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## Hard Work Preys Off: Recognizing & Avoiding Predatory Publishing

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# Hard Work Preys Off: Recognizing & Avoiding Predatory Publishing

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# Learning Objectives

1. Define **predatory publishing**
2. Identify **signs of predatory publishing**
3. Understand the typical **process of scholarly publishing**
4. Describe existing **resources** to avoid predatory publishing



# Defining Predatory Publishing

What are your current concerns about scholarly publishing?

What is predatory publishing?

Why should we worry about predatory publishing?



Image from <https://pixabay.com/en/group-therapy-counseling-health-2351896/>

“...opportunistic publishing venue that exploits the academic need to publish but offers little reward for those using their services”

(<http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory>)

## **Predatory Publishing**

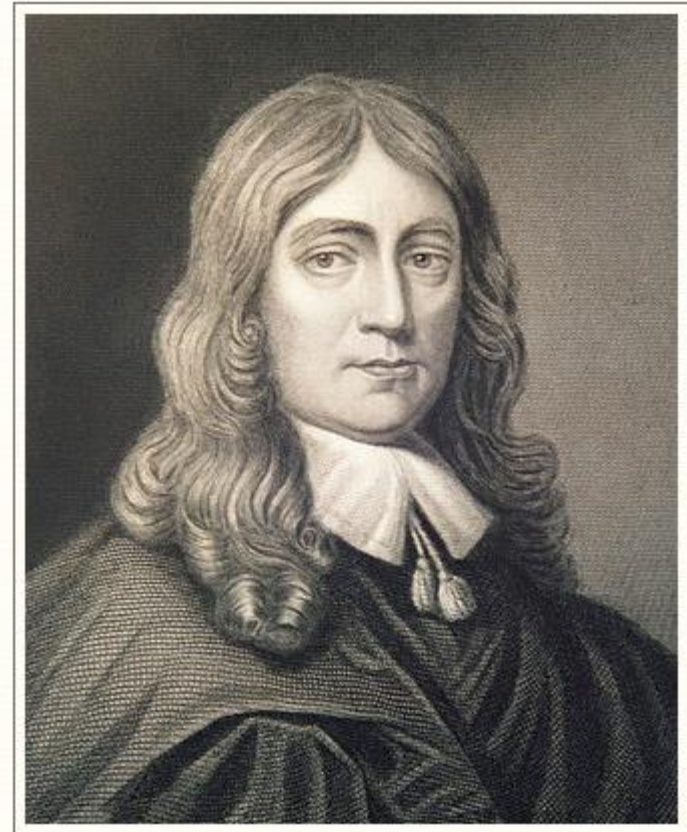
# Characteristics of Predatory Publishers

- Unsolicited contact with little information
- Fees
  - Excessive, hidden, or delayed fees
  - Goal is to make money
- Editorial oversight
  - Lack of peer review
- Journal's reputation within your field
  - Fails to follow accepted standards
- Journal indexing
  - Not indexed
  - False metrics
- Outlined publishing process
  - Process is hidden or unclear



# Types of Publishers

- Commercial
- Society/University Press
- Non-Profit
- Institutional/Subject Repositories
- Open-Access



*John Milton*

[On Publishers] “. . . old patentees and monopolizers in the trade of bookselling, men who do not labor in a honest profession . . .” - *Areopagitica*



# Open Access Journals

All journal content is available for researchers to read, print, download, distribute, or link to without fees.

- Visibility
- Cost
- Prestige
- Speed

Benefits of open access:

- Increased visibility
- More efficient dissemination
- Retention of some or all of your copyrights
- Access to a global audience
- Maintains traditional peer review
- Engagement through social media

