

Predatory Publishing: Issues and Challenges



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Coverage...

- Importance of journals.
- Different models of journal publishing.
- Meaning of Predatory publishing.
- Features of predatory journals.
- Difference between legitimate and predatory journals.
- Why do predatory journals flourish?

Coverage

- Who publishes in predatory journals?
- Damaging effect of predatory journals.
- Role of libraries in controlling predatory journals.
- Summing up.

Introduction...

Research is all about undertaking studies to address problems which humanity faces, and communicating the results and findings to a broader audience. In Education and research, communication is done through publication in scholarly journals. It is well acknowledged that the journals are the best channels of communication. Whatever the journals publish is final, definitive and citable as it undergoes rigorous review process for content methodology, language and ensures that the findings are in sync with the methodology adopted; the data which underpin the findings are made available for others to use, reuse and validate the research outcomes. The journals help in registering the claims of the researchers that they are the first to report the unique findings.

Introduction...

- The journal publishing has evolved immensely with the advent of the Internet and associated technologies. The first journal was published in 1665. Ever since then, the number of journals has increased significantly. At present, there are more than 38000 journals published across the globe.
- There are Open Access journals too. DOAJ indexes 13000+ OA journals from 130 countries.
- The model of Open Access journal publishing aims at providing equitable access to research findings immediately after it is published.

Introduction

- The model of OA publishing has two types
- Green Open Access
 - Allows researchers to put their manuscripts in Institutional repositories and it becomes accessible to one and all.
- Gold Open Access
 - Researchers pay Author Processing charges(APC) to make their content immediately accessible upon publication.

The predatory journals also charge APC for publishing the manuscripts. But they do not undertake rigorous peer review activities.

Predatory Publishing...

- Jeffrey Beall, a librarian coined the word in 2010.
- Studied, followed and maintained lists of predatory journals until 2017
- Consulted COPE-Conduct for Journal Publishers;
- Principles of Transparency and Best Practices in Scholarly Publishing
- Cabells <https://www2.cabells.com/> maintains blacklist and white list to help the researchers to help the researchers find right journals for publication.

Predatory Publishing

- “Predatory publishing is generally defined as for-profit open access journal publication of scholarly articles without the benefit of peer review by experts in the field or the usual editorial oversight of the journals in question. The journals have no standards and no quality control and frequently publish within a very brief period of time while claiming that articles are peer-reviewed”(COPE, 2018).
- DOAJ uses the term of “ Questionable journals”.

Peer Review

- Peer review is an essential part of scientific communication.
- It is the best form of scientific evaluation. It is done to uphold the quality and validity of the research done.
- It is an activity in which an expert reads the researcher's work to evaluate, scrutinize the content, ideas and findings. It helps in improving the quality of the manuscript before it is published.
- The predatory journals do not undertake peer review activities.

Features of Predatory Journals...

- Names of the journals are close to the names of the genuine journals.
- Website is not designed professionally. Has Grammar and spelling mistakes.
- Solicit manuscripts through e-mails.
- Claim to be long established journals.
- Claim to be indexed in well known bibliographical and citation databases.
- Publish manuscripts within a month of receiving.

Features of Predatory Journals

- Publish articles on a wide range of subjects.
- Use logos and images from the websites of the established and legitimate journals.
- Do not have proper editorial boards. Names may be fictitious.
- Charge APC, but do not follow standards of scholarly publishing. Misuse Author Pays model.
- Do not have any preservation policy.

