



Delving into the Dark World of Predatory Open Access Publishing

Predatory Publishing: How can we address the challenges it presents?

Professor Graham Kendall

2 Dec 2022

Professor Graham Kendall

- Emeritus Professor, University of Nottingham, UK/Malaysia
- Distinguished Professor, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
- Chief Executive, Good Capitalism Forum, PETRA Group, Malaysia




Contents

1. ~~What is Predatory Publishing?~~
2. Willing Participation
3. Fake Journals
4. ~~How do you identify a predatory publisher/journal?~~
5. The Integrity of the Scientific Archive
6. Research into Predatory Publishing
7. Jeffrey Beall (briefly)
8. A Catalogue Raisonné for Scientific Publishers
9. Conclusion

Willing Participation

- Frandsen, T. F. (2022) Authors publishing repeatedly in predatory journals: An analysis of Scopus articles *Learned Publishing*. DOI: 10.1002/leap.1489

Authors publishing repeatedly in predatory journals: An analysis of Scopus articles

Tove Faber Frandsen 



Tove Faber Frandsen

Department of Design and Communication, University of Southern Denmark, Kolding, Denmark

ORCID: [0000-0002-8983-5009](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8983-5009)

E-mail: t.faber@sdu.dk

Abstract: Scholars engage with so-called predatory or questionable journals for many different reasons. Among the contributing factors are monetary payoffs and the possibility of fast track faculty positions or promotion. It has been claimed that **fast tracking promotion by using predatory publication outlets** is an increasing problem. This study analyses the authors publishing in predatory journals with a focus on authors repeatedly publishing in predatory journals. In this study, a set of so-called **predatory journals indexed in Scopus** was used. The data included **243,396 authorships** of articles and reviews published from 2004 to 2021 by **169,742 unique authors**. This study finds that 55% of the authors publish in one of these journals only once, 34.5% publish 2–5 times in these journals, 6.3% publish in them 6–10 times, and 4.2% publish more than 10 times. Furthermore, this study finds that the mean and median number of articles and reviews is correlated with the number of articles and reviews in predatory journals. Finally, authors publishing in predatory journals do not confine themselves to these journals and also publish in validated journals as well.

Keywords: author experience, bibliometrics, predatory journals

Fake Journals

- Kennedy, M. S. (2020) **Predatory Publishing Is Alive and Well**. *American Journal of Nursing*, 120(4), 7

Predatory Publishing Is Alive and Well

We need to be vigilant against fake journals.

I first wrote about predatory publishers and journals in my April 2015 editorial, “Predatory Publishing Is No Joke.” Other members of the International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE) wrote about it as well, hoping to “get the word out” to our readers about how unscrupulous publishers were taking advantage of the open access publishing model. These publishers dupe authors into submitting work to journals that are essentially fake. They do little or no peer review, usually publish only a few online issues with little dissemination, and keep the copyright and author fees. Under these circumstances, authors are basically paying for work that will not be disseminated or counted toward promotion or tenure.

There have been many attempts to expose the identities of these publishers. The most widely known

that 96.3% of the 358 articles assessed were rated poor or average.

There’s also evidence that articles from predatory journals are being cited in mainstream journals, including nursing journals. We’ve found this to be true in submissions we receive, prompting us to spend more time reviewing references. And in a 2019 study published in

Nursing Outlook, Oermann and colleagues found 814 citations of articles published in predatory journals in 141 nonpredatory journals, generally cited one to four years after publication. Interestingly, the majority of authors of the predatory articles were from the United States.

Some researchers say that trusted indexes like PubMed

and the Directory of Open Access Journals have been infiltrated by predatory journals. The danger in all this is that information that has not been verified or sub-



Rigorous peer review is the best mechanism to ensure accuracy in our literature.

The integrity of the scientific archive

- Kennedy, M. S. (2020) Predatory Publishing Is Alive and Well. *American Journal of Nursing*, 120(4), 7
- Oermann, M. H. / Nicoll, L. H. / Carter-Templeton, H. / Woodward, A. / Kidayi, P. L. / Neal, L. B. / Edie, A. H. / Ashton, K. S. / Chinn, P. L. / Amarasekara, S. (2019) Citations of articles in predatory nursing journals. *Nursing Outlook*, 67(6). 664-670

Predatory Publishing Is Alive and Well

We need to be vigilant against fake journals.

I first wrote about predatory publishers and journals in my April 2015 editorial, “Predatory Publishing Is No Joke.” Other members of the International Academy of Nursing Editors (INANE) wrote about it as well, hoping to “get the word out” to our readers about how unscrupulous publishers were taking advantage of the open access publishing model. These publishers dupe authors into submitting work to journals that are essentially fake. They do little or no peer review, usually publish only a few online issues with little dissemination, and keep the copyright and author fees. Under these circumstances, authors are basically paying for work that will not be disseminated or counted toward promotion or tenure.

