

LIBRARY APPETIZER

Be On Your Guard: Predatory Journals and Other Fraudulent Practices

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What Are the „Library Appetizers“?

- A quick insight into services the Library offers for researchers
- An opportunity to get in touch with us & get questions answered
- In English & online, to make it the most accessible



Predatory Publishing in a Nutshell

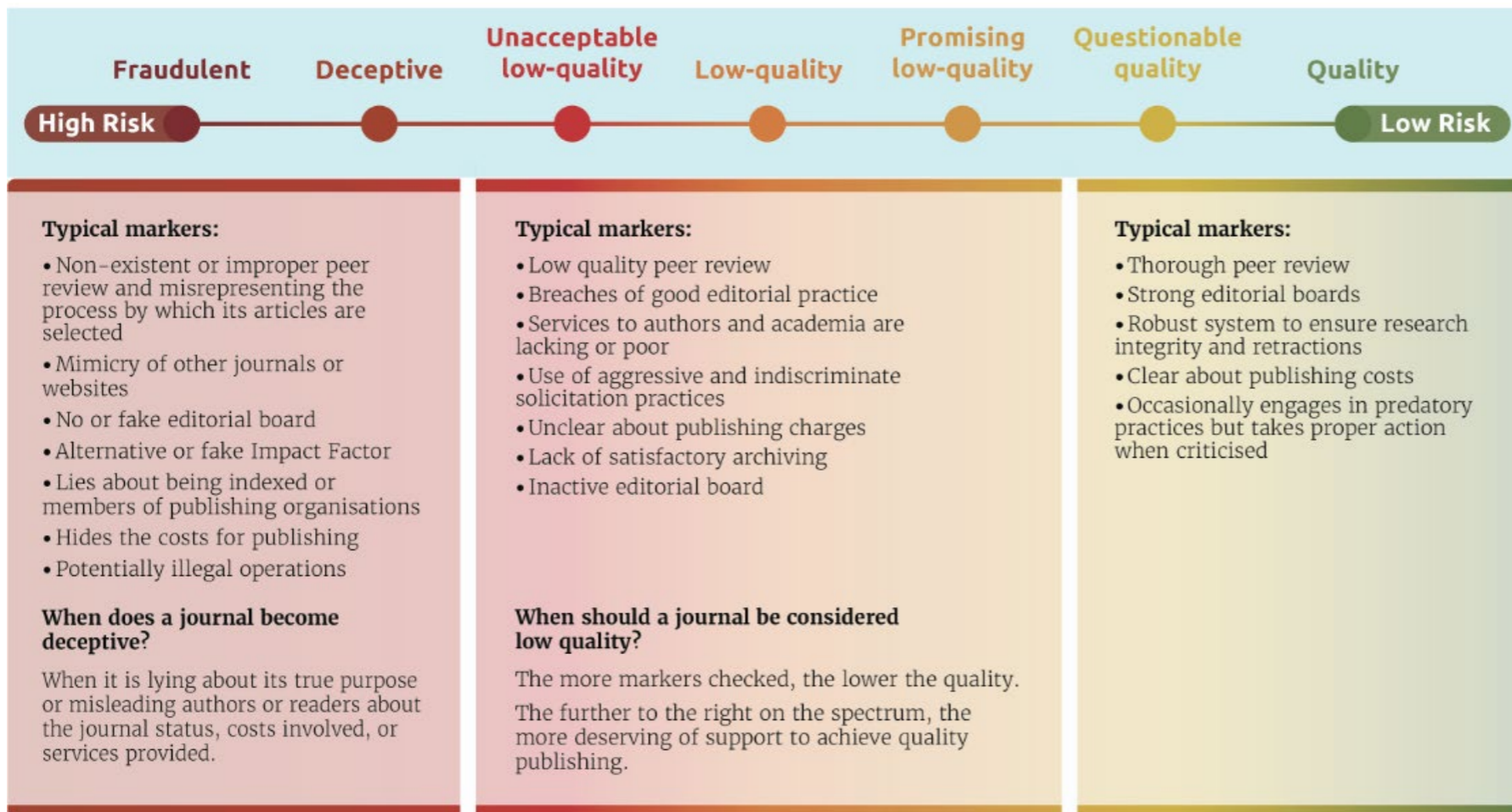
- Evolved from the OA environment
- Adopts the OA business model (author pays)
- Acts completely profit-oriented
- Takes advantage of academic researchers' need to publish their results
- Provides rapid publishing without proper peer-review
- High acceptance rates for submissions
- Applies to journals, publishers and conferences

The Good vs. The Bad?



IAP, Combatting Predatory Journals and Conferences, 2022, <https://www.interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing>

... and the Inbetween!



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Library Handout with Journal Quality Markers

We address editorial quality not the quality of the content!



IS THE JOURNAL TRUSTWORTHY?

