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A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Open Access, and Predatory Publishers

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A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Open Access, and Predatory Publishers

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Open Access Defined

Open access (OA) literature is digital, online, free of charge, and free of most copyright and licensing restrictions.

Green OA

- ▶ Green OA is free
- ▶ 86% of journals allow Green OA
- ▶ Green OA enables Authors to publish anywhere they want
- ▶ <https://arxiv.org/> arXiv
- ▶ <https://www.biorxiv.org/> bioRxiv
- ▶ <https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/> SSRN

Gold OA




- ▶ Gold OA Fees
- ▶ Legitimate Journals
- ▶ Increasing in Impact
- ▶ PLOS One <https://www.plos.org/which-journal-is-right-for-me>
- ▶ Remember many OA journals have just started in the last ten years.
(Nature is the world's leading multidisciplinary science journal. It was first published in 1869.)

Predatory Publishers



- ▶ Not Legitimate OA
- ▶ Prey on Authors who need to publish or perish
- ▶ How to spot the crooks
 - ▶ Language
 - ▶ Promises
 - ▶ Processes





Language

- ▶ Spam requests 
- ▶ The website (or email) contains spelling or grammar errors 
- ▶ The homepage language overtly targets authors instead of readers
- ▶ Something doesn't add up (American Journal of...)
<http://www.diabetesendocrinol.org/journals> 
- ▶ Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or which are unauthorized. They should link to something but don't





Promises

- ▶ Rapid publication is promised 
- ▶ The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., < \$150 USD)
- ▶ Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright
- ▶ Impact Factor [Journal Impact Factor - Thomson Reuters](#) ONLY 
- ▶ Example phony impact factor Green Press <https://gnpublication.org/>

Processes

- ▶ Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking
- ▶ Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email
- ▶ There is no retraction policy
- ▶ Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent 
- ▶ The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)
- ▶ Accepts payment in BitCoin <https://ephjournal.com/index.php/aer/rg> 

Ask a Librarian

- ▶ Google search (predatory)
- ▶ Beall's list <https://beallslist.weebly.com/> 
(<http://www.scholink.org/ojs/index.php/wjer/index>)
- ▶ Cabell's Blacklist Criteria <https://www2.cabells.com/blacklist-criteria>
- ▶ U of T Checklist 
<https://onsearch.library.utoronto.ca/deceptivepublishing>
- ▶ Think Check Submit <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>
- ▶ Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) <https://doaj.org/> 
- ▶ bePress https://www.bepress.com/categories_jnl/all-journals/ 

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