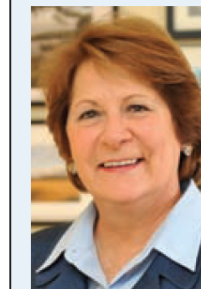
There have been many attempts to expose the identities of these publishers. The most widely known

that 96.3% of the 358 articles assessed were rated poor or average.

There’s also evidence that articles from predatory journals are being cited in mainstream journals, including nursing journals. We’ve found this to be true in submissions we receive, prompting us to spend more time reviewing references. **And in a 2019 study published in *Nursing Outlook*, Oermann and colleagues found 814 citations of articles published in predatory journals in 141 nonpredatory journals, generally cited one to four years after publication. Interestingly, the majority of authors of the predatory articles were from the United States.**

Some researchers say that trusted indexes like PubMed

and the Directory of Open Access Journals have been infiltrated by predatory journals. The danger in all this is that information that has not been verified or sub-



Rigorous peer review is the best mechanism to ensure accuracy in our literature.

Research into predatory publishing

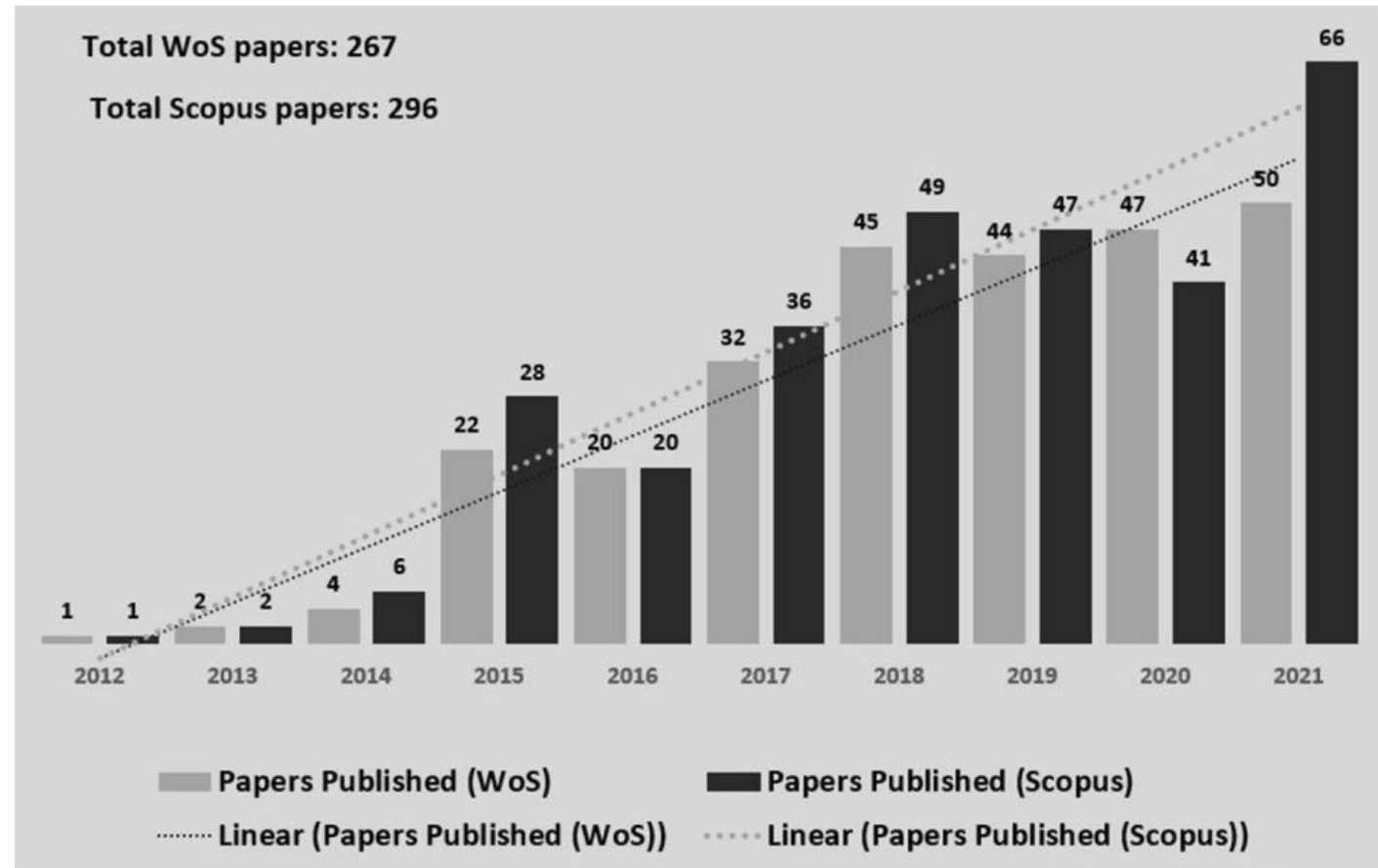


Fig. 1 Number of papers published by Web of Science and Scopus that discuss Predatory Publishing (Data collected 27 July 2022)