How to Identify Predatory Journals

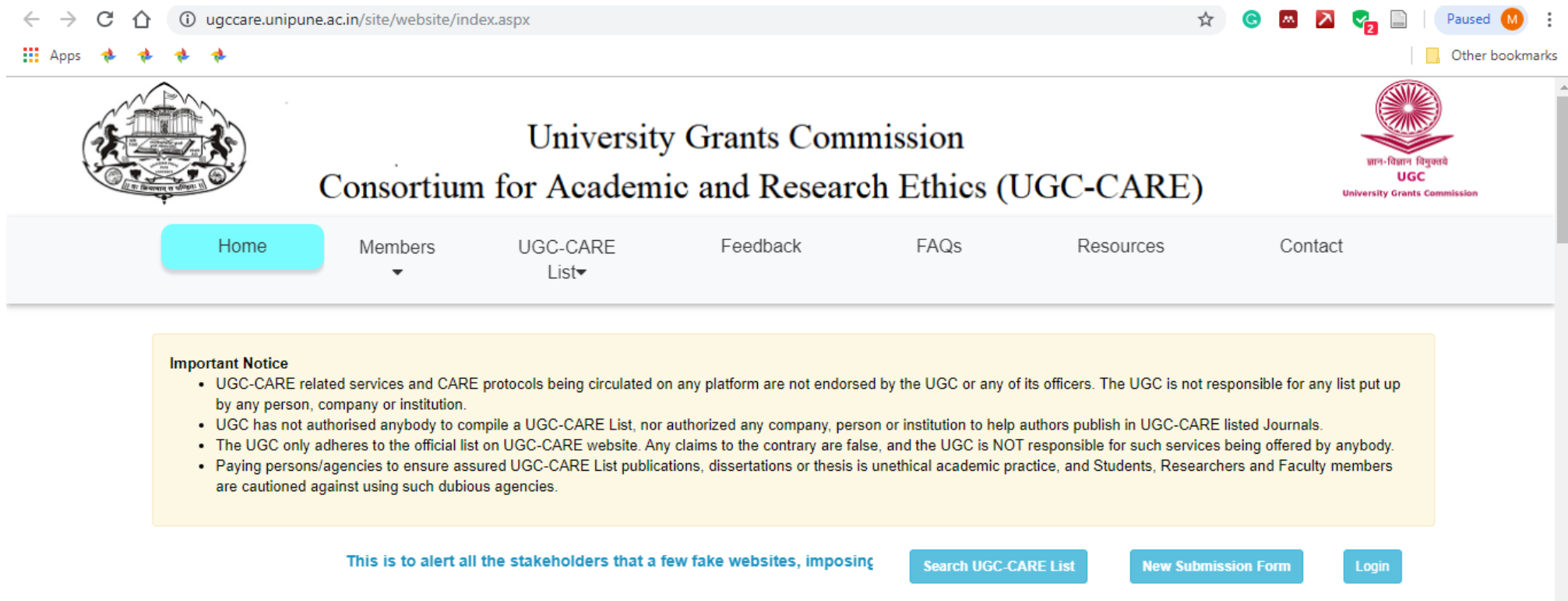
- OASPA(Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association).
- COPE(Committee on Publication Ethics).
- International Association of Scientific , Technical and Medical Publishers.

Fake or Predatory Websites



- There are Fake or predatory websites too.
- For example UGC has published UGC-CARE Reference List of quality journals. This has replaced earlier available, “UGC Approved List of Journals”.


UGC-CARE

(<https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/site/website/index.aspx>)




The screenshot shows the homepage of the University Grants Commission Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE). The browser address bar displays the URL <https://ugccare.unipune.ac.in/site/website/index.aspx>. The page features the UGC logo on the left and the UGC emblem on the right. The main heading reads "University Grants Commission Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE)". A navigation menu includes "Home", "Members", "UGC-CARE List", "Feedback", "FAQs", "Resources", and "Contact". A prominent "Important Notice" box contains a warning about unauthorized services. Below this, there is a blue text alert and three buttons: "Search UGC-CARE List", "New Submission Form", and "Login".

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University Grants Commission Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (UGC-CARE)



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- The UGC only adheres to the official list on UGC-CARE website. Any claims to the contrary are false, and the UGC is NOT responsible for such services being offered by anybody.
- Paying persons/agencies to ensure assured UGC-CARE List publications, dissertations or thesis is unethical academic practice, and Students, Researchers and Faculty members are cautioned against using such dubious agencies.

This is to alert all the stakeholders that a few fake websites, imposing

Search UGC-CARE List New Submission Form Login

Message from Prof. D.P. Singh, Chairman, UGC

Foreword by Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan,
Vice Chairman, UGC
& Chairman, UGC-CARE Empowered Committee

UGC-CARE- A Quality Mandate for Indian Academia

To match global standards of high quality research, in all academic disciplines under its purview, the University Grants Commission (UGC) aspires to stimulate and empower the Indian academia through its "Quality Mandate". A public notice was issued by the UGC, on the 28th of November, 2018, to announce the establishment of a dedicated Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE) to carry out this mandate.

<http://carejournals.in/>

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UGC CARE JOURNALS

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Fastest Platform for Researchers to publish manuscript in UGC CARE Journals

Peer-Review by Experienced Faculties,
Publication helps in Career Advancement,
Fast Track review on Request basis.

ⓘ ×

Who Publishes in Predatory Journals?...

- Early Career researchers who are ignorant, cannot differentiate between a legitimate and a predatory journal.
- Inexperienced researchers whose work has been rejected by the reputed journals.
- Researchers who are well aware of the downsides of the predatory journals, but still publish to increase their number of publications within a short span of time.

Who Publishes in Predatory Journals?

- Publish or Perish syndrome-Promotions and grants are linked to number of publications the researchers have.
- Pseudo researchers who want to advocate their research findings.
- Low acceptance rates of the core journals. Fierce competition compel researchers to publish in predatory journals.

Deleterious Effects of Predatory Publishing

- Enhances misconduct in research; researchers may fabricate ,falsify data, plagiarize content and publish the same in predatory journals.
- The false research is indexed in Google Scholar. It attracts reads and citations, which implies that other researchers build or develop their work on the research published in predatory journals. It also puts at risk the cumulative nature of science.
- The fraudulent research and erroneous findings get into scientific literature and circulation.
- The enormous amount of money of funding bodies is wasted.
- The trust of the public in research and science is wasted.

