
How to Spot a Predatory Journal



Rx Communications

Always check the journal website thoroughly

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Does the website have spelling and grammatical errors? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Have they advertised their journal fees? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Check if the journal is a member of DOAJ, COPE, OASPA or STM

- If they advertise membership, then check their memberships:
[DOAJ](#); [COPE](#); [OASPA](#); [STM](#)
- If the journal is not listed, you can email the organisations above to ask for further advice

Check the journal's contact information

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Is the area code correct for the region advertised? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Can you verify their address? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Do emails arrive during the correct working hours for that region? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Research the editorial board

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Can you verify the members of the editorial board? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Are they experts in the field? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Check to see whether the journal is referenced in their professional profile | | |

Do they have peer review process and publication timelines

- | | YES | NO |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Does the journal carry out peer review steps? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ How long do they state it will take for peer review? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Read through past issues of the journal

- | | YES | NO |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Can you find past issues of the journal? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Are the articles true to the journal's advertised speciality areas? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ▪ Do articles have many errata? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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