THE GREAT ACADEMIC PUBLISHING RACKET

The Publishing Process, Journals of Ill Repute, and the Importance of Open Access
THE TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING MODEL
PUBLISHING IS IMPORTANT!

Why?
- Share and Promote New Ideas
- Advance Evidence-Based Practice
- Get Cited
- Promotion and Tenure
WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS?

- Author (that’s you!)
- Journal
- Editor
- Peer Reviewers
- Publisher
Publishing an Academic Journal Article

An overview of the publishing process

1. Manuscript
2. Submission
3. Review
4. Edits
5. Publication
As an author, you have the ability to negotiate and retain certain rights to your work!

Read the publication agreement carefully...some publishers are open to negotiating terms such as:

- Publishing the final version of your article to your website.
- Republishing the work in a later work of your own.
- Granting permission for others to use your work.
WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

university
(taxpayer $, tuition $, etc.)

+ grant

pay faculty to do research & report on results in articles

faculty give away articles & copyright to publishers for free
(and other researchers peer review for free)

& publishers rake in all the
(and it is BIG)

Elsevier's profit margin exceeded Google's!

... and many students, researchers, and others still can't get the articles they need & libraries cannot afford many journals.

Source: http://justpublics365.commons.gc.cuny.edu/files/2014/10/Problem-infographic3.jpg
GLOBAL PRODUCTION OF ARTICLES

~ 2.5 million English language articles per year

~ 3% - 7% annual growth rate

Over 90% of all journals are now online (96% STM; 87% SS & Humanities ... in 2008)

~ 12% of all articles published are in *legitimate* OA journals (2014)

(Ware & Mabe, The STM Report. 2015)
SUBSCRIPTION JOURNAL MARKET

- 88% of the journal share is subscription-based
- Majority owned by 5 very profitable companies (Elsevier, Springer, Wiley, Taylor & Francis, SAGE …)
- Profit margins: 30% - 40% (in contrast: Apple, 23%; Eli Lilly, 20%; Berkshire Hathaway, 11%)
- Subscription prices increase by 6% - 7% per year


Image: Flaticon
IF GASOLINE PRICES KEPT PACE WITH JOURNAL PRICES …

$4,276
Average price for a subscription to a Chemistry or Physics journal in 2015

Odell, 2016. The Lewis .... http://hdl.handle.net/1805/8684
THE CATCH

- Only the publisher is paid for their work...and they, arguably, do the least amount.
- Anyone who wants the information in these journals must pay for it.
- The same institutions that pay for your time to create the research must also pay to access it.

Source: https://xkcd.com/2025/
12 YEARS!
(Peer reviewed, paywalled, Elsevier, JIF 47.83)

Lancet Renounces Study Linking Autism And Vaccines
February 2, 2010 - 12:25 PM ET
SCOTT HENSLEY

It took 12 years, but the medical journal the Lancet has retracted once and for all a controversial paper that drew a link between vaccines and autism and helped fuel a backlash against immunization of children.
Paywalled, “peer reviewed,” Elsevier journals

Elsevier published 6 fake journals

Scientific publishing giant Elsevier put out a total of six publications between 2000 and 2005 that were sponsored by unnamed pharmaceutical companies and looked like peer reviewed medical journals, but did not disclose sponsorship, the company has admitted. Elsevier is conducting an “internal review” of its publishing practices after allegations came to light that the company produced a pharmaceutical company-funded publication in the early 2000s without disclosing that the “Journal”

By Bob Grant | May 7, 2009
WHAT IS A PREDATORY JOURNAL?

- A journal that isn’t clear with their intentions!

Things to look out for…

- Claims peer review, but offers a short turn-around time
- Poorly designed website
- Overly broad content
- Dubious editorial board
- Lies about association memberships and/or database inclusion

They charge a fee, and then they don’t deliver on what they’ve promised.
YES, WE HAVE A GLOBAL PROBLEM!
420,000 “ARTICLES” IN 2014 (SHEN AND BJORK)?

Fig. 3
The development of predatory open access article volumes from 2010 to 2014

Shen and Bjork, 2015
WHO WRITES THESE ARTICLES?

U.S. authors: 6% of sample

Stratified sample: 200 articles from 47 journals

Shen and Bjork, 2015
India: 27% of sample (> 10% of national output; Scopus)
USA: 15% of sample (< 1% of national output; Scopus)
WHY DO AUTHORS SUBMIT TO FRAUDULENT JOURNALS?

71% of respondents unaware that the journal could not be trusted

Sample: 96 authors
(61% published in a journal from their country)

“I sent my paper to that journal because I checked its editorial pages and I found [that its] editors [were] from India. Since I am also from India, I thought this journal would understand my paper more and decide accordingly.”

(Kurt, 2018)
The problem of predatory journals

The number of illegitimate journals is exploding — and they could hurt your career. Here's how to avoid falling prey.

Eroding science

Open access could soon become more prevalent. For example, in September 2018, 11 agencies that award around $8.8 billion in annual research grants announced that they would require the scientists they fund to make their papers free to read upon publication, starting in 2020. The initiative, called Plan S, comes from funders in 11 different European countries.
BUT DO WE HAVE A PROBLEM AT IUPUI?
IUPUI ARTICLES IN “PREDATORY” JOURNALS?