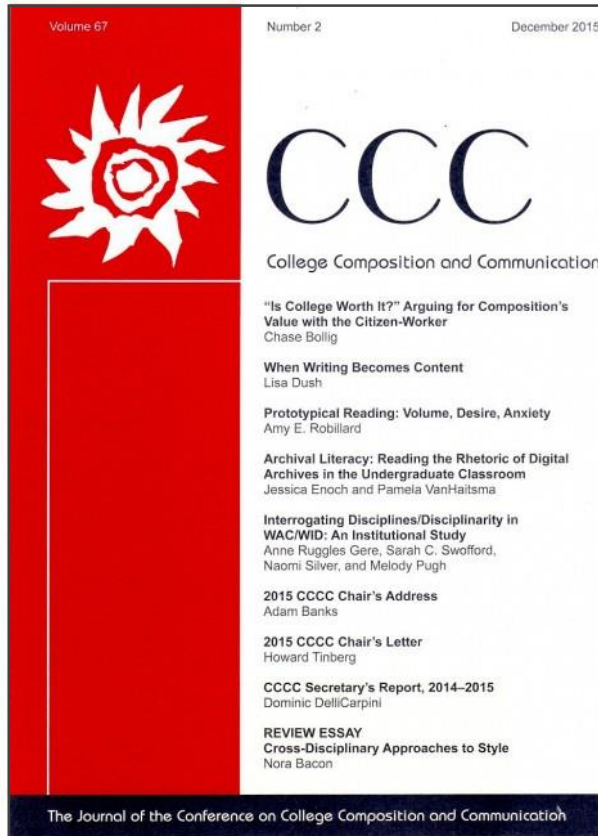
“DOAJ is a community-curated online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals. DOAJ is independent.... All DOAJ services are free of charge including being indexed in DOAJ. All data is freely available.” (<https://doaj.org/>) (Best practices: <https://doaj.org/bestpractice>)

## **Directory of Open Access Journals**

Principles of Transparency & Best Practices in Scholarly Publishing:  
<https://oaspa.org/principles-of-transparency-and-best-practice-in-scholarly-publishing/>

## **Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association**

# Publishing in Scholarly Journals



- **Review the submission guidelines** (e.g., length requirement, subject matter, part of current scholarly conversation).
- **Submit to a journal**
  - Query the editor if you aren't sure
- **Wait for reviewer feedback**
  - Many articles require a revise & resubmit—don't let that stop you!
- **Make revisions & resubmit**

# Scholarly Publishing Process: Complete a Proposal

## CRC PRESS BOOK PUBLISHING PROPOSAL

Please answer the following questions as completely as possible. The information provided in this document will be used for editorial review and may be shared with peers in your field in consideration of contract approval.

Once you have completed this form, please email or send it to the subject-appropriate CRC Editor. You can access a list of CRC Editors and their areas of focus on our [contacts page](#). If you are unable to determine the best CRC contact for your proposal, please submit it to:

Alan Jarvis  
Publishing Director

[Alan.jarvis@tandf.co.uk](mailto:Alan.jarvis@tandf.co.uk)

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*(Spaces will expand as needed to accommodate longer answers)*

1. Title of your book:

2. Your contact information:

Name:
Affiliation:
Address:
Telephone:
Fax:
Email:

