

Choosing a genuine journal publisher



The number of publishers and publishing models is rising, making it more difficult to distinguish between genuine titles and publishers and predatory or deceptive ones.

Predatory publishers may seek to take advantage of funder and institutional open access policies requiring authors to publish via open access routes.

We would therefore advise you to consider where you publish carefully, checking the credentials of any prospective publisher before submitting your manuscript, especially if you are being charged publication fees. If you receive research funding, your funder will usually expect you to publish in the best possible place to disseminate your research for maximum impact and influence.

Think.Check.Submit.

The Think.Check.Submit. campaign was developed to help researchers assess a journal or publisher's credentials in the fight against predatory or deceptive publishing. Search for your chosen journal or publisher: <http://thinkchecksubmit.org>

Predatory publishers and journals

There is no single way to determine whether a publisher is genuine or not. You should assess your chosen publisher carefully using the guidance and resources given here. The Scholarly Communication and Rights team, in Library Services can also help: E.openaccess@brunel.ac.uk

Some 'predatory' journals and publishers are known to send out bulk emails to potential authors soliciting material for publication, often targeting early career researchers and research students by offering to publish dissertations or theses free of charge and do not conduct peer-review.

These could be more accurately described as content aggregators or distributors. Others seek to generate income by charging authors and institutions for open access publication and appear to be genuine by choosing very similar

Checklist for assessing journals or publishers

□ Is there a named editor and editorial board?

Follow up named connections by checking whether the editor and board members are recognised experts in their field, and have declared their association on their public or institutional profile.

□ Is peer-review offered?

Peer review is an indicator of academic rigour, and if a journal does not offer this, even if genuine, it may be poor quality and may not benefit you to publish there.

□ Are full contact details available?

This should include a postal address, telephone number, email address, and you should verify whether telephone numbers and email addresses are functioning.

□ Is information on costs and management practices open and transparent?

Information about publication fees, such as Article Processing Charges (APCs) or manuscript submission fees; instructions for authors, licensing and copyright, etc. should be openly available on the publisher or journal website.

□ Are it listed in official databases and directories?

Established journals will have an impact factor and appear in citation indexes and other directories. See information on checking whether a journal or publisher is genuine in this guide,

titles to established journals and populating them with freely available open access articles in their titles.

Where fees are charged, authors should treat any requests with caution, and seek further advice before submitting manuscripts or entering into official or unofficial publishing agreements. Spam publishers also increasingly operate and which set up fake websites and campaigns to secure article publication fees from authors.

You may also want to consider whether selecting the journal or publisher will be beneficial to you – is it a respected journal with an established reputation? If your work will be available open access in the University’s repository, there may be no further need to publish elsewhere, unless value will be added to your work, via academic peer-review, editing and typesetting for publication.

Is my journal genuine?

- The **Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)** contains a list of verified open access journals which meet the DOAJ’s criteria: www.doaj.com
- Reputable journals will also often be listed in databases such as Thomson Reuters’ **InCites™ Journal Citation Reports (JCR)**. For access, go to the Databases web page: www.brunel.ac.uk/services/library/databases

Is my publisher genuine?

- Are they a member of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**? Members are expected to follow a code of conduct for journal editors and are provided with access to publications ethics training. Search by member (editor-in-chief) or by publisher to view a list of journals: <http://publicationethics.org/members>
- Are they a member of the **International Association of STM (Scientific, Technical and Medical) Publishers**? Members publish over 60% of all journal articles and are expected to follow high professional and ethical standards: www.stm-assoc.org/membership/our-members
- If they are an open access publisher, are they a member of the **Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA)**? OASPA members are bound by a code of conduct and membership criteria based on standard publishing practices and transparency: <http://oaspa.org/membership/members>

Find out more

See the Library’s web pages for information about Brunel and funder open access publishing requirements: www.brunel.ac.uk/services/library/research

If you have concerns about whether a journal or publisher is genuine, please contact the Library Research Support Services team for advice. For advice on Open Access:
E openaccess@brunel.ac.uk

General enquiries:
E library@brunel.ac.uk