

# The experience and attitude of TMU Faculty and researchers toward predatory journals and research productivity



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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this study is to investigate the submission status as well as the problems faced by the Taipei Medical University (TMU) researchers, from 11 colleges, center of General Education, 11 university-level research centers, as well as the affiliated hospitals.

## 2 METHODS

This study was based on a questionnaire survey. A questionnaire about the journal submission was sent to TMU faculty and researchers for a 2-week period via email. Major contents of the questionnaire related to following 3 questions:

- the experience of publishing in predatory journals;
- with regard to predatory journals, the respondents expect what kind of support from the library and TMU;
- the perspective and suggestions for using the latest Journal Impact Factor (JIF) as the standard value in calculating the quantitative research productivity for reward or promotion. The JIF exists in publishing year but is not available or changes dramatically when faculties calculate the productivity score a few years later.

## 4 Conclusions

To sum up, predatory journals are very often open access journals, but journals without JIF or suppressed/dropped by JCR are not necessarily to be predatory journals.

Base on the research findings, the library will strengthen the following measures to help our faculty and researchers not to submit articles to predatory journals accidentally:

- Provide the existing reference list of predatory journals on the Internet;
- Encourage faculty and researchers to apply for our initial inspection services of predatory journals for basic background checks of journals;
- Provide customized advisory services to individual case;
- More promotion events.

## 3 Results

1,286 questionnaires were sent and 114 valid questionnaires were returned, resulting in a response rate of 8.9%. The main findings were:

- Fig. 1 shows the respondents contact experience with unfamiliar journals and percentage of submitting to predatory journals (Fig 2)

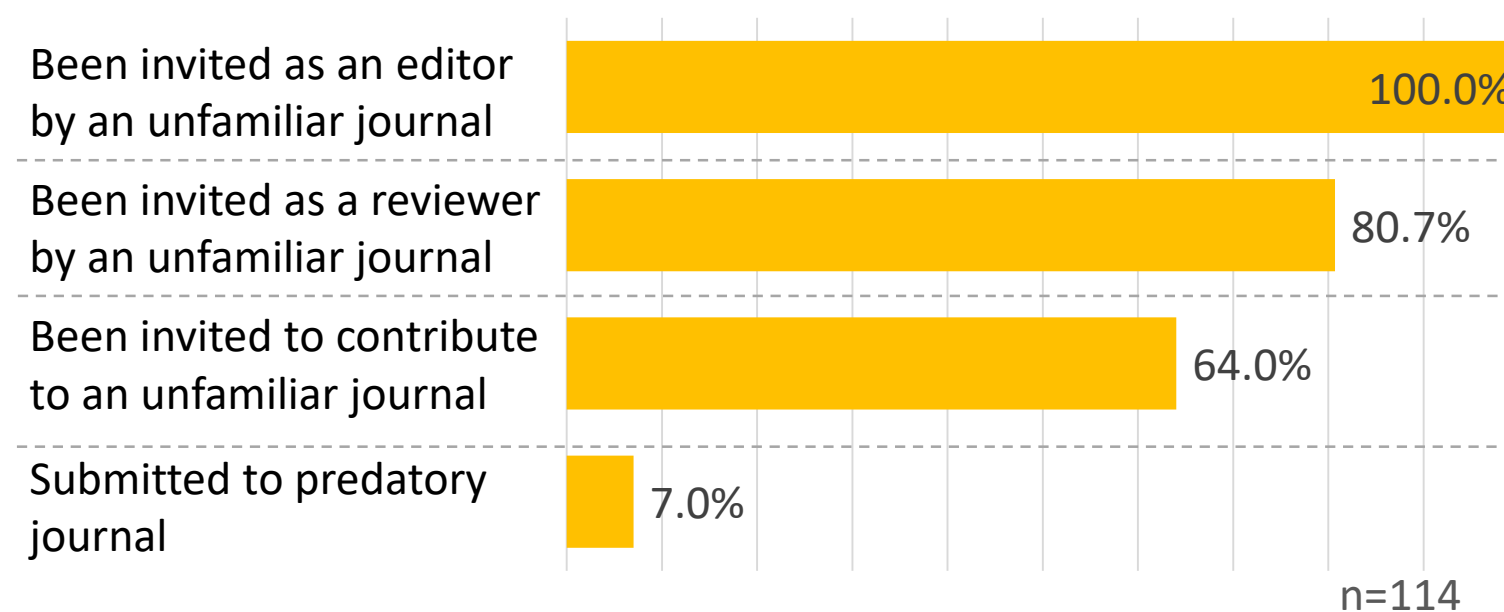


Fig.1 Have you ever experienced... (multiple-response variety)

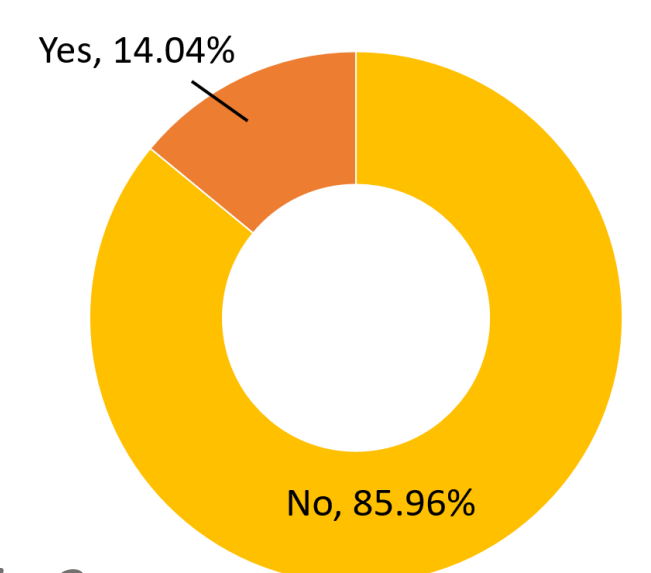


Fig.2 Have you ever submitted to predatory journals?

