

Beware of Controversial & Predatory Journals/publishers

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Predatory Journals

What is Predatory journals and publishers?



Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices.

About Predatory journals and publishers



Asking authors to publish for a fee
(Open Access model)



No peer-review or edit services



Exist only to make money.

Common Characteristics -1

1



Has a journal name, URL, and/or branding that is very similar to a reputable journal.

[Real] Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology

[Fake] Journal of Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology

2



Provide a false, less, unclear contact information.

[Sample] Advances in Social Science and Culture



Do not submit to this!

Common Characteristics -2

3



Rapid publication is promised

[Sample] [International Journal of Applied Sciences: Current and Future Research Trends](#)



Do not submit to this!

4



Report a fake journal ranking information (IF) or a bogus scholarly metric.

[Sample] [European Journal of Chemistry](#)

Common Characteristics -3

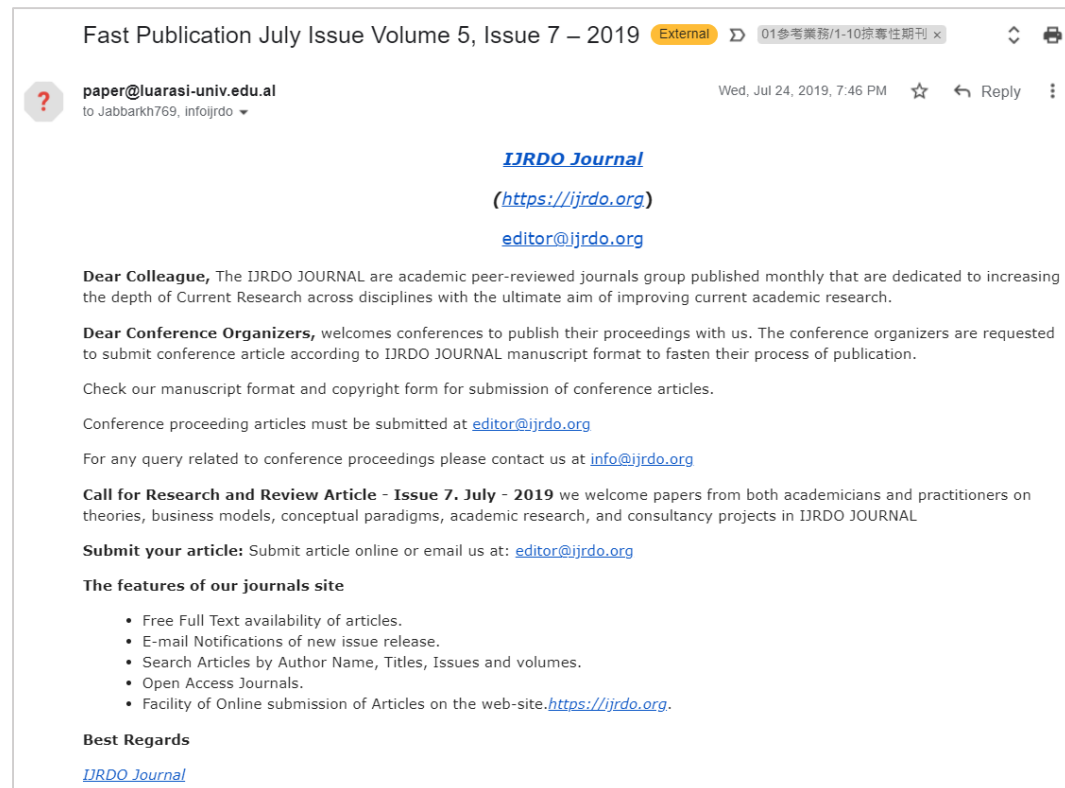
5



Use of spam emails or flattering emails to solicit articles or direct email request to submit an article



Do not submit to this!



Common Characteristics -4



Most of predatory publishers exploit the open access (OA) publishing model.

[Sample]

[International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research](#)

 **OA journal \neq Predatory journal**



Is not indexed in large, trusted databases of scholarly work.

[Sample] [Journal of Fertilization: In Vitro](#)

Common Characteristics -5

8



Unclear or deceptive fees and copyright policies.

