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

Michael Kahn, Learning Commons Librarian
The College of New Rochelle, Brooklyn Campus
• 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
  - 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 (Beall, 2013).
Can We Really On The Databases?

Can we rely on

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database or Index Name</th>
<th>Number of Journal Titles Associated with Predatory Publishers</th>
<th>Number of Journal Titles in Database or Index</th>
<th>Percent of Journal Titles Associated with Predatory Publishers (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic OneFile</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16,555</td>
<td>0.04</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Search Complete</td>
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<td>13,787</td>
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<td>DOAJ</td>
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<td>ProQuest Central</td>
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<td>21,174</td>
<td>1.41</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• “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