[https://doi.org/10.1038/549023a](https://doi.org/10.1038/549023a)

Sample size: 1,907 articles in 200 journals

IUPUI = 0
IUPUI articles = 6
(about 1 per year)

5 corresponding authors
(4 with tenure at date of publication)
IUPUI OA Fund Requests (2013-Present)

Total Requests for Support: 176

Requests Denied for Journal Quality: 3 (2%)

(OA Journal not included in the DOAJ)

2 = Oncotarget (http://www.oncotarget.com)
[Indexed in Web of Science 2017; IF 5.8]

1 = International Journal of Emerging Technology and Advanced Engineering
(http://www.ijetae.com/)
MEANWHILE ... IS THIS AN “EXPLODING” PROBLEM?

### IUPUI Articles 2017
(excluding Medicine)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trusted?</th>
<th>Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1080 (98.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No (appears to be disreputable)</td>
<td>14 (1.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maybe</td>
<td>5 (.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1099</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No evidence of dishonesty, but below threshold for “trusted” (e.g., not in the DOAJ)

Journal requires an APC and makes false claims about indexing, etc.
LEADING INDICATORS THAT A JOURNAL ISN’T REPUTABLE

- **Not indexed** by the DOAJ: [https://doaj.org/](https://doaj.org/)
- Website or email is too general or **full of errors**.
- The journal makes **false claims** about indexing in PubMed, DOAJ, etc.
- The journal makes **false claims** about location of publication (e.g., title says “American” but it is published in Nigeria)
- Articles published by the journal are **poorly written** by authors you’ve never heard of and … often on topics that are not within scope.
- The article fee is not disclosed or is **too low** ($150.00-$200.00).
- The contact email is **non-professional**: gmail or yahoo.
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER...

- Is it clear what fees will be charged, if any? What are the fees?
- Can you easily identify and contact the editor and/or the publisher?
- Who are the editor(s) and what are their institutional affiliations?
- Is the journal listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) or a similar organization? Which ones?
- Are the articles in the journal found in databases that you use? Which ones?
- Are there grammar and spelling concerns?
- Does the website talk about peer-review and what is the turnaround time?
- Does the website look legitimate? Why or why not?
THINGS TO AVOID...

- Immediately writing off journals published in the developing world
- Using pre-determined journal “blacklists”
- Ignoring new journals just because they are new
- Publishing in any journal that solicits your work AND asks you to pay them

Source: https://anrinfo.org/mistakes-to-avoid-on-facebook/
THINGS TO EXPLORE...

- **Think. Check. Submit.**
  - Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.

- **The Be iNFORMEd Checklist** – Duke University Medical Center Library & Archives
  - Get a suspicious invitation to publish? Find a new journal and want to know if it meets your quality standards? Duke developed this checklist to help potential authors determine whether a journal or publisher is potentially predatory or of low quality.

- **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)**
  - DOAJ is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

- **Publishing Process Overview** – University of Rochester, River Campus
  - Much of the Publishing Process section of this presentation is collected here, along with other great tips!
OPEN ACCESS
ACADEMIC IRONY...
OPEN ACCESS AT IUPUI

IUPUI has a national reputation for best practices in OA dissemination

Open scholarship in promotion and tenure guidelines

"VCU Promotion and tenure committees should recognize that publication and editorial effort in open access, peer-reviewed journals or re-publication of peer-reviewed articles in an open access repository offers added value and greater public good than scholarship made only available in expensive journal publications.

"The academy should adopt existing frameworks for tenure and promotion, and merit-based incentives to account for alternative forms of publication and research output including data papers, public data sets, and digital products. Value inheres in data as a standalone research output.

"IUPUI is committed to disseminating the fruits of its research and scholarly activities as widely as possible and as such supports faculty participating in digital open access distribution of their scholarship.

"Harvard’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) announcement a pilot project recommending to faculty engaged in a review, promotion, or tenure process to use Harvard’s open-access repository...as part of their preparations.

McKiernan, Get that promotion.
IUPUI LEADS INDIANA IN THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES IN LEGITIMATE OA JOURNALS

The Rise of Gold OA in Indiana 2010-2016

- IUPUI
- IUB
- Purdue
- Notre Dame

Odell, 2016. Gold ....
65%-70% of articles (2015-2017) by IUPUI authors are free to read

IUPUI Open Access Policy

The IUPUI Faculty Council adopted an open access policy on October 7th, 2014. This policy shows IUPUI’s commitment to disseminating the fruits of research and scholarship as widely as possible. Open access policies increase authors’ rights, readership and citation rates for scholarly articles. The opt out provision ensures that all faculty authors have the freedom to publish in the journal of their choice.

Deposit Your Article
Upload the accepted manuscript of your scholarly article.

Opt Out / Embargo
Upload the accepted manuscript to select an embargo date or to opt out for an article.

Get a Waiver
Generate a signed letter to verify an article’s exemption from the policy.

OA Policy
Read the IUPUI Open Access Policy.

OA Policy FAQ
Learn about the features of the policy.

Contact
Ask questions. Get help.

Center for Digital Scholarship, IUPUI University Library, 2017.
**FINAL THOUGHTS...**

- Open access gives anyone with an internet connection access to research.

- This access exists regardless of income, education, geographic location, or any other factor.

- It also promotes citizen science, and helps to create a more informed public.

Source(s):
- http://med.stanford.edu/ourvoice.html
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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