[Sample] [Chinese Journal of Medical Genetics](#)

9



No ISSN or provide a fake ISSN

[Sample] [Journal of Biochemistry and Biotechnology](#)



An ISSN is not a guarantee of quality or validity of contents

Predatory Journals

- **Ways to Spot a Predatory Journal**



Way 1.

- **Check the list of potential predatory journals**

Resource

BEALL'S LIST

<https://beallslist.net/standalone-journals/>

Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker

<https://reurl.cc/NqGEy9>

Please Note

1. You also need to check the name of the publisher.
2. Journals change in their business and editorial practices over time. Therefore, this list may not reflect sudden, unreported, or unknown enhancements.

BEALL'S LIST

OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

PUBLISHERS

STANDALONE JOURNALS

VANITY PRESS

CONTACT

OTHER

Potential predatory scholarly open-access journals

Instructions: simply enter the journal's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal has a publisher that was assessed to be predatory, then it is included on the [Publishers](#) list.

Original list

This is an archived version of the Beall's list – a list of potential predatory journals created by a librarian [Jeffrey Beall](#). We will only update links and add notes to this list.

- [International Journal of Applied Dental Sciences](#)
- [International Journal of Oral Health and Medical Research \(IJOHMR\)](#)
- [International Journal of Psychology and Behavioral Research \(IJPBR\)](#)
- [Journal of Behavioral Health](#)
- [Journal of Behavioral Sciences in Asia](#)
- [Modern Behavioral Science](#)

Last updated January 9, 2017

GO TO UPDATE

Original description

This is a list of questionable, scholarly open-access standalone journals. For journals published by a publisher, please look for the publisher on the list of publishers, [here](#). This list is only for single, standalone journals.

We recommend that scholars read the available reviews, assessments and descriptions provided here, and then decide for themselves whether they want to submit articles, serve as editors or on editorial boards. In a few cases, non-open access

Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker

Retraction Watch Hijacked Journals Checker .XLSX ☆ 🗑️ ☁️
 檔案 編輯 查看 插入 格式 資料 工具 說明

🐶 🗨️ 🌐 👤 共用 👤

🖨️ 🔍 100% 🔒 僅供檢視

E166 Tianjin Daxue Xuebao (Ziran Kexue yu Gongcheng Jishu Ban)/Journal of Tianjin University Science and Technology

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	First created: May 30, 2022; last updated February 21, 2023	The Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker will be frequently updated, and requires resources. Would you consider a U.S. tax-deductible donation to help us sustain it?	For more information, see this post . If you have a journal for consideration, please submit it using this form .			
2		Hijacked Journal Title	URL (Hijacked)	ISSN (Hijacked)	Original journal	ISSN (Original)
3	1	Adalya Journal	http://adalyajournal.com/	1301-2746	Adalya	1301-2746
4	2	Advances in Mechanics	https://www.advancesinmechanics.com/	1000-0992	Advances in Mechanics	1000-0992
5	3	Aegaeum Journal	http://aegaeum.com/	0776-3808	Aegaeum	0776-3808
6	4	Aegaum Journal	https://aegaum.com/	0776-3808	Aegaum	0776-3808
7	5	Agrociencia Journal	http://www.colopos.mx/	1405-3195	Agrociencia	1405-3195
8	6	Alochana Chakra Journal	http://www.alochanachakra.in/	2231-3990	Alochona Chakra	2231-3990
9	7	AMA, Agricultural mechanization in Asia, Africa and Latin America	https://www.shin-norinco.com/	0084-5841	A M A. Agricultural mechanization in Asia, Africa and Latin America	0084-5841
10	8	Annals of Forest Research	https://e-afr.org/	1844-8135, 2065-2445	Annals of Forest Research	1844-8135, 2065-2445
11	9	Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology	http://annalsofrcsb.ro/	1583-6258	Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology	1583-6258
12	10	Archipel	https://archipeljournal.com/	0044-8613	Archipel	0044-8613
13	11	Arctic journal	https://arcticjournal.org/	0004-0843	Arctic	0004-0843
14	12	Asia Life Sciences	https://www.academicpub.com/	0117-3375	Asia life sciences	0117-3375
15	13	Aut Aut Research Journal	http://autrj.com/	0005-0601	Aut Aut	0005-0601
16	14	Azania	azaniajournal.com	0067-270X	Azania	0067-270X, 19455534
17	15	Azerbaijan medical journal	https://www.azerbaijanmedicaljournal.com/	0005-2523	Azerbaijan medical journal	0005-2523
18	16	Baltic Journal of Law & Politics	https://versita.com/bjp/	2029-0454	Baltic Journal of Law & Politics	2029-0454
19	17	Baltica Journal	https://balticajournal.com/	0067-3064	Baltica	0067-3064
20	18	BOREAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH	https://borenv.com/	1239-6095	Boreal environment research	1239-6095
21	19	Bulletin Monumental Journal	http://bulletinmonumental.com/	0007-473X	Bulletin Monumental	0007-473X
22	20	Bulletin of National Institute of Health Sciences	https://www.healthsciencesbulletin.com/	1343-4292	Bulletin of National Institute of Health Sciences	1343-4292
23	21	Business, Management and Economics Engineering	https://businessmanagementeconomicsengineering.com/	2669-2481, 2669-249X	Business, Management and Economics Engineering	2669-2481, 2669-249X
24	22	Business, Management and Economics Engineering	https://www.businessmanagementeconomics.com/BMEE/	2669-2481, 2669-249X	Business, Management and Economics Engineering	2669-2481, 2669-249X
25	23	CAHIERS DES SCIENCES NATURELLES	http://revistas-academicas.com/cahiers/index.html	1420-4223	Les cahiers de sciences naturelles	1420-4223
26	24	CATTLE PRACTICE	https://cattlepractice.org/	0969-1251	Cattle practice	0969-1251
27	25	Central European Management Journal	https://journals.kozminski.cems-j.com/index.php/pl_cemj/	2336-2693, 2336-4890	Central European Management Journal	2658-0845, 2658-2430
28	26	Chinese Journal of Medical Genetics	http://zhvxcx.life/	1003-9406	Chinese Journal of Medical Genetics	1003-9406



