



CHECKLIST

For identifying predatory publishers

What to look for

What to check



Contact information



- Does the journal's website provide complete contact information?
- Does it include a verifiable address?



Scope of the journal



- Is the journal's scope multidisciplinary?
- Does it combine multiple, unrelated, wide-ranging fields?



Editorial board



- Does it include recognized, affiliated experts? (TIP: Contact a few & inquire about their experience with the journal)



Author fee policy



- Does the journal charge authors publication fees? (TIP: Find out about such charges before submission)



Quality of articles



- Does the journal publish good quality research? (TIP: Check with your Dept. Head or Supervisor to gauge quality)



Peer review process



- Is the peer review process described on the journal's website? (TIP: Most credible journals are likely to display it)



Indexing information



- Is the journal indexed or a member of a prominent publisher association?
- Does it display an ICV* ?



Retraction policy



- Does the journal have a clear policy for recalling articles? (TIP: Check journal policies or it's instructions to authors)



Pitch for authors



- Does the journal guarantee publication or quick peer review? (TIP: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't.)



E-mail invitation



- Do the journal, its editors and staff all have institutional or journal-affiliated email addresses?

*Index Copernicus Value (ICV) is a questionable journal metric, and is generally used exclusively by predatory journals. You will not find an ICV on the website of a legitimate journal.