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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

Stephen F. Austin State University

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/
- ▶ 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/>)