3. Technical description of the project (at least 3 paragraphs), including the key benefits of the work

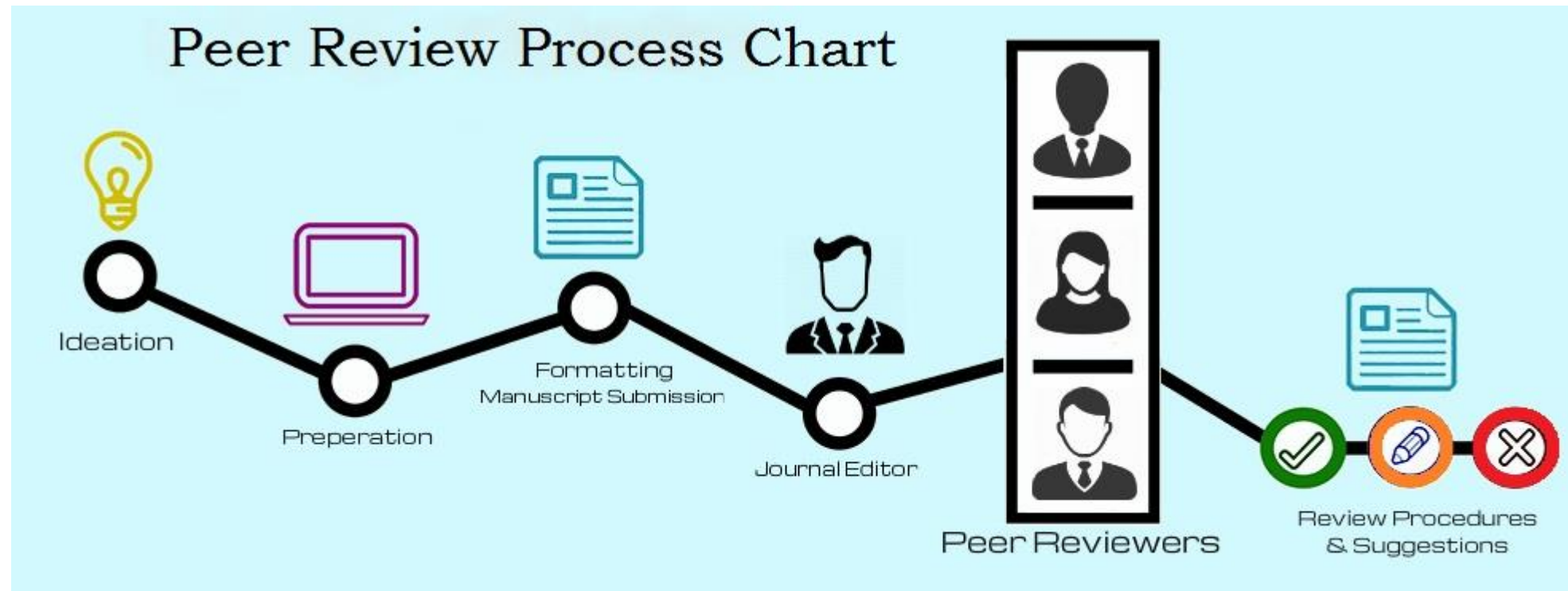
**Hint:** Many publishers (including journals) will offer guidelines for submission. For example:

<https://www.uc.edu/journals/composition-studies/submissions/overview.html>

# Proposal Contents

- An overview of the book's topic;
- Sample Table of Contents;
- Sample book chapters (could be all or merely a sample)
- Timeline for completion (e.g., the final manuscript will be submitted to the publishing house by November 2020).

# Scholarly Publishing Process: Send Proposal to Reviewers



- Reviewers examine scope & necessity of research
- Make a recommendation to publishers

# Scholarly Publishing Process: Post-Contract

Contract will include:

- Commission rates
- Author advances
- Timeline for final submission
  
- APCs?
  - “Author Publishing Charges”
  - “Article Processing Charges”



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# Editorial Team



# Writing Tips for Authors

- **Know where you're publishing:** Research the journal/publisher & their guidelines.
- **Be clear on your scholarly intervention** & how it's different from others.
- **Be respectful** when you disagree with others.
- **Take feedback seriously.**
- If you get a revise and resubmit... **Revise and resubmit!**
  - Send a letter back detailing your revisions

# How to Evaluate a Journal's Legitimacy



Image from <https://www.123rf.com/stock-photo/determinate.html?sti=n5awbq5s0z8yizzfbh>

- Talk to a librarian!
- Evaluate the journal's website
- Reach out to the editorial board
- Review the journal's aim, scope, & peer review guidelines
- Understand fee schedule

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

**Think. Check. Submit.**

# Let's Review

## { PREDATORY PHONY VS LEGIT PUBLISHING }

**STOP**

- Little contact information is given and what is given is suspect
- Amateurish page design: clashing colors and graphics, distracting background images, scrolling links, clip art, etc.
- Lists of seemingly arbitrary keywords are often used as an ill-advised attempt to boost search engine optimization
- False metrics or identifiers such as Impact Index, ISJN, or CiteFactor\*
- Guarantee of manuscript acceptance and publication or unrealistic turn-time
- Text is often full of errors or questionable grammatical choices and may lack context
- The project incubates milestones & cutting edge research and discoveries for the year 2014 which have potential to catalyze the domain.
- Some elements on the site seem to have a random or indeterminate purpose, like scrolling text and images that don't link anywhere
- The list of issues and articles is hard to find, haphazard, or non-existent
- No statement about ethics or affiliation with industry organizations such as COPE, CSE, ICMJE, etc.
- The journal website is hosted by an unknown source or free platform that allows users to design their own site