Way 2.

- Find the correct impact factor for a journal

Resource

InCites JCR

<https://jcr.clarivate.com/>

Please Note

If you are off campus, connect to the TMU VPN before accessing InCites JCR.

WULFENIA

JOURNAL
KLAGENFURT, AUSTRIA

ISSN:1561-882X

home

about us

contact

Frequency

aims and scopes

announcements

Multidisciplinary ISI Journal in All Fields of Sciences



Journal Citation Reports (JCR2022-3):

- ISSN: 1561-882X
- Impact Factor: 0.686
- Five-Year-IF: 1.000
- Average Impact factor: 8.761
- Coverage:
Elsevier BIOBASE
BIOSIS Previews

Wulfenia (ISSN: 1561-882X) is a multi-disciplinary, peer-reviewed international ISI journal for publication of novel ideas, the state-of-the-art research results and fundamental advances in all aspects of theoretical and applied topics in science and engineering including areas in natural and social sciences. The objective of the Wulfenia is to serve a better understanding between the researchers and practitioners from academia and industry. The paper submitted to Wulfenia should describe original and previously unpublished works, not currently under review by another conference, workshop or journal. However, authors can submit the extended version of conference papers. Papers for publication are selected through peer review to ensure originality, relevance, and readability. Upon preliminary evaluation by the Editorial Board, the papers are sent to two referees (experts in respective fields) for evaluation. The decision of the Editor-in-Chief to publish a paper in concurrence with referee(s) opinion is considered final. The journal average impact factor is now 8.761!!!!

[Submit Your Article Here](#)

[▶ Paper Template](#)

Wulfenia Sidebar Menu

Submission Guide

- ▶ Manuscripts submitted for consideration to the journal must conform to the requirements that will facilitate preparation of the article for publication

Editorial Board

- ▶ The international editorial board is headed by Professor Dr. Vienna S. Franz

General Policies

- ▶ Papers that are published or held by the Journal may not be published elsewhere

Peer Review Process

- ▶ Papers will be sent to three peer reviewers for evaluation

Recruitment

- ▶ We welcome referees who would be willing to act as reviewers

Journal Citation Reports (JCR2022-3):

- ISSN: 1561-882X
- **Impact Factor: 0.686**
- **Five-Year-IF: 1.000**
- **Average Impact factor: 8.761**
- **Coverage:**
Elsevier BIOBASE
BIOSIS Previews

