

# Predatory Publishing in Biomedicine: What Researchers Need to Know

Natalie Tagge, Education Services Librarian

Stephanie Roth, Biomedical and Research Services Librarian

Annie Johnson, Scholarly Communications Specialist

**International Academy of Science, Engineering and Technology  
(IASET)**

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**Important Dates:**

Issue: **Feb 2017**

Submission Deadline:

**7 FEB 2017**

Notification to Authors  
(Acceptance/  
Rejection): **within 3  
days of manuscript  
submission**

Publication Date  
(Online): **within 3-4  
days from the date of  
CRT form and  
payment receipt.**

Online paper  
submission:

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# What is predatory publishing?

- Predatory publishers run online journals that will accept almost any paper submitted. Many also run conferences.
- They offer little in terms of copy editing or peer review.
- Journal websites may include false information about impact factors, editorial board members, and other affiliations.
- **The line between predatory and low quality is often blurry.**

# How big is the problem?

- It's hard to know for sure. One recent study estimated that there are more than 600 predatory journals which published 420,000 articles in 2014. Another study puts the number at far fewer: around 120,000 articles for 2014.
- Many scientific journals, but all disciplines are represented.
- Scholars of all ranks and from all over the world have been taken advantage of by these publishers.

# In the news

- December 2016 NYT article: “A Peek Inside the Strange World of Fake Academia”
- August 2016 Inside Higher Ed article: “Feds Target ‘Predatory’ Publishers”

How do you decide if a journal is suspicious?

# Example 1: *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Is this journal suspicious?

Would you want to publish in this journal?

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Check Quality of Articles Published in the Journal



# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

## Materials and Methods

Experimental research with quantitative and qualitative approach that does not follow the guidelines of the research under control as it is in the basic sciences. There is research, which while not having random distribution of the subjects or control groups, are developed quite rigorous methodology and approach to be quite basic experimental research [4]. Opting for this type of study it is given by the fact that through an experimental study it is possible to see what happens, when it happens, who is and how it occurs, making it possible to analyze cause-effect relationships; are studies that provide validation of clinical practice and rationale to change specific aspects of practice being useful for the development of nursing knowledge for testing the effects of nursing actions [5]. When we use the quantitative and qualitative approach to research, we allow each method plays its part by avoiding limitations of the unique approach thus leading to the enrichment of the research. Although qualitative data prevail in the field of study, researchers sometimes may include quantitative measures to work to take advantage of a more structured information gathering [6].

The site chosen for data collection was the CTI of two district hospitals of the City of Rio de Janeiro. The collect data started after the approval of the Ethics in Research of the Municipal Health Secretariat of Rio de Janeiro numbering 0054.0.314.000-09 and 0055.0.314.000-09 Committee and thus serve the requirements of Resolution 466/2012 National Health Council.

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Who is the publisher?

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Who is the publisher?

Omics International=publisher

Recent Inside Higher Ed article: “Feds Target  
‘Predatory’ Publishers”

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Check if Journal is in the Directory of Open Access Journals: <https://doaj.org/>

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

Check if Journal is in the Directory of Open Access Journals: <https://doaj.org/>

(This journal is not.)

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

See if PubMed indexes journal

Go to PubMed

Drop down to NLM Catalog

Search for journal

Click on Journals Currently Indexed in Medline

# *Evidence Based Medicine and Practice*

This journal is not indexed by PubMed/Medline.

## Example 2: *Systematic Reviews*

Is this journal suspicious?

Would you want to publish in this journal?



# *Systematic Reviews*

Check Quality of Methods Section in Article

# Systematic Reviews

## **Methods:**

### **Literature search**

We conducted a systematic search using Ovid MEDLINE(R) (1946 to present), Embase (1974 to 2015), PsycINFO (1987 to 2015), Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials, and CINAHL. The search was conducted by a trained research librarian from inception to April 2015 (Additional file 2). We also emailed three noted scholars in the fields of frailty and/or caregiver burden, who did not identify any additional studies.

### **Study selection**

Our inclusion criteria were defined a priori. We included English-language studies that included family caregivers of community-dwelling older adults and reported on caregiver burden. Experimental [randomized controlled trial (RCT), controlled trial, quasi-randomized trial, and quasi-experimental], observational (before/after study, prospective cohort study, retrospective cohort study, case-control study, analytic or descriptive cross-sectional study, case report, and case series), and qualitative studies were considered eligible. Systematic reviews addressing our research question were included to identify additional eligible studies. Book chapters, symposium and conference proceedings, essays, editorials, letters, commentaries, narrative reviews, and protocols were excluded.

# *Systematic Reviews*

Who is the publisher?

# *Systematic Reviews*

Who is the publisher?

(BMC) BioMed Central=publisher

BioMed Central is owned by Springer Nature.

STM (Science, Technology and Medicine) publisher with a large portfolio of peer-reviewed open access journals

<https://www.biomedcentral.com>

# *Systematic Reviews*

Check if Journal is in the Directory of Open Access Journals: <https://doaj.org/>

(This journal is in the DOAJ!)

# Systematic Reviews

Verify that the journal is really indexed by PubMed.

Authors are asked to pay article-publishing charges on acceptance; the ability to pay does not influence editorial decisions.

## Ownership

Wholly-owned by the BMJ Publishing Group.

## Journal Statistics

<b>Acceptance rate</b>	55% (2016)
<b>Frequency</b>	Continuous
<b>Impact Factor</b>	2.562
<b>Indexed By</b>	Science Citation Index Expanded (Web of Science), PubMed, PubMed Central, Medline, Scopus, Google Scholar, CAB Abstracts, Global Health (CABI)
<b>Launch Date</b>	2011
<b>Lead times</b>	Median time to first decision 2016: 50 days
<b>ISSN</b>	2044-6055

# *Systematic Reviews*

See if PubMed indexes journal

Go to PubMed

Drop down to NLM Catalog

Search for journal

Click on Journals Currently Indexed in Medline

# *Systematic Reviews*

This journal is indexed by PubMed/Medline.

PubMed: V1, 2012-  
PMC

**Current Format Status:** Electronic only

**Current Indexing Status:** Currently indexed for MEDLINE.

**Current Subset:** Index Medicus

**Version Indexed:** Electronic

**MeSH:** Meta-Analysis as Topic  
Research Design  
Review Literature as Topic\*

**Broad Subject Term(s):** Medicine



# Quick tips and reminders

- Think. Check. Submit.
- Look at the quality of the articles published in the journal.
- Check to see if the journal is indexed in PubMed and included in DOAJ
- Spam emails may = scam alert (*Dear esteemed scholar...*)
- Google the journal to find out what others are saying.
- Don't be afraid to validate affiliations, editorial board members, and impact factors.
- When in doubt contact the library to check for you:  
Ginsburg Library (215) 707-2665 (<http://library.temple.edu/hsl/ask>)

# For more information

[Open Access for Health Information Research Guide](#)

Natalie Tagge, [natalie.tagge@temple.edu](mailto:natalie.tagge@temple.edu)

Stephanie Roth, [stephanie.roth@temple.edu](mailto:stephanie.roth@temple.edu)

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