



Quick and Easy Peer Review Processes: Too Good to be True Avoid Predatory Journal Traps

Alison H. Edie, DNP, MSN, BSN
Jamie L. Conklin, MSLIS
Marilyn Oermann, PhD, RN, FAAN

STTI 44th Biennial Convention
October 30, 2017

Disclosures

We have no actual or potential conflict of interest in relation to this presentation.

Alison H. Edie, DNP, MSN, BSN¹

Jamie L. Conklin, MSLIS²

Marilyn Oermann, PhD, RN, FAAN¹

(1)School of Nursing, Duke University School of Nursing, Durham, NC, USA

(2)Duke Medical Center Library & Archives, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

Learning Objectives

1. Characterize the peer review processes of predatory nursing journals in order to be able to identify whether a journal is predatory or not.
2. Differentiate between a legitimate peer review process and an illegitimate one in order to avoid publishing in a low quality journal.

Peer Review

- Assists in establishing the quality of the research methods, accuracy and timeliness of the content, relevance of the manuscript to the mission of the journal, and value of its contents to readers.
- Provides authors with feedback for revision, which improves the quality of the final submission.

Predatory Journals

Journals from publishers with questionable practices and possibly in business to collect author fees

- typically charge an Article Processing Charge (APC)
- peer review is of low quality or nonexistent
- may not be digitally preserved
- false claims regarding indexing
- timing: not listed or short time

“10 days for submitting your valuable comments.”

(Shen & Bjork, 2015); (Beall, 2015)

Predatory Journals

Study of Predatory Open Access Nursing Journals

- Identified 140 predatory nursing journals.
- About two-thirds ($n = 94$, 67.1%) indicated that submitted manuscripts were peer reviewed.
- Many of the journal websites ($n=66$, 71.7%) included a description of the peer review process.

(Oermann, et al., 2016)

Purpose of this Study

To examine the legitimacy of the peer review process as described in the publishing guidelines in predatory nursing journals

Methods

- Study sample n=53 journals identified as having peer review processes from previous study (n=140)
- Literature review to identify peer review quality indicators
- Created spreadsheet to collect quality indicator data
- Team of 2 reviewed the peer review descriptions on journal websites
- Gathered descriptive statistics and qualitative data

Methods - Quality Indicators

- Language: Grammar and usage
- Author Control
 - Revisions allowed
 - Proofs
 - Tracking
- Transparency
 - Type of peer review
 - Flow diagram
 - Submission process
 - Review criteria
 - Submission types
 - Rejection rates

Results - Red Flags for Language

- 73.58% (n=39) included multiple grammatical errors
- 47.17% (n=25) included odd language

"advices to perk up their work"

"Authors are asked to sign a warranty and copyright agreement."

"All Novelty Journals reviewers are love of labour."

"Reviewers of paper may recommend any decision by keeping in mind that prime aim is to help authors to improve their paper, not to make author hopeless."

"Sit back and relax as our platform makes sure that your articles can be found by anyone in the world."



Results - Red Flags for Author Rights

- 16.98% (n=9) do not allow revisions
- 54.72% (n=29) do not send or do not mention sending galley proofs to authors
- 54.72% (n=29) do not provide a way to track a manuscript through the process



Results - Red Flags for Transparency

- 14 included flow diagrams; of those, 71.43% (N=10) did not appear legitimate
 - did not provide text to describe the diagrams
 - had text that did not match the diagrams
 - diagrams included author right's red flags



Results - Yellow Flags

- Manuscript submissions were through email and did not use the more common online blind submission programs. The processes were “quick and easy.”
- 5.66% (n=3) stated not all content would be reviewed
- 30.19% (n=16) did not state whether or not content would be reviewed



Caveats

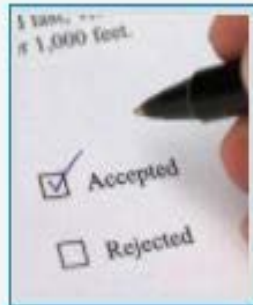
- 58.49% (N=31) did not indicate the type of peer review: open or closed, single or double blind.
- 73.58% (N=39) did not provide review criteria
- 98.11% (N=52) did not state rejection rates



Looks Can Be Deceiving



Peer review process



JSciMed Central® follows a double blind peer review process to allow unbiased evaluation of the manuscripts and to avoid any previous or further conflicts. Peer review is a crucial process in Publication sector that allows a common process to evaluate manuscripts quality and scientific validity submitted to a journal by related research experts. This work flow is usually structured by Editor assigned to the particular manuscript. The evaluation and review comment generated from peer review present authors with advices to perk up their work and, significantly, allows the editor to re evaluate the paper's aptness and significance for publication in the journal.

Ways to Avoid Predatory Traps

- Language: Read through author guidelines for grammar and language use
- Author Rights: Determine how much control you have
 - revisions, tracking, final edits and approval of final proofs
- Transparency: Identify the Peer Review process



Ways to Avoid Predatory Traps

Read published articles for quality and appropriateness

Do articles seem peer reviewed?

Does the research seem valid or useful?

Would you like to have your manuscript in the same journal as articles published?

Conclusion

- Authors beware of predatory peer review processes
- Protect your own publishing record and reputation
- Maintain the integrity of the scientific literature within nursing

References

- Beall, J. (2015). Criteria for determining predatory open-access publishers. Retrieved from <https://scholarlyoa.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/criteria-2015.pdf>
- Oermann, M.H., Conklin, J.L., Nicoll, L.H., Chinn, P.L., Ashton, K.S., Edie, A.H., Amarasekara, S., & Budinger, S.C. (2016). Study of predatory open access nursing journals. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 48(6), 624-632.
- Shen, C., & Björk, B. C. (2015). “Predatory” open access: A longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics. *BMC Medicine*, 13(230), 1–15. doi:10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2