1

2

3

Journal Citation Reports™

Journals

Categories

Publishers

Home > Journal profile

JCR YEAR

All years

Wulfenia

ISSN

1561-882X

EISSN

1561-882X

Year	Total Citations	Journal impact factor	JIF without self cites	5 Year Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Citable items	% of articles in Citable items	Average JIF Percentile
2022	187	0.4	0.4	0.6	N/A	0	N/A	3.6
2021	209	0.686	0.600	0.796	0.000	20	100.00	10.251
2020	218	0.941	0.676	1.242	0.150	20	100.00	18.085
2019	151	0.512	0.419	1.000	0.200	15	100.00	8.761
2018	164	0.886	0.750	1.482	0.053	19	100.00	22.149
2017	115	1.171	1.098	1.250	0.042	24	100.00	41.031
2016	119	1.219	1.125	1.429	0.100	20	100.00	42.217
2015	78	2.000	1.944	1.262	0.286	21	100.00	67.703



Way 3.

- **Is the journal a questionable OA journal?**

Resource

Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

<https://doaj.org/>

Please Note

1. DOAJ is a online directory of high quality, peer reviewed open access journals.
2. The journals listed in DOAJ means it has less risk of predatory journals.

Oral Tradition

📞 0883-5365 (PRINT) / 1542-4308 (ONLINE)

🌐 Website

🌐 ISSN Portal

About Articles

PUBLISHING WITH THIS JOURNAL

💰 There are **NO PUBLICATION FEES** ([article processing charges or APCs](#)) to publish with this journal.

🔍 Look up the journal's:

- [Aims & scope](#)
- [Instructions for authors](#)
- [Editorial Board](#)
- Blind peer review

BEST PRACTICE

📅 This journal began publishing in **open access** in 1986. 🕒

This journal uses their **publisher's own** license.

→ Look up their [open access statement](#) and their [license terms](#).

© The author **retains unrestricted** copyrights and publishing rights.

JOURNAL METADATA

📍 Publisher
[Center for Hellenic Studies, Trustees for Harvard University](#), United States

Society or institution
Center for Hellenic Studies, Trustees for Harvard University

Manuscripts accepted in
English

📁 LCC subjects 🕒



Way 4.

- Is the journal indexed in the reputable databases?

Resource

NLM Catalog (Medline journal list)

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog>

InCites JCR

<https://jcr.clarivate.com/>

Please Note

Or search for the journal title in the databases where it is indexed.



▶ ISSN: 2688-9501

International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research




 +1 630 397 0234

International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research (ISSN: 2688-9501)

Research

Review

Case Reports



GAVIN PUBLISHERS

Brief Reviews

Editorials

Research Highlights

Impact Factor: 3.32 ▲

ISSN: 2688-9501

Abbreviation: IJNHCR

Journal Type: Open Access Journal

Impact Factor*: 3.32 ▲

DOI Prefix: 10.29011/2688-9501

Journal Category: Medical / Clinical / Nursing Journals



International Journal of Nursing and Health Care Research,
<https://thenursingjournals.org/>

International journal of nursing and health care research

NLM Title Abbreviation: Int J Nurs Health Care Res (Lisle)

Title(s): International journal of nursing and health care research.

Publication Start Year: 2018

Frequency: Irregular

Country of Publication: United States

Publisher: Lisle, IL : Gavin Publishers, [2018]-

Description: 1 online resource

Language: English

ISSN: 2688-9501 (Electronic)
2688-9501 (Linking)

LCCN: 2019202285

Electronic Links: Access not provided by NLM

In: PubMed: Selected citations only

Current Indexing Status: Not currently indexed for MEDLINE. Citations are for articles where the manuscript was deposited in PubMed Central (PMC) in compliance with public access policies. For further information, see [Author Manuscripts in PMC](#).

Other ID: (OCoLC)1119538875

Collection Status: Not in the NLM Collection

NLM ID: [9918282979206676](#) [Serial]

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog?term=2688-9501%5BISSN%5D>

Mega journals

What is 'Mega journals' ?

Mega journals are open access, peer-reviewed, have a broad subject scope, the research articles are judged by scientific and methodological soundness, which causes the low rejection rate has made the journals growing big.

PLoS One (ISSN 1932-6203) was the first mega journal and has been very successful.