Spooof papers

What's the Deal with Birds?

Daniel T. Baldassarre*

Department of Biological Sciences, SUNY Oswego, USA

***Corresponding author:** Daniel T. Baldassarre, Department of Biological Sciences, SUNY Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126, USA.

Received Date: March 25, 2020

Published Date: April 01, 2020

Abstract

Many people wonder: what's the deal with birds? This is a common query. Birds are pretty weird. I mean, they have feathers. WTF? Most other animals don't have feathers. To investigate this issue, I looked at some birds. I looked at a woodpecker, a parrot, and a penguin. They were all pretty weird! In conclusion, we may never know the deal with birds, but further study is warranted.

Keywords: birds, ornithology, behavior, phenotype, WTF, genomics, climate change

Acknowledgements

We thank Big Bird from Sesame Street for comments on the manuscript. Several trained monkeys transcribed videos.

Jeffrey Beall

- American Librarian
- Coined the term “Predatory Publishing”
- Created Beall’s List



Beall's Legacy

- Kendall, G. (2021) Beall's legacy in the battle against predatory publishers. *Learned Publishing*, 34(3), 379-388



Association of Learned
and Professional
Society Publishers

ORIGINAL ARTICLE


(wileyonlinelibrary.com) doi: 10.1002/leap.1374

Received: 16 July 2020

| Accepted: 17 December 2020

| Published online in Wiley Online Library: 18 February 2021

Beall's legacy in the battle against predatory publishers

Graham Kendall ^{1,2}



G. Kendall

¹Computational Optimisation and Learning (COL) Lab,
School of Computer Science, University of Nottingham,
Wollaton Road, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG8
1BB, UK

²University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus, Jalan
Brogga, Semenyih, Selangor, 43500, Malaysia

ORCID: 0000-0003-2006-5103

Email: graham.kendall@nottingham.edu.my

[Correction added on 25 February 2021 after first
online publication: The second paragraph in column 1
on page 2 has been updated in this version.]

Abstract

Between 2009 and 2012, Jeffrey Beall published four articles which analysed 18 publishers (17 of which he identified as predatory). He also introduced the term *predatory* in the context of scientific publishing. In 2012, he started Beall's List, which maintained a list of predatory publishers and journals. This became a valuable resource for those who wanted to know if a journal was legitimate, although others were very critical of the list. This article considers what he wrote and the list he developed and the criticisms that have been levelled against Beall's list. Beall's legacy can be considered to ensure that the problems of fraudulent or inappropriate publishing practices are highlighted and that the scientific community remains aware of the problem. Unfortunately, his legacy has not led to an eradication of predatory journals, and the problem appears to have become worse in the past decade. Although there is opportunity to build on his legacy, there have been few practical moves, and this article suggests that there is an opportunity for clearer, more universally accepted guidelines and approval criteria for quality journals.

Keywords: ethics, predatory publishing, publisher

Beall's Legacy

- Kendall, G and Linacre, S. (2022) *Predatory Journals: Revisiting Beall's Research* *Publishing Research Quarterly* 3(8), 530 - 543

Publishing Research Quarterly (2022) 38:530–543
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12109-022-09888-z>



Predatory Journals: Revisiting Beall's Research

Graham Kendall^{1,2}  · Simon Linacre³ 

Accepted: 26 April 2022 / Published online: 24 May 2022

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2022

Abstract

Between 2009 and 2012, Jeffrey Beall analyzed 18 publishers, which were publishing 1328 journals. He classified all but one of the publishers as predatory. In this paper we look again at these publishers to see what has changed since that initial analysis. We focus on the same 18 publishers so that we have a direct comparison with Beall's original analysis. One publisher has been acquired by Sage (the publisher no longer exists) and another has been acquired by Taylor & Francis (the publisher still retains its identity). Three of the publishers can no longer be found and, of the thirteen that remain, they now publish 1650 journals, an increase of 24.25% over the 1328 journals being published when Beall carried out his analysis. Other ways of carrying out this analysis, could put this increase as high as 50.14%. The increase in the number of journals being published, by fewer publishers, suggests that the problem of predatory publishing is getting worse, although this may be largely due to mega-predatory publishers which have dramatically increased the number of journals they now publish, when compared to ten years ago. Unlike Beall, rather than classifying the publishers as predatory (or not), we classify them into four categories, using data which is publicly available, rather than making a subjective decision. Two publishers are classified as category 1 (the most reputable). One journal is in category 2, four in category 3 and six in category 4.



