



## Open Access at Manchester

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### Advice on predatory journals and publishers

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### Background

Open Access (OA) 'predatory' journals are now part of the scholarly communication landscape. We strongly recommend that University of Manchester researchers always check the credibility of unfamiliar publishers and journals prior to submission.

There is now more research done and more research papers published than ever before. There are currently approximately 28,000 journals publishing 1.5 million papers annually. New journals are launched every year, many of which offer OA.

Sometimes a newly launched journal is associated with a well-established publisher or learned society. This connection validates the journal's status. However, an academic journal may emerge from a new enterprise which lacks any prior history or reputation. In such cases journals often offer benefits by adopting new approaches to the publishing process, and they quickly develop a good reputation through endorsements from the academic community and from librarians. Recent examples of new, trustworthy OA journals are eLife and PeerJ.

- [eLife](http://elife.elifesciences.org/) [http://elife.elifesciences.org/]
- [PeerJ](https://peerj.com/) [https://peerj.com/]

Although the majority of new journals are legitimate, the credentials of some are questionable. Such journals and publishers are referred to as 'predatory'. They commonly send spam emails to potential authors, solicit submissions and request payment of article processing charges, but lack any discernible scholarship, academic rigour or credibility. Authors should not use such journals.

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### How to check for 'predatory' journals?

Key indicators of the legitimacy of newly launched OA journals are:

- Entry in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](http://www.doaj.org/) (DOAJ) – journals must meet strict criteria to qualify
- Publisher's membership of [Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association](http://oaspa.org/) (OASPA) – members are bound by a code of conduct based on standard publishing practices and transparency
- Publisher's membership of the [Committee on Publication Ethics](http://publicationethics.org/) (COPE) – membership demonstrates commitment to widely accepted publishing practices
- Publisher's membership of the [International Association of Scientific, Technical & Medical Publishers](http://www.stm-assoc.org/) (STM) – membership demonstrates commitment to widely accepted publishing practices
- Named editor and editorial board – recognised experts in their field who include their editorial commitment on their own research profiles
- Full contact details (email, postal address, working telephone number)
- Visibility of costs associated with publishing

Legitimate journals acknowledge their newly formed status and do not attempt to feign reputation by referring

to false Impact Factors or inclusion of content in indexing and abstracting services.

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## Contact the Library

If you are suspicious of a journal or a publisher and require further information or guidance please contact us:

### Scholarly Communication Service

The University of Manchester Library

Tel: +44(0)161 306 1517 (internal: x61517)

Email: [uml.openaccess@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:uml.openaccess@manchester.ac.uk) [<mailto:uml.openaccess@manchester.ac.uk>]

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Royal Charter Number: RC000797