

## Detecting Predatory Journals through Website

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### Abstract

"Beall's List" a personal blog that for ten years had existed as a reference for avoiding predatory publishers and journals has disappeared for no apparent reason, but soon there had been "Stop Predatory Journals" as a replacement website built anonymously by a small group of scientists. Until now this successor website has helped many scientists not to get trapped by predatory journals and publishers.

**Keywords:** Predatory journals, predatory publishers, fake metrics.

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### 1.0 UNDERSTANDING THE PREDATORY JOURNALS

Some time ago Sorooshian<sup>1</sup> explained about the rampant phishing publication that is very detrimental to scientists around the world. The phishers have used their electronic journals to fool scientists, especially the inexperienced novice scientists to publish scientific papers in international journals. The purpose of this phishing is to attract as many scientists as possible so that funds can be taken as much as possible. Of course the publication process is done in a short time and without a good review process, even without a review process at all. Journals like this are commonly known as predatory journals.

Since 2008, Jeffrey Beall<sup>2</sup>, a librarian at the University of Colorado in Denver, listed the predatory journals in his personal blog known as "Beall's List", which listed thousands of journals and publishers allegedly aimed only at seeking financial gain. This blog had become a reference for many researchers not to get caught up in predatory journals when they were choosing a medium to publish their scientific work. Beall had also become a reference for scientists who had a concern for disseminating the importance of avoiding predatory journals, such as Janodia<sup>3</sup> which had raised nine basic steps to get rid of the trap of publishers who were looking for profit only regardless of the quality of the journal.

After about ten years the list of predatory publishers and journals grew rapidly, suddenly the existence of this blog stopped in January of 2017. At that time Beall was not willing to mention the reason for the closing of the blog. At that time many people felt that they had lost valuable sources of reference in order to choose good publicity media. About a week later, there was a new website as the successor of "Beall's List" with the header name "Stop Predatory Journals" with "Welcome Post" on January 24, 2017. Website with homepage <https://predatoryjournals.com> was built by a small group of scientists who considers the need to preserve the existence of referrals for scientists worldwide in order to select good journals as a medium of scientific publication.<sup>4</sup>

### 2.0 DETECTING THE PREDATORY JOURNALS

The following are the ten criteria of predatory journals presented in the "Stop Predatory Journals" website compiled with reference to Beall: 1) fixing high publicity costs whereas editorial and peer-reviewed processes are lacking, 2) notifying the cost of publication after the article otherwise accepted, 3) invites authors to publish in their journal through bulk mailing (spamming), 4) receive articles quickly despite low quality even hoax writing, 5) list the names of scientists as members of the editorial board without their permission, 6) include the names of fake scientists as members of the editorial board or author, 7) copy the look and language of information from legitimate and established journals, 8) fraudulent or improper use of ISSNs, 9) provide false information about the publisher's address, 10) existent, mis-represented, or fake impact factors.<sup>4</sup>

Until now, "Stop Predatory Journals" continues to exist providing information about predatory journals, publishers and misleading metrics. It is expected that scientists are willing to disseminate this important information to fellow scientists both informally and formally, individually or institutionally. Thus, the space for predatory journals, publishers, and fake metrics will be suppressed.

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