Predatory Publishing: How can we address the challenges it presents?

—
A Catalogue Raisonné for Scientific Publishers

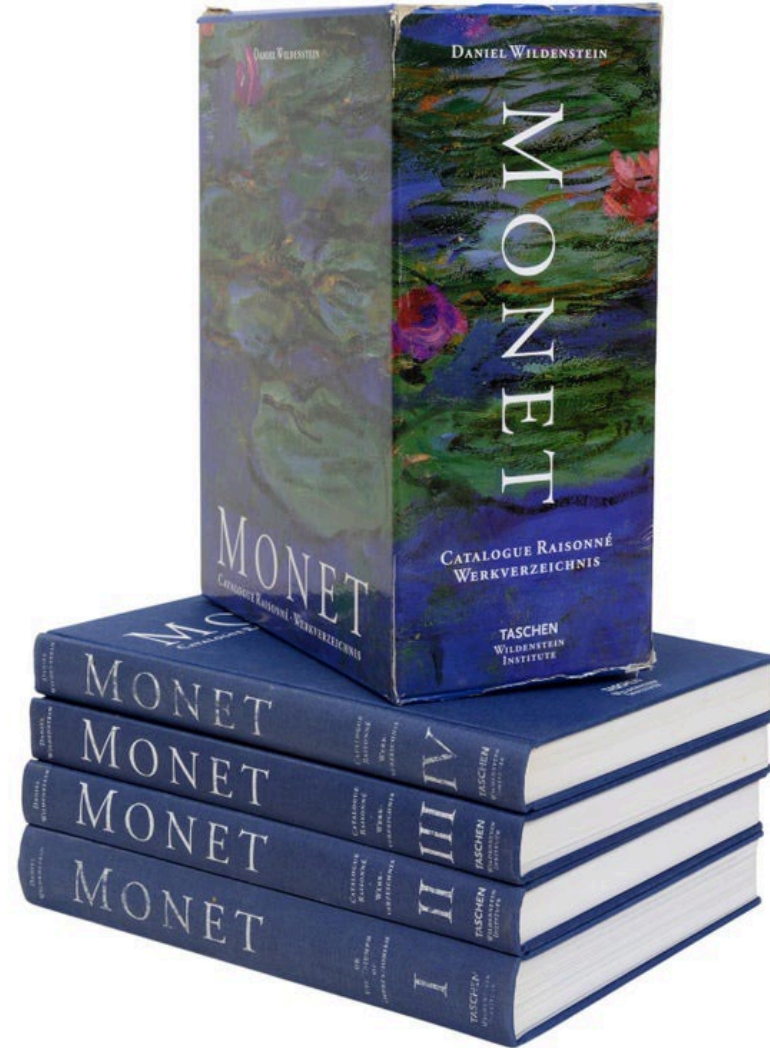
Fake or Fortune



Catalogue Raisonné

What is a Catalogue Raisonné?

A **catalogue raisonné** is a printed collection of the accepted artworks of an artist that has been created by the artist themselves or by 'producers', which include authors, editors, committees, experts, or publishers, to assist collectors in identifying works by the artist and protect the art market from forgeries.



Catalogue Raisonné

What is a Catalogue Raisonné?

A **catalogue raisonné** is a printed collection of the accepted artworks of an artist that has been created by the artist themselves or by ‘producers’, which include authors, editors, committees, experts, or publishers, to assist collectors in identifying works by the artist and protect the art market from forgeries.

