Delving into the Dark World of Predatory Open Access Publishing

December 2, 2022
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm (Italian time)
Novoli campus (Florence - Italy), Building D6, Room "Bracco"
Webex Platform
https://unifirenze.webex.com/unifirenze/j.php?MTID=madfa2a483b015ec4eeef02eae853c885

Predatory journals represent a global threat to scientific integrity and public trust in science. They have been described as a form of robbery and even a pandemic. They accept articles for publication - against payment of high authors' fees — without performing promised checks for issues such as plagiarism, scientific quality or ethical approval. Naive readers are not the only victims. Many researchers are duped into submitting to predatory journals, thereby damaging their reputations. The lack of adequate editorial practices and scientific review of accepted manuscripts leads to the publication of poor-quality research, the spread of wrong, unsafe or even dangerous recommendations for practice and policies, and the unfair recognition of unethical and unscientific conduct. Some estimates say that about one and a half million articles have been published in predatory journals in 2021. Predatory publishing also infiltrated in many reputable citation databases such as PubMed and Scopus. A recent study published in Scientometrics found that 2.8% of all the articles indexed in the Scopus database over the period 2015-2017 had been published in predatory journals.

How many times a week do you receive an email from an unknown publisher, who asks you to submit one of your papers to one of its journals, and who offers a quick and easy peer review process? What has predatory publishing to do with open access? How can we spot and avoid predatory journals? Which are the benefits and limitations of the available instruments to address predatory publishing?

These are amongst the key questions that this workshop will seek to address. We welcome participants to raise more questions and share experiences.

Workshop Program

"Institutional welcome", Maria Elvira Mancino, Director of the Department of Economics and Management, University of Florence (Italy)

"Institutional welcome", Arabella Mocciaro Li Destri, President of the Italian Society of Management

"Introduction and coordination", **Francesco Ciampi**, Department of Economics and Management, University of Florence (Italy)

"The good, the bad, and the predatory journals", **Maximilian Heimstädt**, Department of Sociology, Bielefeld University (Germany) and Weizenbaum Institute (Germany)

"The legacy of Jeffrey Beall: Assessing journal watchlists and safelists as a solution to predatory publishing", **Amy** Koerber, College of Media & Communication, Texas Tech University (USA)

Predatory publishing: How can we address the challenges it presents? Graham Kendall, University of Nottingham (UK and Malaysia)

Maximilian Heimstädt is a senior researcher at the Department of Sociology of Bielefeld University (Germany) and head of the research group "Reorganizing Knowledge Practices" at Weizenbaum Institute in Berlin. His research interest lies in the digital transformation of expert work in organizations. As part of this research agenda, he studies how scientific work changes in the digital condition. His research topics include open access business models, preprints servers, and predatory publishing.

Graham Kendall, former Professor of Computer Science at the University of Nottingham, is a Senior Vice President & the CEO of the Good Capitalism Forum at the PETRA Group in Malaysia. Prior to this, Graham was based at the University of Nottingham's campus in Malaysia where he was the CEO and Provost, and also a Pro-vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. He has published over 250 peer reviewed papers and has served on several editorial boards including being the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE Transactions of Computational Intelligence and AI in Games and an Associate Editor of the Journal of the Operational Research Society. In recent years he has been publishing on predatory publishing. He has been a fellow of both the British Computer Society and the Operational Research Society, and he holds honorary and distinguished professorial positions at universities in Hong Kong and India.

Amy Koerber is Professor in Communication Studies and Associate Dean for Administration & Finance at the College of Media & Communication of Texas Tech University (Texas, USA). Research interests include health and science communication, with a specific focus on women's health issues. Her book, "Breast or Bottle: Contemporary Controversies in Infant-Feeding Policy and Practice," published by University of South Carolina Press in 2013, was awarded the NCTE Award for Best Book in Scientific or Technical Communication. Dr. Koerber is Principal Investigator on a National Science Foundation grant, *STEM Training in Ethics of Publication Practices,* that addresses predatory publishing in the STEM disciplines.