- As to issues related to predatory journals, the respondents need different kind of support from the university and library. (Fig. 3)



Fig.3

- 15.8% and 30.7% of the respondents have experienced the changes in the JIF (not available or change dramatically) that affect the calculation result of their research productivity, respectively.

- Fig. 4-5 Shows the respondents perspectives to the JIF changes affect the calculation result. More than 50% of the respondents hope the university to be more flexible to the selection of standard value in order to avoid the research effort in vain or unable to meet the expected score.

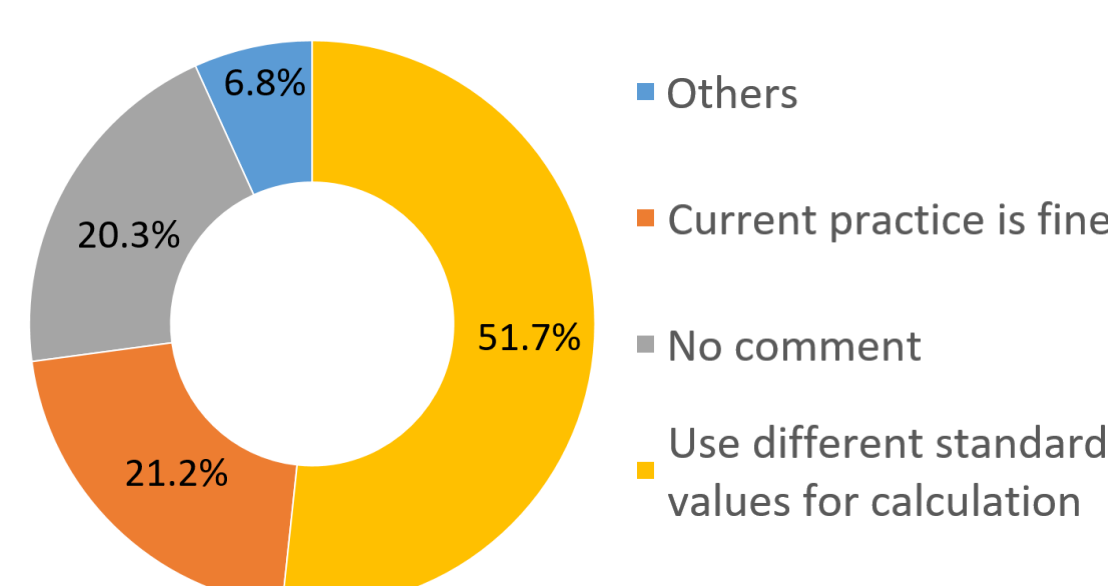


Fig.4 What do you think when you need to use the JIF but it changes dramatically ?

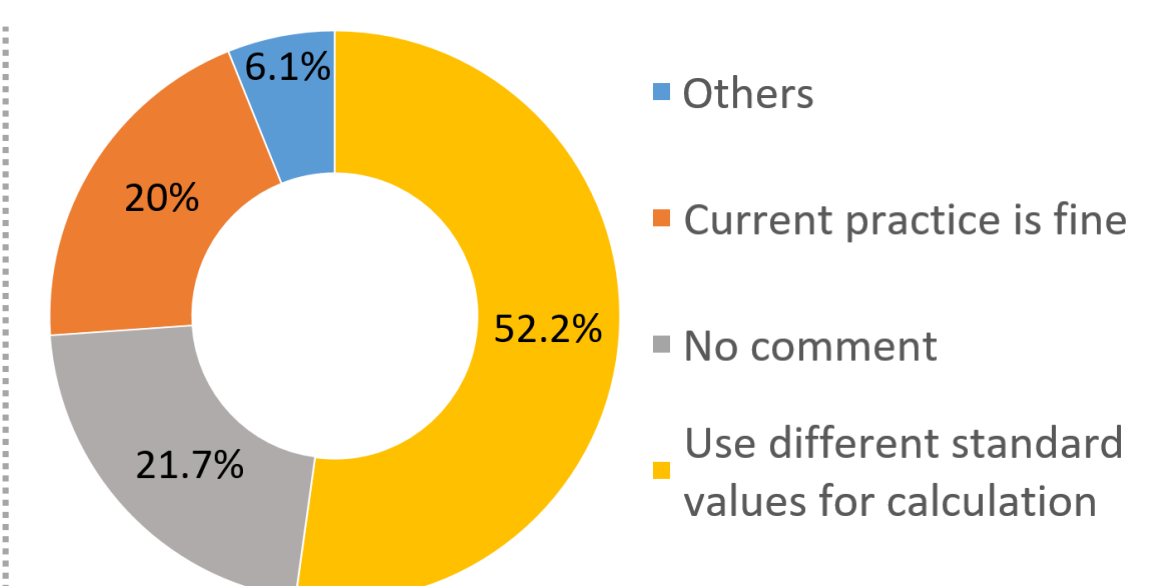


Fig.5 hat do you think when you need to use the JIF but it is not available?