What are they?

**KEY IDENTIFIERS MAY INCLUDE**

- acceptance/publication turnaround time
- article fees after papers are accepted
- listing academics as members of editorial boards without permission
- fake ISSNs
- mimicking name and journal look of more established journals
What does a predatory article look like?

It may look like this

Get me off Your Fucking Mailing List

David Mazieres and Eddie Kohler
New York University
University of California, Los Angeles
http://www.mailavenger.org/
OUR RESEARCH

• Jeffrey Beall’s talk on campus on predatory publishers (April 2014) inspired our study.

• We wanted to explore the problem of aggregators, common e-journal packages, and open access collections including predatory journals in those packages.

• Lit review - focused on the practices of predatory publishers (structure, managed, questionable business models), not the content in predatory journals and how it may be used by students in their papers/assignments.
Beall’s List

Why we chose his criteria:

- Editor/Staff
- Business Management
- Integrity
- Journal Standards

• Until January 2017, best and most recognized list of predatory criteria.

Critics of Beall:

• Eurocentric
• Subjective
• “In bed” with Elsevier
• Anti Open Access
1) In each of the databases, e-journal packages, and open access collections, how many journal titles were included from publishers identified on Beall’s list?

2) In which subject areas were the predatory journals most prevalent?

3) Have the number of predatory publishers and their journals changed over time? What does the future look like?
Examined databases, indexes, and e-journal packages, including:

- Gale’s Academic OneFile (database)
- Ebsco’s Academic Search Complete (database)
- Proquest Central (database)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (index)
- Open Access Collections
DATA MANAGEMENT

- Data collected and managed in lists with Microsoft Excel

- Primary fields collected:
  - Publisher
  - Journal title
  - Alternate title
  - ISSN
  - EISSN
  - Subject area
  - Publisher URL
DATA MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT AREAS

- Arts/Entertainment
- Business
- Communication
- Education
- Government/Politics
- History
- Humanities/Social Science

- Literature/Language
- Medicine/Health
- Multidisciplinary
- Philosophy/Religion
- Science
- Sports/Recreation
- Technology
RESULTS: Databases and DOAJ

Source: Nelson and Huffman, 2015
RESULTS: E-journal Packages

Source: Huffman, 2017
RESULTS: Open Access Collections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Number of Titles</th>
<th>Predatory Journal Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elsevier</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sage</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor &amp; Francis</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wiley</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Huffman, 2017
RESULTS: Predominant Subject Areas

Beall's Stand Alone Journals List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government or Politics</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities or Social Science</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine or Health</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy or Religion</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Huffman, 2017

All Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Literature or Language</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts or Entertainment</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government or Politics</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities or Social Science</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine or Health</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy or Religion</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multidisciplinary</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nelson and Huffman, 2015
RESULTS: Growth Over Time

Source: Huffman, 2017
Industry & Higher Ed Reactions

1. Scholarly publishing organizations recognized increase in growth of non-legitimate publishers
   - Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)
   - Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)
   - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)
   - World Association of Medical Editors (WAME)
   - Formed working group that identified principles and best practices for scholarly publishing
     - Establish a white list of legitimate publishers
     - Published “Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing”

2. Beall’s Criteria
   - Established a black list of illegitimate publishers/journals
   - Published list through personal blog “Scholarly Open Access,” ceased publication in January 2017

3. Cabell’s Scholarly Analytics
   - Publishes Journal White List and Black List, available via subscription

4. Miscellaneous
Common Characteristics

- Ambiguous or misleading journal title
- No meaningful peer review
- Unqualified editorial board members and editorial staff
- Misleading or absent contact information
- Low quality content
- Poor production quality
- No preservation policies
- Insufficient or missing author fee information
- Fake ISSNs and indexing claims
- Misleading metrics
- Spam marketing tactics
- Advertising of “conferences”
# Open Access Journal Evaluation Worksheet

**Journal Title Evaluated:**

**Publisher:**

**Journal URL:**

### Journal Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unclear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The journal’s title and design are unique, does not mimic an established journal, and represents the intended subject area.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The journal’s ISSN and EISSN are identified on its Web site.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The scope of the journal is clearly stated on its Web site and the content subject area is well described.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The journal’s intended audience is researchers or practitioners. Articles that have been submitted qualify as scholarly research.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Journal articles that have been submitted are within the scope of the journal, meet the standards of the discipline, and full text articles are easy to access and download.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Journal articles that have been submitted are unique. If republished from other venues/outlets, attribution is identified.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The journal’s articles have functioning DOIs (Digital Object Identifiers).</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Plans for archiving the journal’s articles and allowing permanent access are identified on its Web site.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Journal articles are subjected to peer review and the journal’s peer review process, policies, and procedures are described on its Web site. Peer review is provided by experts in the subject field.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. The amount of time dedicated to peer review is identified on the journal’s Web site and is realistic.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. The journal’s Web site is unique in design and layout. It is well maintained and includes accurate spelling, punctuation, correct grammar, and live, up-to-date hyperlinks.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. The journal editor’s name, institutional affiliation, and contact information, including physical address, mailing address, email, and working telephone number, are identified on its Web site.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Information about the owner and publisher of the journal is identified on its Web site. Complete contact information is provided.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. The journal’s publisher and editor operate in the same country in which they utilize for their physical mailing addresses.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. The journal has a unique editorial board with members who are recognized experts in the subject area(s) included within the journal’s scope. The full names and institutional affiliations of the journal’s editorial board members are provided on its Web site.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. The journal’s Web site advertises an impact factor that is legitimate, correct, and verifiable.</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
<td>❑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example Open Access Journal

Journal of Global Biosciences

ISSN 2320-1355

Journal of Global Biosciences (ISSN 2320-1355) published monthly, is an International Open Access online journal that provides rapid publication of articles in all areas of biological sciences.

Call for papers Volume 7, Number 1, 2018 to be published on 31st January, 2018

Key Features
- Journal is published on last date of every month
- Review process will take generally 3-7 days
- Easy process
- Minimum manuscript processing charges
- Certificate of Publication on request

We aim at receiving, processing, distributing, providing, networking of research data, inventions, findings in the subject areas Botany, Zoology, Genetics, Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Plant and Animal Biotechnology, Agro-Chemistry, Aquaculture, Crop Science, Dairy Science, Ecology & Environment, Entomology, Environmental Impacts of Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries, Forestry, Genetic and Plant Breeding, Horticulture, Hydrology, Irrigation, Marine Sciences, Medicinal Plants, Microbial and Molecular Genetics, Plant Biochemistry and Applied Biosciences to all the destinations for faster connectivity to respective research, taking due care of speed and pace of knowledge generation, coping with the time.

Faster communication, processing, display, codification, abstracting and publishing, coping with the time.

Journal is online for Open Access, easy accessibility to everyone, everywhere & at all time. It has saved the costs of printing, publishing, mailing and hence the journals easily available to scientific community.
Discussion & Takeaways
DONE

ANY QUESTIONS?