Publisher Evaluation Tool

Check for Unethical Publishing Practices

SECTION 1	Y	N	IDK
Does the journal publish articles that have been plagiarized?			
Does the site include grammatical or spelling errors?			
Does the journal/publisher fail to disclose their geographic location; or, does the geographic location of the journal contrast with the title of the journal?			
Does the journal say all articles are published under Creative Commons License, but the publisher retains all rights to content?			
Does the publisher list the same editor or editorial board for all of its journals?			
Is the turn-around time for peer review less than 10 days?			
Does the journal fail to provide detailed information about peer review?			
Is the first volume of the journal numbered something other than #1?			
Did the publisher open dozens of new Open Access titles all at once?			

SECTION 2	Y	N	IDK
Does the journal have very broad subject coverage?			
Does the journal ONLY list a P.O. Box for the contact address?			
Does the journal use Yahoo or Gmail email addresses for contact purposes?			
Is the only way to contact the journal through a "contact us" online form?			
Is the contact information for the editor the same as the website or journal?			
Did the journal contact you via email?			
Does the publisher fail to disclose the names of editorial board members or editors?			
Does the journal list the editorial board?			
Does the website have poor search functionality, or no search functionality at all?			
Does the website have dead links?			
Is the turn-around time for peer review less than 2 months?			
Does the journal make it difficult or impossible to find information about its "author side fee", or "page charge"? Does it hide this information altogether?			
Does the journal lie about abstracting and indexing? (Such as saying it is indexed by Scopus, when in fact it is not.)			

Nina Collins
Scholarly Publishing Specialist
Purdue University Press and Scholarly Publishing Services

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Check for Ethical Standards in Open Access Publishing

SECTION 3	Y	N	IDK
Is the journal or its publisher a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publisher's Association (OASPA)?			
Is the journal or its publisher affiliated with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)?			
Does the journal list full contact information for the editorial board?			
Is the journal published by a reputable academic institution?			
Is the journal content indexed in reputable indexing/abstracting services?			
Does the journal post clear and transparent policies (such as information about author fees, licensing, corrections and retractions, peer review process)?			
Have any of your colleagues published in this journal?			
Does the journal have policies for long-term digital preservation? (perhaps they use LOCKSS)			
Review the scholarship published in the journal. Do you want your work published beside those works?			

Scoring the test

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
If you answered "Yes" to any question in section 1, you should be suspicious. If you answer "Yes" to two or more questions in this section, you should consider another publication.	If you answered "Yes" to 2 questions in section 2, you should be suspicious. If you answered "Yes" to more than 2 questions, you should consider another source. This publication may not be legitimate. It may not adhere to expected publishing standards. Use your best judgment and speak with senior colleagues and your liaison librarian to learn more about this publication.	If you answered "Yes" to one or more of the questions in section 3, it is likely (but not certain) that the publication is legitimate. Use your best judgment and be sure to speak with your academic community, including senior colleagues and liaison librarians, to make your decision.