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Scholarly Journals-Beware the Predators

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Scholarly Journals-Beware the Predators

Or Teaching Students to Identify Scholarly
Journals-It's Not as Simple as It Used to Be

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

- Journals were easy to identify
- Signs were
 - Peer review
 - Written by professors, doctors, researchers
 - Little advertising
 - Published quarterly, biannually, annually
 - Often had “journal” in title

Easily Identifiable Meant Easy to Teach

- If it walked like a journal, talked like a journal, and looked like a journal, it was a journal.



versus



With **Predatory Journals** The Good Old Days Are Over.



- **Predatory Journals**
- exist solely to for the purpose of making money not producing scholarship
- They do this by author fees far above the cost of running their “low-quality, fly-by-night operations”
- They make bogus claims of adhering to the peer review process (Berger and Cirasella, 2015).

The Watchdogs

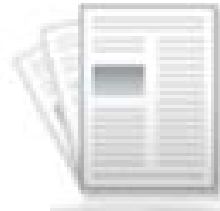
- Blacklist
- “Scholarly Open Access: A Critical Analysis of Scholarly-Open Access Publishing” or Beall’s List by Jeffry Beall at <https://scholarlyoa.com/individual-journals/>
 - Maintains a list of possibly predatory Open Access publishers
- Whitelist
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
 - Vets Open Access journals before listing them

Identifying a Predatory Journal takes time and effort

- Beall's 6 Ways to Identify a Predatory Publisher
 1. No formal editorial/review board identified
 2. No digital preservation policies or practices
 3. Creates many journals at once using the same template for all of them
 4. Uses unethical practices with regard to author fees
 5. Journal name doesn't reflect origin
 6. Fabricates impact factor or international standing (Bealle, 2013).

Can We Really On The Databases?

Can we rely on



Academic
Journal

And

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals ?

It's Not So Simple...



- “We need to examine the general assumption that the content providers libraries depend on have carefully examined and filtered content prior to its adoption in standard products offered to libraries” (Nelson and Huffman, 2015, p. 171).

Results of Nelson Huffman's Study

TABLE 4 Percentages of predatory journals in databases/index

Database or Index Name	Number of Journal Titles Associated with Predatory Publishers	Number of Journal Titles in Database or Index	Percent of Journal Titles Associated with Predatory Publishers (%)
Academic OneFile	6	16,555	0.04
Academic Search Complete	55	13,787	0.40
DOAJ	812	9,709	8.36
ProQuest Central	299	21,174	1.41

The Future

- “**Scholarly communication awareness and information literacy** should be integral for teaching librarians” (Warren and Duckett, quoted by Nelson and Huffman, 2015, p. 175).
- Consideration should be given to what Bealle calls “**scholarly publishing literacy**” (Nelson and Huffman, 2015, p. 175).

Questions To Ponder

- To what extent do we incorporate scholarly publishing literacy into our
 - RIL instruction
 - RIL textbook
 - Library instruction

- Bealle, J. (2013). *6 ways to identify OA predatory journal publishers*. [SlideShare]. Retrieved from <http://www.slideshare.net/TAAAuthors/6-waysoa-journalbeall-slideshare>
- Berger, M., & Cirasella, J. (2015). Beyond Beall's List Better understanding predatory publishers. *College & Research Libraries News*, 76(3), 132-135.
- Nelson, N. & Huffman, J. (2015) Predatory Journals in Library Databases: How Much Should We Worry?, *The Serials Librarian*, 69(2), 169-192, DOI: 10.1080/0361526X.2015.1080782