It is crucial to choose a trustworthy journal for your manuscript submission. The indicators listed can provide clues as to how legitimate a journal is and help you to place it on a quality spectrum.

1

The reputation and focus of the journal:

- You and your colleagues are already familiar with this journal and its publisher.
- This journal has already been published in by renowned scientists in your field.
- Its content focus is clearly defined and consistently adhered to.
- The title of the journal is unique and cannot easily be confused with that of another journal.

2

The publisher and its website:

- Information about the editorial board is available.
- The editors can be contacted by telephone or email.
- The publisher has its own email domain.
- The publisher's homepage contains the company's current address.
- The website is written in an appropriate language for the subject area and is free of grammatical and spelling errors.
- The website is unique and does not resemble any other well-known journal's website.
- The journal's homepage contains information for authors, particularly regarding the APC (article processing charge).

Predatory Journals - Not a Marginal Phenomenon



Susanne Luger: How did we get here?, 23.5.2023, <https://in-transition.at/how-did-we-get-here/>

Why Is It a Problem?

For authors

- Loss of research results, not visible/findable/no longer accessible
- Results are not trusted as they are published alongside incorrect/false results
- Waste of time and money
- Damage to reputation and career

For institutions

- Damage to reputation
- Reduced attractiveness as a place to study and work

For science in general

- Good scientific practice is being undermined
- Contributions to science are lost

For society

- Science scepticism - As science is a pillar of society and democracy, it has to be of quality
- People need to trust that the foundation is sound and solid

Other Questionable Practices

Hijacked journals

- Produce duplicate or fake websites of legitimate journals
- Use the title, ISSN and other information of the reputable journal

Paper mills

- Sell whole research papers, authorship positions or citations
- Papers may be plagiarized, AI-compiled, based on falsified data

Citation manipulation to inflate citation rates

- Editors press authors to cite a specific journal/paper
- Fake papers that cite other (fake) papers

Fake peer review

Fake conferences

Fake metrics

Predatory university rankings

First Aid Kit

- [Think. Check. Submit.](#)
 - For conferences: [Think. Check. Attend.](#)
- [DOAJ](#)
- [Cabells Predatory Reports*](#)
- Journal indexed in [Scopus*](#) or [Web of Science*](#), [PubMed](#) (biomedical field)
- [Retraction Watch Hijacked Journals Checker](#)

... when in doubt, ask your librarian!

* Licensed Library resources, access via [DBIS](#)

[Predatory Publishing info on
the Library website](#)



MOOC

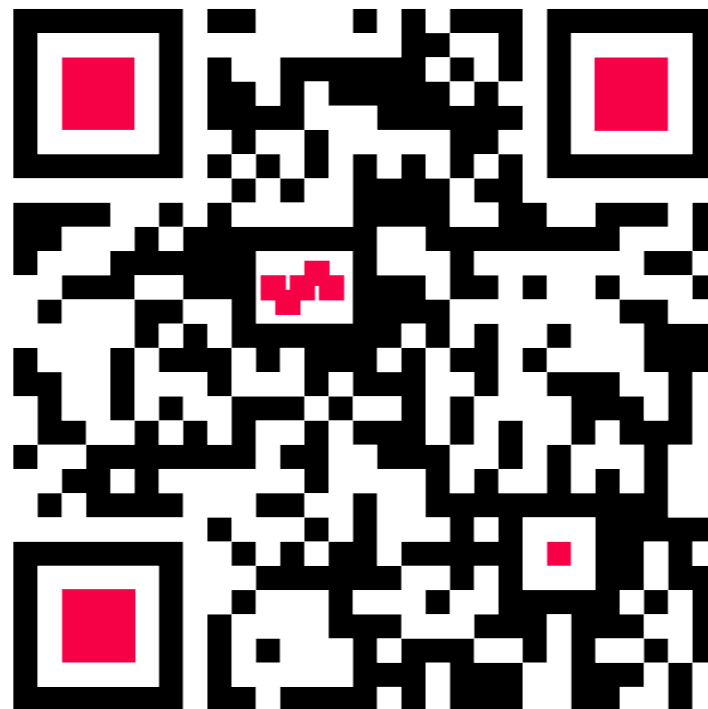
Predatory Praktiken im Kontext der Integrität und Qualität wissenschaftlicher Publikationen

- 3 units
- 3 hours/unit
- free of charge

<https://imoox.at/course/predatory>



Feedback



<https://indico.tugraz.at/event/142/surveys/46>

Contact

E-Mail: service.bibliothek@tugraz.at

Website: <https://www.tugraz.at/sites/bibliothek-und-archiv>

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TU Graz Library and Archives

More Library Appetizers & Events

- **27/05/2026** Journal Citation Reports & Impact Factor
- **24/06/2026** Open Access Funding @ TU Graz

General overview:

