reliability of scholarly publications
 - Deforming the image of science.
 - Inappropriate spending of public funds (received from research grants, etc.)
-

Hijacked journals are more dangerous for science than predatory journals:

- They might published more manuscripts since they pretend to be original journals
- They are not indexed
- They do not archive their content

How to prevent?

Education

- legal awareness
- knowledge of scholarly communication process
- good practices

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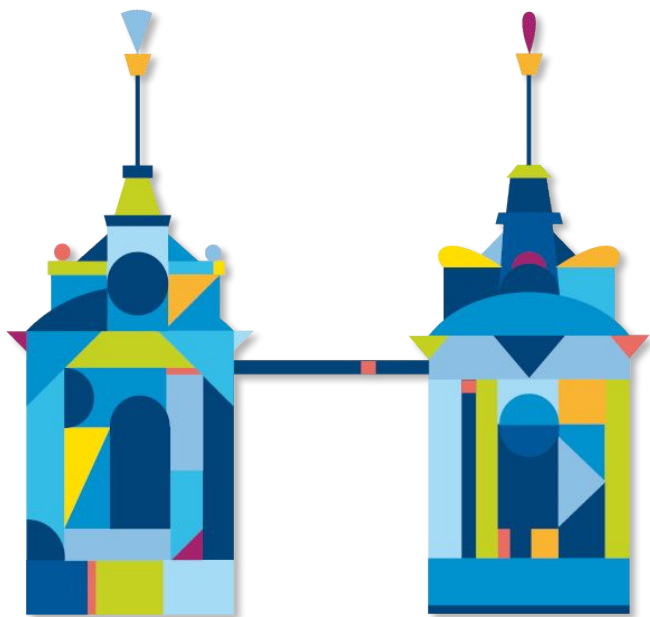
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