Main characteristics

- A large quantity of articles under the journal title
- Broad coverage of different subject areas;
- Fully open access journal
- Peer-reviewed
- Author pays article processing charge to cover the costs of publishing
- Accepting articles for publication based on whether they are technically sound rather than selecting for perceived importance

Are Mega journals predatory journals ?

<i>FEATURES</i>	<i>MEGA JOURNAL</i>	<i>PREDATORY JOURNAL*</i>
Open Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Author Charges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
High volume of published articles	<input type="radio"/>	Maybe
Rapid publication process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peer-review	<input type="radio"/>	Declare yes



Mega journals are not equal to predatory journals.

Why do you need to avoid ‘Mega journals’?

- 1** The reviewers may come from different research areas lead to unstable article quality.
- 2** Accepted articles may be considered less important and novel.
- 3** May affect the scholarly reputation, promotion, or application for grant if you list mega journal articles.

Partial list of mega journals

Table. The Most Prolific Mega-Journals in Biomedicine^a

Journal	Publisher	Full papers in 2022, No.	Journal impact factor
<i>Scientific Reports</i>	Springer	21 850	4.996
<i>International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health</i>	MDPI	16 889	4.614
<i>International Journal of Molecular Sciences</i>	MDPI	15 899	6.208
<i>PLoS One</i>	PLOS ONE	15 654	3.752
<i>Sensors</i>	MDPI	9753	3.847
<i>Molecules</i>	MDPI	8972	4.927
<i>Frontiers in Immunology</i>	Frontiers	7831	8.787
<i>Nature Communications</i>	Springer	7452	17.694

