

DETECTING AND AVOIDING PREDATORY JOURNALS AND CONFERENCES

Predatory journals and conferences are becoming increasingly common in the publishing landscape. Aside from the financial costs, attending a predatory conference or publishing in a disreputable journal may also cause reputational damage to you and to GPRC.

Knowing the difference between a predatory and a legitimate publisher is not always easy. Below is a resource to help you determine the legitimacy of an academic publisher.

Predatory Journals

These “journals” charge high fees to publish but usually lack editorial standards. Contributors to the journal do not receive the traditional benefits from publishing (for example, peer review, copyediting, archiving, and marketing).

- ▶ Do articles published in this journal seem polished and well-researched, with no grammatical or spelling errors?
- ▶ Does the publisher have a clear, specific mandate? (Examples of vague, “red flag” mandates: “to further innovation and research” or “to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge”).
- ▶ Do editorial board members have appropriate credentials and up-to-date contact information? Do they work at recognized and respected institutions?
- ▶ Is the fee structure clearly described and itemized?

Predatory Conferences

These conferences are usually poorly organized and lack peer review. Like their journal counterparts, predatory conferences tend to extend unsolicited invitations via email. The organizer will sometimes host a large number of unrelated conferences at the same date and venue to maximize profits.

- ▶ Have any of your colleagues attended this event in the past and spoken well of it? Is it annual/recurring?
- ▶ Do you recognize the name of the hosting institution? Is it well-regarded?
- ▶ Do you recognize the names and institutions of any of the keynote speakers?

If you're ever uncertain about the legitimacy of a publisher or conference, contact:

* This resource was developed with information compiled by the University of Calgary library.

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