\* See <http://scholarlyoa.com/other-pages/misleading-metrics/> for a list of misleading metrics that are commonly used

**GO**

- Contact information is thorough and accurate
- Mobile optimization is often a prominent feature
- The list of issues and articles is complete and easy to find
- Statement about journal's ethics policy or membership in COPE or similar organization
- Text and navigation are clear, accurate, and helpful
- Professional, modular page design
- Everything on the site has a purpose
- All the links work
- Industry standard metrics are clearly displayed
- The journal website is hosted by a reputable publisher or technology partner that is well known

Still having doubts? Check out other articles published by the journal, review submission and peer review guidelines for additional information, or contact authors or editors listed on the site to ask questions. A little extra time and attention can save you the hassle and embarrassment of getting tangled up with a predatory publisher.

See the full infographic:  
[https://libguides.unbc.ca/ld.php?content\\_id=34090070](https://libguides.unbc.ca/ld.php?content_id=34090070)

# Let's Review






See the full infographic from the Canadian Association of Research Libraries:  
[https://libguides.unbc.ca/ld.php?content\\_id=34090071](https://libguides.unbc.ca/ld.php?content_id=34090071)

## HOW TO ASSESS A JOURNAL

A.K.A. How not to publish in an undesirable journal

### Key Things to Consider When Assessing a Journal\*

\*It's up to you to weigh these factors in order to make your decision.


-  **Don't trust unsolicited emails**
  - If a call for submission does not come from a trusted source, treat it as spam.
-  Be similarly wary of unsolicited offers to join editorial boards or conference invitations.
-  **Review several issues of the journal**
  - Check for writing and research quality, relevance to discipline and adequate copy editing.
-  **While you're at it...**
  - If your research grant or institution requires that your article be openly available, make sure the journal's policy allows this.
-  **Review the journal website. It should contain:**
  - a clear and appropriate scope;
  - an editorial board with recognized experts and current contact information for them;
  - a description of the peer review process;
  - transparent information about whether article processing charges (APCs) or other fees are charged.
-  Two journals can have similar names but different reputations; don't mistake one journal for another.
-  **Check that any impact metrics listed by the journal are recognized and reputable**
  - e.g. Journal Impact Factor, H-index, Eigenfactor
-  Beware: there are a number of made-up metrics on the Internet.

OPEN ACCESS

Check to see if OA journals are listed at [doaj.org](http://doaj.org)

Note: Very new journals will not be listed.

### Still Unsure?

-  **Check with your colleagues and peers in your field.**
-  **Get help from a librarian at your institution.**
-  **Visit [thinkchecksubmit.org](http://thinkchecksubmit.org) for more useful tips.**

### Neutral Factors

The following factors are not indicative of journal quality:

- Lack of impact metrics**
  - Not all reputable journals display impact metrics.
- Geographical location of publisher**
  - Journal publishing is a global pursuit.
- Article Processing Charges (APCs)**
  - Reputable open access journals operate under a variety of business models, including many who use APCs.
- Reputation of other journals by the same publisher**
  - A publisher can be responsible for both highly respected and less reputable journals.

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES  
ASSOCIATION DES BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES DE RECHERCHE DU CANADA

# Resources

- NSU Libguide on Predatory Publishing:  
<https://nsufl.libguides.com/publishing/predatory>
- Iowa State University's Predatory Publishing Library Guide:  
<http://instr.iastate.libguides.com/predatory/id>
- Resources from Northeastern University:  
<https://subjectguides.lib.neu.edu/publishing/predatory>
- Sarah Eaton's "Avoiding Predatory Journals & Questionable Conferences":  
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED579189.pdf>
- Thomas Jefferson University "Predatory Publishing" libguide:  
<https://jefferson.libguides.com/c.php?g=250298&p=1666268>
- University of Northern British Columbia's "Predatory Publishing" libguide:  
<https://libguides.unbc.ca/scholarly-communication/predatory-publishers>



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