Controversial Publishers

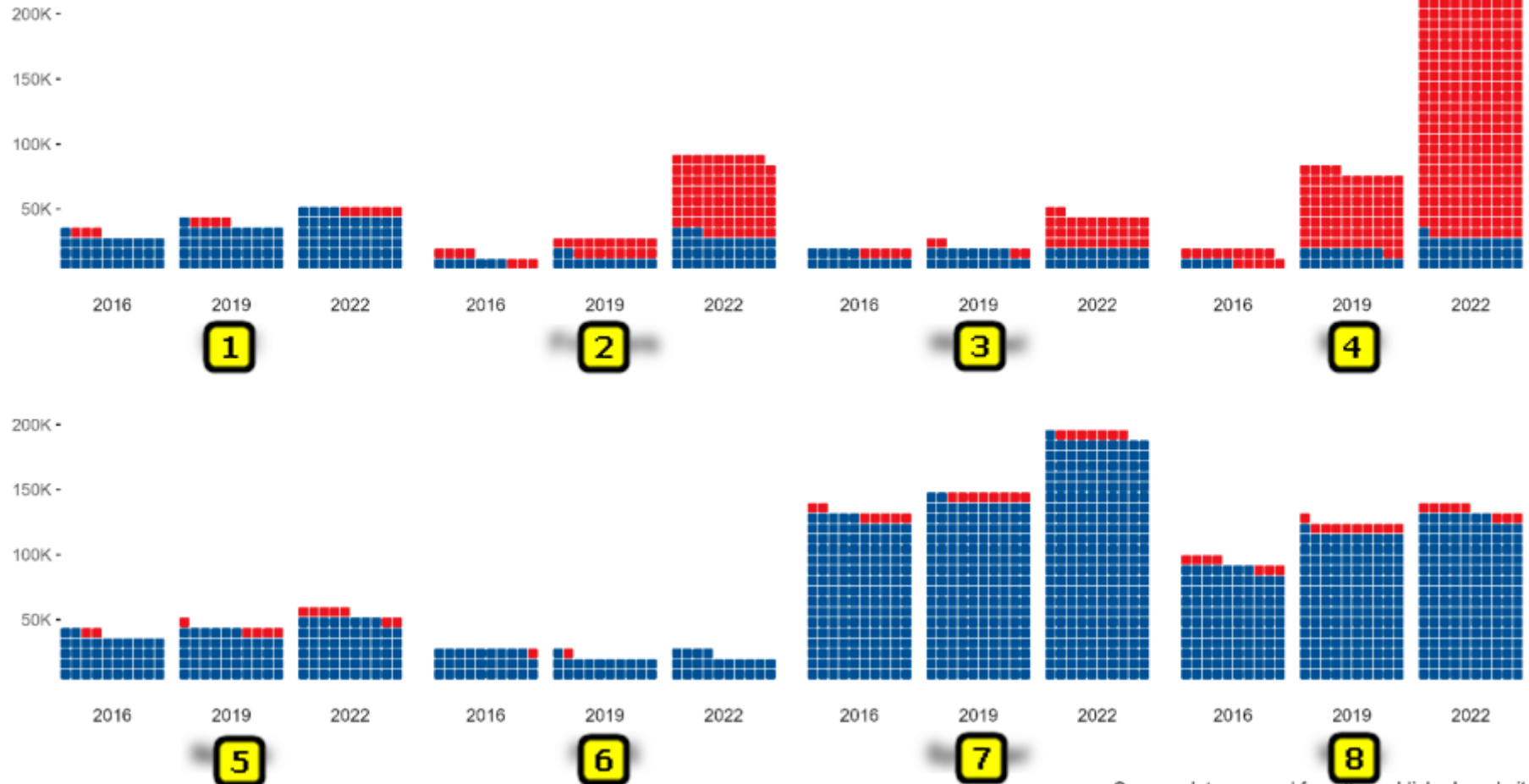


Q1.
**How do you think about
'Special Issue'?**

Q2.
**In your opinion, should a
journal have more special
issues than regular issues?**

Number of papers published in regular vs special issues, 2016-22

One square = 800 articles



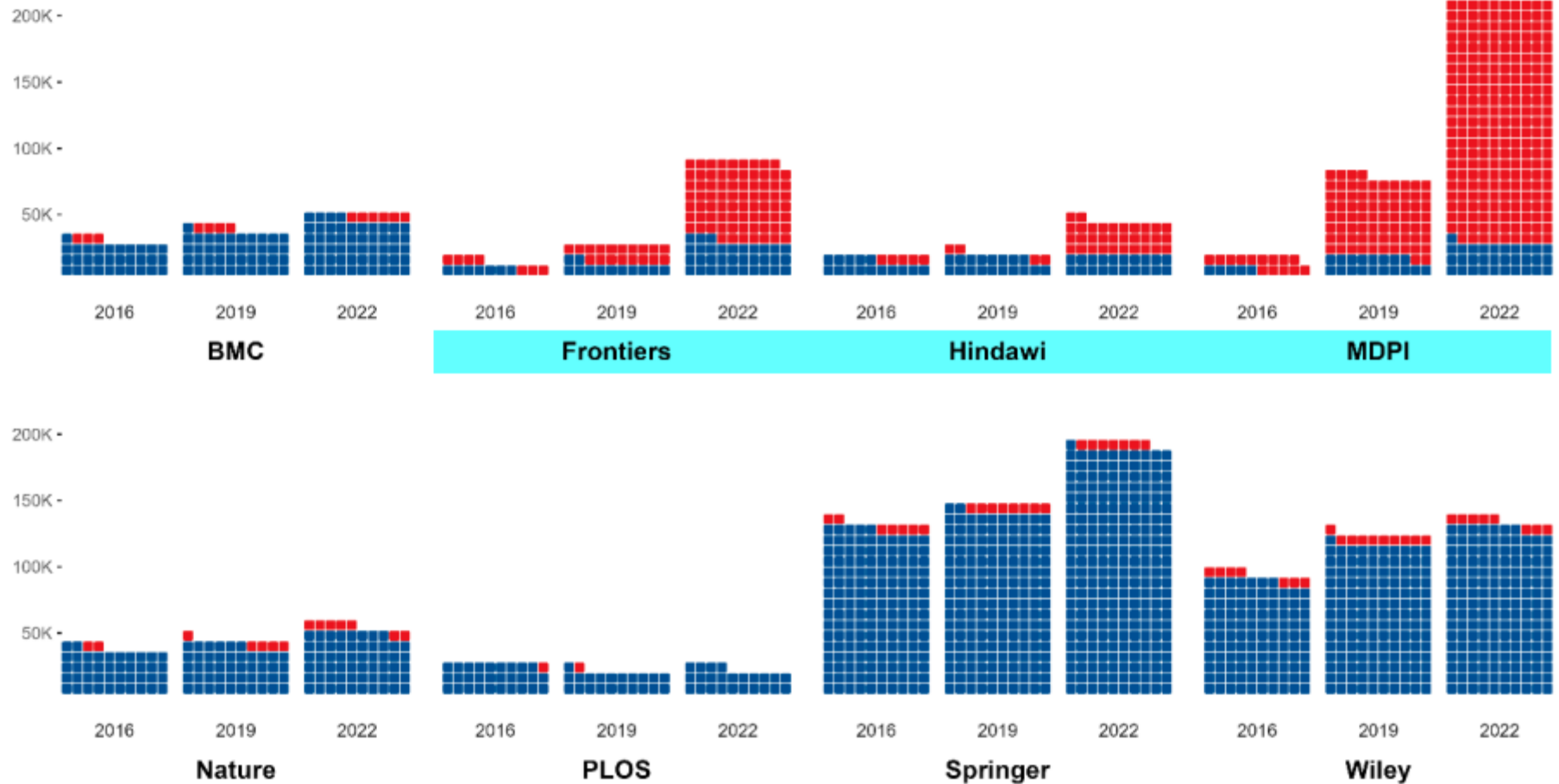
Source: data scraped from the publisher's website

