Faculty knowledge and attitudes regarding predatory open access journals: a needs assessment study

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APPENDIX A

Full survey instrument

1. Have you previously heard of the term “predatory journal”?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Unsure

According to a recent article, predatory journals are defined as “OA [open access] journals that exist for the sole purpose of profit, not the dissemination of high-quality research findings and furtherance of knowledge.” When answering the following questions, use this definition of a predatory journal and only consider open access journals (journals that are freely available with no subscriptions).

2. For each of the following characteristics, indicate whether you would associate it with a legitimate OA journal, predatory journal, neither, or unsure. You can check multiple boxes for each characteristic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Legitimate open access journal</th>
<th>Predatory open access journal</th>
<th>Neither</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free to read online</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal website looks professional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid acceptance of articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid publication of articles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presence of a physical mailing address</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has an article processing fee (authors are required to pay a fee to have their article published)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article processing fee seems high</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article processing fee seems low</td>
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<tr>
<td>Has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)</td>
<td>Legitimate open access journal</td>
<td>Predatory open access journal</td>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has an editor and editorial board</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Affiliation and contact information for editor and/or editorial board members provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>Requires transfer of author copyright prior to publication</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal is included in major databases (i.e., PubMed, Scopus, JSTOR, PsycINFO, etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal has a low impact factor</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3. Over the *past month*, how often have you received solicitations (via email, mail, or phone) to submit an article to a predatory journal?
   - Once a day (1)
   - A few times per week
   - A few times per month
   - Never
   - Unsure

4. Select the field of study in which you would feel the most comfortable in assessing the quality of a journal:
   - Arts
   - Humanities
   - Medicine and health sciences
   - Sciences
   - Social sciences
5. The screenshot below shows the home page of the [insert journal name for humanities and social sciences branch] website. Take a few minutes to review and evaluate the journal website by clicking the following link: [insert journal website uniform resource locator (URL)]. You will then be asked to decide if this journal is predatory.

5. The screenshot below shows the home page of the [insert journal name for medicine and health sciences branch] website. Take a few minutes to review and evaluate the journal website by clicking the following link: [insert journal website URL]. You will then be asked to decide if this journal is predatory.

5. The screenshot below shows the home page of the [insert journal name for sciences branch] journal website. Take a few minutes to review and evaluate the journal website by clicking the following link: [insert journal website URL]. You will then be asked to decide if this journal is predatory.

5. The screenshot below shows the home page of the [insert journal name for arts branch] website. Take a few minutes to review and evaluate the journal website by clicking the following link: [insert journal website URL]. You will then be asked to decide if this journal is predatory.

6. In your opinion, is this open access journal legitimate or predatory?
   - Legitimate
   - Predatory
   - Unsure

7. Provide at least two reasons why you believe the journal is legitimate:
   - Reason 1: _______________________________________
   - Reason 2: _______________________________________
   - Reason 3: _______________________________________
   - Reason 4: _______________________________________

7. Provide at least two reasons why you believe the journal is predatory
   - Reason 1: _______________________________________
   - Reason 2: _______________________________________
   - Reason 3: _______________________________________
   - Reason 4: _______________________________________

7. Provide at least two reasons why you are unsure if the journal is legitimate or predatory
   - Reason 1: _______________________________________
   - Reason 2: _______________________________________
   - Reason 3: _______________________________________
   - Reason 4: _______________________________________

8. Which of the following roles has a predatory journal approached you about? (check all that apply)
   - Publish in their journal
   - Serve on the editorial board
   - Act as a peer reviewer
   - None
   - Unsure
9a. Have you ever published in a predatory journal?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9b. If you believe you have published in a predatory journal, why did you publish in it? (check all that apply)
- Unaware of it being a predatory journal
- Pressure to publish
- Not confident in ability to publish in high-quality journals
- Could not get published elsewhere
- Option for rapid acceptance and/or publication
- Other (please specify)

10. Please rate your agreement with the following statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Strongly agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly disagree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I feel confident in my ability to assess journal quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>I know who to ask when I have questions about assessing journal quality</td>
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<tr>
<td>I feel it is valuable to discuss how to assess journal quality with my colleagues and students</td>
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<tr>
<td>I believe promotion and tenure review committees should be concerned about predatory journals</td>
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<tr>
<td>I believe my field should be concerned about predatory journals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

11. Why do you feel confident in your ability to assess journal quality? [freetext]

11. Why do you not feel confident in your ability to assess journal quality? [freetext]

12. Have you previously received any training on predatory journals?
- Yes
- No
- Unsure
13. What type of training did you receive? (check all that apply)
- Library workshop, training, or presentation at Oakland University (OU) or Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB) Library
- Library workshop, training, or presentation at another institution
- Department/unit workshop, training, or presentation
- Professional conference
- Coursework
- Webinar
- Other (please specify)

14. Currently, what resources do you use to assess journal quality? (check all that apply)
- Colleagues
- Mentors
- Dean of my school/college
- Chair of my department/unit
- Librarian
- Google or other search engine
- Professional email discussion list/blog/website
- OU Libraries’ website
- Other (please specify)

15. How can OU Libraries assist you in this area? (check all that apply)
- Individual or small group consultations
- Workshops, trainings, or presentations
- Information on OU Libraries’ website
- Checklist to determine whether a journal is legitimate or predatory
- OU Libraries are not helpful in this area
- Other (please specify)

16. Are there other comments you would like to share? [Free text]

17. What is your OU faculty affiliation?
- Oakland University
- Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

18. What is your general area of study/research?
- Arts
- Business
- Engineering and computer science
- Health sciences
- Humanities
- Library science
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Sciences
- Social and behavioral science
- Other (please specify)
18. What is your primary OUWB department affiliation?

- Anesthesiology
- Foundational medical studies (OU-based)
- Foundational medical studies (Beaumont-based)
- Emergency medicine
- Family medicine and community health
- Internal medicine
- Neurology
- Neurosurgery
- Obstetrics and gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical medicine and rehabilitation
- Psychiatry
- Radiation oncology
- Diagnostic radiology and molecular imaging
- Surgery
- Urology

19. What is your current academic rank?

- Distinguished professor
- Professor
- Associate professor
- Assistant professor
- Adjunct professor
- Adjunct associate professor
- Adjunct assistant professor
- Adjunct instructor
- Instructor
- Visiting professor
- Researcher
- Emeritus professor
- Other (please specify)

20. During your entire academic career, how many peer-reviewed journal articles have you been an author on?

- 0–5
- 6–10
- 11–20
- 21–30
- 31–50
- 51–99
- 100+