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# The Good, The Bad, The Ugly: Open Access, and Predatory Publishers

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# The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

Open Access, and Predatory Publishers

R. Philip Reynolds

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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>
- ▶ Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) <https://doaj.org/>
- ▶ bePress [https://www.bepress.com/categories\\_jnl/all-journals/](https://www.bepress.com/categories_jnl/all-journals/)
- ▶ 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
  - **P**rose
  - **P**romises
  - **P**rocesses



# Prose



- **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://onesearch.library.utoronto.ca/deceptivepublishing> 
- Think Check Submit <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/> 



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(A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/libfacpres/22/> )