Note: Special issues are called Collections at PLOS and Topics at Frontiers. For MDPI Collections, Sections and Topics not shown.

Figure 2: rise of the special issue model of publishing. Normal articles (blue) and special issue

Number of papers published in regular vs special issues, 2016-22

One square = 800 articles



Note: Special issues are called Collections at PLOS and Topics at Frontiers. For MDPI Collections, Sections and Topics not shown. Source: data scraped from the publisher's website

Figure 2: rise of the special issue model of publishing. Normal articles (blue) and special issue

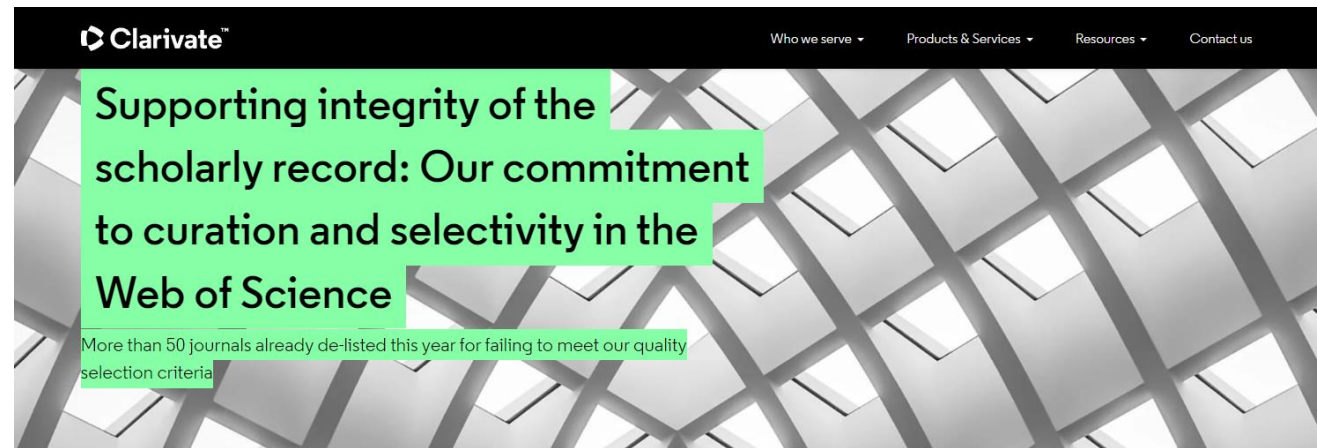
Mark A. Hanson, Pablo Gómez Barreiro, Paolo Crosetto, Dan Brockington. (2023) *The strain on scientific publishing*. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2309.15884>

Q3. Do you know this case?



(March 20, 2023)

**Nearly 50 journals delisted from
Web of Science!**



About this case...

- At the start of the year (2023), more than 500 journals were flagged.
- More than 50 of the flagged journals have failed their quality criteria and have subsequently been de-listed.
- It is known that the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (MDPI) and 19 journals under Hindawi have been delisted.

1. TMUL News Flash(2023). [Forwarding information related to Web of Science journal coverage](#)
2. Retraction Watch (2023). [Nearly 20 Hindawi journals delisted from leading index amid concerns of papermill activity](#)

Why do you need to avoid ‘Controversial Publishers’?

