Predatory Publishers

If you receive unsolicited emails from suspicious publishers or conference organizers, signs of predatory or fraudulent publishers include:

The journal title or publisher name is non-specific. (e.g. International Journals for Researchers, World Science Publisher)

The website is poorly designed, using generic stock photos, clip-art style graphics, and containing spelling/grammar errors.

The publisher's journals are inaccessible, non-functional, or provide few published articles.

The publisher has no functional telephone number or postal address, or the address is residential when you search it on Google Maps

The email claims that journals are indexed in databases when they are not. You can verify their claims in the library databases: https://concordia.ab.ca/library/find/articles/

The use of vendor names (e.g. EBSCO, OCLC) in place of database names (e.g. Medline, SCOPUS) to avoid verification.

Article processing charges are not clearly described and are charged upon submission of work, not upon publication

The peer-review process is not clearly described, and the journal claims unrealistic turnaround times. (e.g. 1 week)

The editorial board contains names of individuals who cannot be verified as working at the institutions listed with their names.

Information excerpted from:

Council of Science Editors. (2018). Predatory or deceptive publishers – Recommendations for caution. Retrieved from https://www.councilscienceeditors.org/resource-library/editorial-policies/cse-policies/approved-by-the-cse-board-of-directors/predatory-deceptive-publishers-recommendations-caution/

Learn more:

Beall, J. (2016). Best practices for scholarly authors in the age of predatory journals. Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 98(2), 77-9. Retrieved from https://publishing.rcseng.ac.uk/doi/10.1308/rcsann.2016.0056

Prater, C. (2018). 8 Ways to Identify a Questionable Open Access Journal. Retrieved from https://www.aje.com/en/arc/8-ways-identify-questionable-open-access-journal/