Checkpoints For Identifying Predatory Journals...

- Is the journal or publisher well known?
- Is it indexed in Bibliographic and Citation Databases?
- Does it have a properly designed and maintained website?
 - Name
 - Scope
 - Layout
 - Language and Grammar
 - Instructions for authors
 - Peer Review policy
 - Research Data Policy

Checkpoints For Identifying Predatory Journals

- Retraction Policy
- Archiving and Preservation Policy-Backup Plan, CLOCKSS
- Invites submission through Submission portal?
- Ownership and Management
- Access models
- Revenue sources-Business models, Author fees, institutional support
- Policies for dealing with allegations of misconduct
- Conflict of Interest

Stemming the Rise of Predatory Publishing

- Role of libraries- Information dissemination.

Libraries should sensitize the researchers and faculty members to the issue of predatory journals and conferences.

- Role of authorities-ensuring strict compliance to rules.

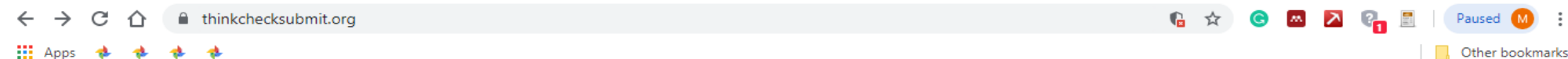
The universities, higher educational institutions and funding bodies should clearly spell that the researchers will not get any credit for publishing in predatory journals and participating in the predatory conferences.

Think Check Submit...

It helps the researchers in identifying reputed journals of their field. The website provides a checklist which the researchers may use to evaluate and ascertain the credentials of a journal or publisher.

<http://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/>

Think Check Submit



Choose the right journal for your research



Think. Check. Submit. helps researchers identify trusted journals for their research. Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.



Latest news

Truth and Lies in Academic Publishing

10th July 2019

"Fake news" is threatening public discourse and, by extension, undermining trust in academic research. But the current atmosphere of...[Read more...](#)

Why Think. Check. Submit? Watch our new video!

10th July 2019

Watch members of the Think. Check. Submit. committee discuss why the initiative is needed.

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Predatory Conferences

- The predatory publishers also organize predatory conferences for monetary gains.
- Bogus or vanity Conferences.
- Lure early career researchers and Charge hefty registration fees.
- Include names of prominent Faculty members and scientists to attract more number of participants. In fact, the senior professionals may not know that their names have been used.
- There is no peer review or editorial control on the accepted papers and presentations.
- Scope is too broad.

Think. Check. Attend

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL thinkcheckattend.org. The browser's address bar includes navigation icons (back, forward, refresh, home), a star icon for bookmarks, and a 'Paused' status. Below the address bar, there are several colorful icons for various applications. The website content features a header with three circular icons: a red circle with an exclamation mark and the word 'THINK', an orange circle with a checkmark and the word 'CHECK', and a green circle with a right-pointing arrow and the word 'ATTEND'. To the right of these icons is a blue 'FOLLOW US ON twitter' button. Below the header is a dark navigation bar with white text links: HOME, THINK, CHECK, ATTEND, ABOUT, RESOURCES, LANGUAGES, THINK CHECK SUBMIT, and CONFERENCE CHECKER. The main content area displays a photograph of a man in a suit presenting to a large audience in a conference hall. Overlaid on the bottom of the photo is the text: 'Choosing the right conference to attend and present your research'. At the bottom left of the browser window, the address bar shows the URL <https://thinkcheckattend.org/hello-world/>.

Think Check Attend

- **Think .Check. Attend**

It is an initiative which helps the researchers in finding out the legitimacy and credentials of the conferences before they decide to attend and participate in them(Think. Check .Attend ,2019).

Stemming the Rise of Predatory Publishing

- Role of researchers and senior faculty members.
 - The researchers should be cautious and well informed of the reputed, legitimate journals of their field. They should be aware of how to choose the right journal for disseminating their research findings. They should focus on quality research instead of enhancing the number of publications.
 - The senior faculty members should train researchers and their junior colleagues in cultivating right research attitude and skills, working hard and adhering to the principles of academic integrity and honesty.

Summing Up

- We have covered various aspects related to predatory publishing.
 - What is predatory publishing?
 - How does it affect all the stakeholders?
 - Researchers
 - Scientific literature
 - Funding bodies
- How to differentiate between a legitimate and predatory journal?
- Role of libraries in preventing predatory publishing.

Disclaimer/Acknowledgements

- The Presentation/Lecture has been prepared from different resources to help the learners to understand the topic for academic and research use.
- I duly acknowledge the scholars and the website content providers whose materials has been used in my presentation/lecture.

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Think Check Attend(2019) Why Think. Check. Attend.

<https://thinkcheckattend.org>

Think Check Submit(2019) Choose the right journal for your research

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



THANK YOU