- 1 The number of special issues raises concerns about the accuracy of citation rates.
- 2 Problems with the peer review process (inappropriate conduct during peer review).
- 3 Had published several papers generated by a papermill.
- 4 Published papers that were outside the scope of the journal.

Why do you need to avoid ‘Controversial Publishers’?

5 More and more institutions are discouraging submissions to these questionable publishers.

- Ex:
- National Taiwan University
→ [Reference](#) (Mandarin)
 - Zhejiang Gongshang University (China)
→ [Reference](#)
 - The Ministry of Universities Malaysia
→ [Reference](#)
 - TMU College of Medical Science and Technology
→ Reference [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)



This is expected to trend in future TMU Policy.

Scholars in Malaysia are no longer allowed to use public funds to publish articles in journals owned by MDPI, Hindawi and Frontiers.

Do not accept or sponsor articles in blacklisted journals

The Ministry of Universities Malaysia has just issued a notice prohibiting the country's public universities from using funding from the state budget to pay for publishing articles in all journals belonging to the three publishers MDPI, Hindawi and **Frontiers** .

According to the Ministry of Universities Malaysia, this decision was made due to special concerns about academic integrity as well as about the issue of author names in articles and research works in the country.

The Ministry of Universities Malaysia has also established a special committee to control publication in **predatory journals** and low-quality journals, thereby improving academic ethics and protecting the reputation of universities as well as protecting the reputation of universities. as national.

What are 'Controversial Publishers'?



MDPI



Frontiers



Hindawi

Stay away from them!!



Before you submit a manuscript...



Are you submitting your research to a trusted journal?
Is it the right journal for your work?



Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.
Check list >>
<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/>



If you can answer 'yes' to most or all of the questions on the list.
Check list >>
<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/check/>

Journal Evaluation Tool

1. Think. Check. Submit.

Provide a framework and checklist to critically evaluate journals.

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

2. Journal Evaluation RUBRIC

A scoring sheet that anyone can use to determine the credibility of a journal.

https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1041&context=librarian_pubs

(May be) White list

- ✓ NLM Catalog (“Currently indexed for Medline” only)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog>
- ✓ DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
Online directory of high quality, peer reviewed open access journals.
<https://doaj.org/>
- ✓ COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)
Membership directory of editors and journals involved in publication ethics and ethical best practices in publishing.
<https://publicationethics.org/members>
- ✓ OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association)
Membership directory of rigorously vetted open access publishers.
<https://oaspa.org/membership/members/>
- ✓ InCites JCR (SCIE/SSCI list)
<https://jcr.clarivate.com/jcr/home>

Other resources

- ✓ List of preferred scientific journals for publishing research (medicine, health and biology)
 - released by The Conference of Deans of Medicine (France) and the National Council of Universities for Health Disciplines (France)
 - <https://conferencedesdoyensdemedecine.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Liste-de-revues-recommandables-SU-Med-29-06-23-Finale.pdf>

- ✓ The Retraction Watch Hijacked Journal Checker
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ak985WGOgGbJRjBzFanoktAN_UFeExpE/edit#gid=364865985

- ✓ DOAJ: journals added and withdrawn
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/183mRBRqs2jOyP0qZWXN8dUd02D4vL0Mov_kgYF8HORM/edit#gid=0

Library Support



Preliminary Check Service for Predatory Journal

We won't tell you if it is a predatory journal or not. We only provide information that can help you make a decision: submit your manuscript to the journal or choose another journal.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

→ [Apply for the Preliminary Check Report](#)



Eligible User

Current TMU and affiliate Hospital faculty, doctoral students and staff.



Turnaround Time

1-2 normal business days.

What the library check

We will check...

- [1] Does the journal have a real Journal Impact Factor (JIF)?
- [2] Is the journal (or its publisher) listed on the blacklist?
- [3] Is the journal indexed in Medline?
- [4] Additional information

What will you receive



You will receive a pdf file. It contains the results that the library checks for you and a check list. You can follow the check list to evaluate the journal by yourself.

Problems??

Ask us at the Reference Desk, we will do our best to solve your problems.

Email Address

asktmul@tmu.edu.tw

Phone Number

(02) 2736 1661 #2515

Location

3F, Comprehensive Medical Building (Rear building)

Service Hours

Mon ~ Fri
10:00-13:00, 13:30-17:00

