



Editorial

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In the era of predatory publishing: rethink before you submit

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In the era of predatory publishing: rethink before you submit



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Editorial

Publication in journals plays a crucial role in academic and professional career; is a well known fact. Publishing in a high-quality peer-reviewed journal is a prime target for the young researchers for their future career. Promotion related issues are most common of their interest. A large number of journals available worldwide fulfilling the demands of authors. There is no doubt that this is also a big business which gives birth of predatory publishers. Scholars should carefully evaluate and select the publications in which they wish to disseminate their work. The trend of predatory publishing is not so old. Past 10 years there is a boom in the number of newly-formed scholarly journals, so called the “predatory publishers”. Broadly the term may be used to describe a variety of malpractices amongst them. Most of the predatory publications are online, finding ways to extract money in the form of publication fee, submission fee, processing fee, without providing any proper editorial or publishing services. The chief motive of them is to generate money with little or no investment. Authors use to get bulk number of spam emails from the publishers inviting submissions. Mostly these emails are targeted to young faculties. Sometime they are luring to serve on editorial boards. Most of these emails are erroneous and their websites have lots of flaws, ESL, typos, dead links etc. One can easily characterize them through their so called campaign words.

Most common characteristics of the predatory publishers

- un-solicited invitation to submit an article for publication
- minimal peer review process
- high manuscript acceptance rates
- little attention paid to digital preservation
- no indexations
- short life span of journals
- no archiving policy

One of the serious concern is that Editorial Board members listed in the journal website do not have proper affiliations, sometimes all of the members are from the same place. The most interesting part is that some of them offering to publish within 24-48 hours, where as the period for the quality journals are quite long. After submission, articles are accepted by predatory publishers with little or almost nil peer review or changes requested.

Another concerning issue is the editorial faculty credentials faked, or used without permission and knowledge of the concerned person. Authors comes to know about fees after acceptance, without prior mention. Wrong or fake physical address commonly displayed in the websites. So it is strongly recommended to authors that you should check among your colleagues, if everyone in your department got the email then you should probably pass.

Predatory practices even extend to conferences and associated conference proceedings to lure students, scientists, young researchers. To gather submissions, adopting this malpractice quite common. One should look carefully in the website, does it look legitimate? Read carefully the authors instruction page, is there any clear indication about publishing fees? Do you or anyone of your colleagues recognize the Editorial Board? So be careful next time when you receive overly-flattering, unsolicited invitations to submit work to journals or to become an editorial board member.