IS IT PREDATORY?
CHECKLIST FOR EVALUATING JOURNALS

Publishing your work is central to your career and the advancement of knowledge in your field, so it's important to choose a journal and a publisher that you can trust. While there is no definitive indicator of a “predatory publisher,” this checklist is developed as a tool to assist you in deciding if the journal adheres to ethical publication practices.

Journal Title: ____________________________________________

Journal Website: __________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JOURNAL</th>
<th>Positive Indicator</th>
<th>Negative Indicator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal scope is well defined and clearly stated</td>
<td>Journal scope statement is absent or very broad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal has an ISSN</td>
<td>Journal does not have an ISSN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal is listed in Directory of Open Access Journals (<a href="http://www.doaj.org">www.doaj.org</a>)</td>
<td>Journal is not listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (<a href="http://www.doaj.org">www.doaj.org</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal is affiliated with or established by a scholarly society or academic institution</td>
<td>Journal website is difficult to locate or identify</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Journal is included in subject database or index</td>
<td>Journal publisher or affiliation is unknown</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any publication fees are listed and explained</td>
<td>Journal isn’t included in subject database or index</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reason and cost of publication fees is unclear</td>
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What is your overall impression of the journal? ____________________________________________

What is your overall impression of the content published in the journal? __________________________

CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive Indicator</th>
<th>Negative Indicator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articles have DOIs</td>
<td>Articles do not have DOIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles are within the scope of the journal</td>
<td>Articles from repeat lead authors in same issue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles meet standards of the discipline</td>
<td>Articles do not meet standards of the discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content includes articles you’ve read or cited</td>
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What is your overall impression of the content published in the journal? __________________________

What is your overall impression of the journal? ____________________________________________

__________________________________________
__________________________________________
**EDITORS / EDITORIAL PROCESS**

**Positive Indicator**
- Editorial board includes recognized experts in the field
- Editors list the journal on their CV or website
- Editorial and review processes are provided and clearly stated

**Negative Indicator**
- Editor and editorial board are unknown
- Editors do not list their affiliation with the journal
- Information about peer-review and copyright is absent, unclear, or inconsistent
- Rapid peer-review

*What is your overall impression of the value this journal will add to your work? ________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

**PUBLISHER**

**Positive Indicator**
- Publisher is a member of Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (oaspa.org)
- Publisher is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (publicationethics.org/)
- Publisher is an academic institution
- Publisher contact information is available

**Negative Indicator**
- No information is provided about the publisher
- Publisher “About” statement is misleading
- Publisher contact information (email, phone, and mailing address) isn’t available
- Publisher has a negative reputation (Google it!)

*What is your overall impression of the publisher?_____________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________

**IS IT PREDATORY?**

YES  NO  UNCLEAR

**ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Once you’ve determined if the journal adheres to ethical publication practices, you may wish to evaluate it by additional criteria. For instance – Who is the audience of this journal? What is its distribution or impact factor? Will it allow you to retain copyright and control of your work? Librarians are available to provide tools and guidance as you address each of these questions.

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