

PREDATORY JOURNALS AND OPEN ACCESS

PREDATORS IN THE WORLD OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

Predators = fraudulent journals or publishers that collect publishing fees **without adhering to established publishing standards such as peer review** and abuse the idea of open access to their advantage. Publishing in a predatory journal may **damage the author's reputation** and is contrary to the Code of Ethics of Charles University¹.

HOW TO AVOID PREDATORS?

Before submitting an article to a journal, we recommend assessing whether it shows any of the typical **features of predatory journals**:

- Too **generic title** (e.g., ... of science/research)
- **Unusually rapid** peer review procedure (often with a guarantee of rapid, if not immediate execution)
- Confusing website, **misleading information**
- Does not provide specific contact information
- Through unsolicited e-mails, they **aggressively and intrusively address** potential authors and invite them to publish
- They state **fictional members** of the Editorial Board
- Journal's geographic designation does not correspond with the address of the journal/publisher
- A large number of journals from many disciplines by (unknown / new) publisher
- **Non-transparent information** on fees
- ... and more

¹ Code of Ethics of Charles University see at <https://cuni.cz/UKEN-731.html>

Also verify:

- ISSN at [ISSN Portal](#)
- Impact factor at [Journal Citation Reports](#) and/or at [Scopus](#) (if specified)
- Listing of the journal at [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ)
- History of the journal (number of articles, year-on-year increase in publications, citation rate, etc.)
- The reputation of the journal among colleagues

... And above all, remember that

Predatory journal \neq open access

Paid open journal \neq always a predator

A useful tool for verifying the credibility of a journal is [Think. Check. Submit.](#)

[The faculty open access coordinators](#) and the [Open Science Support Centre](#) provide quality assurance support.

Do you want to publish in open access? Visit the [Open Science Support Centre website](#) to learn how.



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