Producing a *raisonné* can take years or even decades and a majority of artists have none. For the artists that do have one, the publication focuses on the artist’s authentic body of work by providing photos, information and history. The history will usually include provenance, bibliographic, and exhibition histories if the artwork is a unique original work. It may also provide some or all of the following:

- Title and title variations
- Dimension/Size – usually in centimeters (cm)
- Date of the work
- Medium
- Current location/owner at time of publication
- Provenance (history of ownership)
- Exhibition history
- Condition of the work
- Bibliography/Literature that discusses the work
- Essay(s) on the artist
- Critical assessments and remarks
- Full description of the work
- Signatures, Inscriptions and Monograms of the artist
- Reproduction of each work
- List of works attributed, lost, destroyed and fakes
- Catalog number specific to the *raisonné*

A Catalogue Raisonné for scientific publishing

Publishing Research Quarterly
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12109-022-09913-1>



Drawing Inspiration from the World of Fine Art in the Battle Against Predatory Publishing

Graham Kendall¹

© The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Science+Business Media, LLC, part of Springer Nature 2022

Abstract

Peer review underpins the integrity of the scientific archive and has done so for over 350 years. Over the past ten years or so, this integrity has come under pressure due to the introduction of predatory publishers and journals. Papers in predatory journals have, typically, not gone through robust peer review, if any at all. If these papers enter the scientific archive, its integrity will deteriorate. Moreover, legitimate journals will cite papers from predatory journals, which further dilutes the integrity of the scientific archive. The scholarly community has struggled to address the problems brought about by predatory publishers and journals. In this paper, we propose an approach, which draws on the fine art world. They use the concept of a catalogue raisonné to list all the validated work by a given artist and, by extension, identify fakes. A scholarly version will have some differences to the art discipline, but the central idea is the same. A publisher is analyzed, through a peer reviewed paper. This catalogue can be used by authors, and other stakeholders (e.g. librarians, promotion panels and hiring committees), to make more informed decisions.

A Catalogue Raisonné for scientific publishing

Suggested Contents

Publisher

Details about the publisher may include (but not be limited to):

- The legal status of the publisher. For example, is it a company, is it a charity; or some other type of organization?
- In what country does the publisher operate from? Do they solely operate out of this country, or are do they have other offices?
- Any business information that can be presented without breaching confidentiality. This could include (but not be limited to), links to annual reports, links to financial statements, company structure, members of the board and shareholdings.
- What details are available about the publisher's web site, by looking at services such as <https://who.is/>?

A Catalogue Raisonné for scientific publishing

Suggested Contents

Journals published

Details about each journal that the publisher publishes could include:

- The title
- Its aims and scope
- The ISSN(s)
- When the journal was first published
- The current Editor-in-Chief, and their predecessor(s). Details could include their email address, their home page, the start and end dates of their tenure, and any unique identifiers they have, such as ORCID, Google Scholar, Scopus, Web of Science etc.
- The current Associate Editors' details, and their predecessors. The details listed could be the same as for the Editor-in-Chief.
- A list of the volumes and issues that have been published.
- A complete list of papers that the journal has published. These should not be in a bibliography, as it would not be appropriate to have them considered as citations and included in calculations such as those for impact factors.
- Have there been any retractions, probably with reference to Retraction Watch (<https://retractionwatch.com/>)?
- It may be appropriate just to list any retractions, but it may also be sensible to give more details, depending on the circumstances.
- Where is the journal indexed?
- What is its impact factor history (from providers, such as Scopus and Clarivate). Are other impact factors claimed? Can these be verified?
- Is the journal printed, on-line or both?
- Is the journal open access, traditional or hybrid?
- If the journal is open access, what are the Article Processing Charges (APC's), or any other charges?
- Is the journal a member of bodies such as COPE (Committee of Publication Ethics), DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) and/or Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA)?
- Has the journal received any media coverage?
- If available, what is the average review time, however this is expressed (e.g. time to first decision, time to publication etc.)?
- When a paper is published, who holds the copyright to the paper?

A Catalogue Raisonné for scientific publishing

Full Transparency for both
authors and reviewers





Predatory Publishing: How can we address the challenges it presents?

Conclusion

Conclusion

1. The problem is getting worse, not better
2. The integrity of the scientific archive is in danger
3. There needs to be more education and awareness
4. Some researchers are willing participants
5. It needs to be unacceptable to publish in a predatory journal
6. There needs to be an easy way to spot a predatory journal
7. Perhaps a Catalogue Raisonné will help this
8. ... I have submitted one, and working on another

My papers on predatory publishing

1. Kendall, G. *Would You Review Seven Papers a Day, Every Day, For a Year?* In *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 38 (3): 519-529, 2022
2. Kendall, G. *Drawing Inspiration from the World of Fine Art in the Battle Against Predatory Publishing.* In *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 2022
3. Kendall, G. and Linacre, S. *Predatory Journals: Revisiting Beall's Research.* In *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 38 (3): 530-543, 2022
4. Kendall, G. *Beall's legacy in the battle against predatory publishers.* In *Learned Publishing*, 34 (3): 379-388, 2021
5. Kendall, G. *Case Study: What Happens to a Journal after it Accepts a Spoof Paper?* In *Publishing Research Quarterly*, 37 (4): 600-611, 2021

THANK YOU

Q&A