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Author's Rights and Predatory Publishers

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author's rights & predatory publishers

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Predators



predatory



Indeed, the presence of online child predators has led to a culture of fear surrounding the internet ...



And we warn our children ..





Lesson #1

All publishers are predators.
Even the ones who are reasonably
honest and responsible.

Lesson #2

But some take it too far, and they use business practices that are extremely misleading and dishonest



Lesson #3

“People I don’t know keep contacting me online.”



It arrives:

Invitation to submit to the

New International World Journal of Science and Engineering

Blah blah blah blah blah **online** blah blah blah blah blah **impact factor** blah blah
blah **your research** blah blah blah blah blah **world-renowned editors** blah blah
blah blah blah blah **immediate acceptance** blah blah blah blah blah **special issue**
blah blah **open access** blah blah blah blah blah **citations** blah blah blah blah blah
blah blah blah blah blah **peer review** blah blah blah blah **indexed** blah blah blah

Ask yourself the basics

- Who is it from?
- Have I ever heard of them?
- Do they want money?
- Where it is based?
- What have they published?
- Does it demonstrate any knowledge of the field?
- Does my library subscribe?



The “Good” List



The **Directory of Open Access Journals** is an online directory that indexes and provides access to high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

It lists more than 10,000 journals that meet its criteria. Many (~40%) do not charge author fees.

The “bad” publishers list

BEALL'S LIST *of*
PREDATORY
Open
access
PUBLISHERS

However ...

Jeffrey Beall is regarded by some as an outright opponent of Open Access.

Numbers of journals on his *Beall's List* profess their “innocence” of predatory practices and intent.

So his is not necessarily the last word or authority.



How does the scam work?



Publishers collect “article processing charges” or “page costs” or “publication fees” for the articles they recruit and accept.

Many so-called legitimate publishers do this, too; e.g. PLOS, PNAS, AAAS, etc. There may also be additional “open access charges” to put an article outside the journal’s paywall.

The number of online-only open-access journals has mushroomed recently, spurred by the growth of OA efforts.

and the difference is ...

So-called “predatory” publishers accept everything without review or with only sham reviews. They are interested only in collecting the author-paid fees. Their publications are transitory and insubstantial.

The author gets little value, minimal distribution, and small academic credit. He or she loses money and opportunity.



SIGN UP

Here

Another type

We also see what I call “troll publishers” who hang around our repository and try to recruit authors to sign with their company.

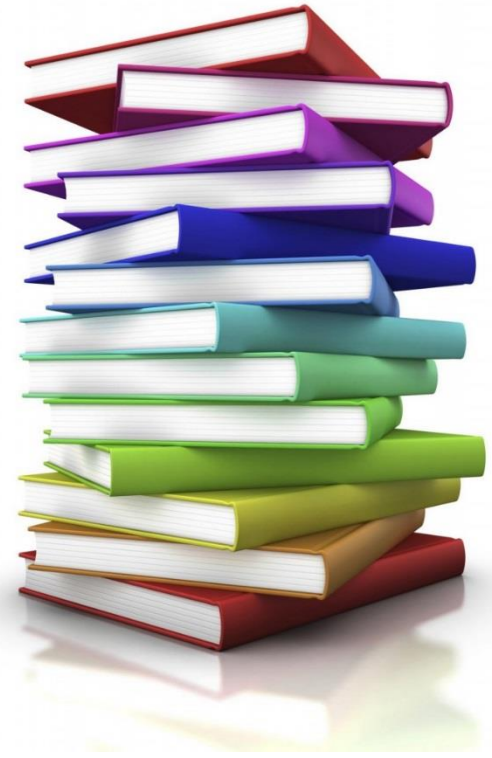
The contracts I have seen offered--usually for dissertations, theses, and book-length works—give the publisher all rights in all forms for the full term of copyright. The author receives only a promise to pay a small royalty at some later date.

The author loses the rights to his/her own work. The publisher does no editing, marketing, or production; it just sells offprints at high prices.

Example

Lambert Academic Publishing (LAP) a division of **VDM Publishers**– “they spam recent graduates and junior faculty and entice them to sign over the rights to their dissertations and theses, which Lambert then advertises on Amazon and elsewhere and prints them on demand.”

<http://chrisnf.blogspot.com/2010/06/lambert-academic-publishing-continues.html>



Bad signs

- You never heard of them, even though you have been doing research in the area for 5 years.
- Title is vague and overly broad.
- Physical location is obscure.
- No affiliation with school or society.
- Interest in receiving money up-front.
- Negotiable “deals” are offered.



"13 Signs Your A Bad
Graphic Designer"

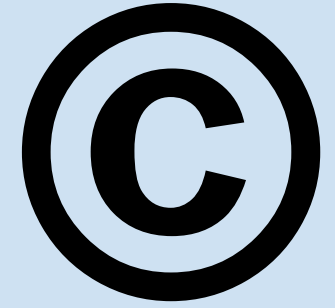
Good signs

- Published by organization, department, or university
- Demonstrates working knowledge of the field
- You can find them online, along with Editorial Board, Aim and Scope statements, author guidelines, etc.
- You recognize some names of other authors or editorial board members



authors' rights

Copyright



From the time a work takes “fixed form” this belongs to the author/creator.

If there are multiple creators, all are **equal** co-owners.



Not required*

Registration with Copyright Office

Copyright statement or copyright symbol

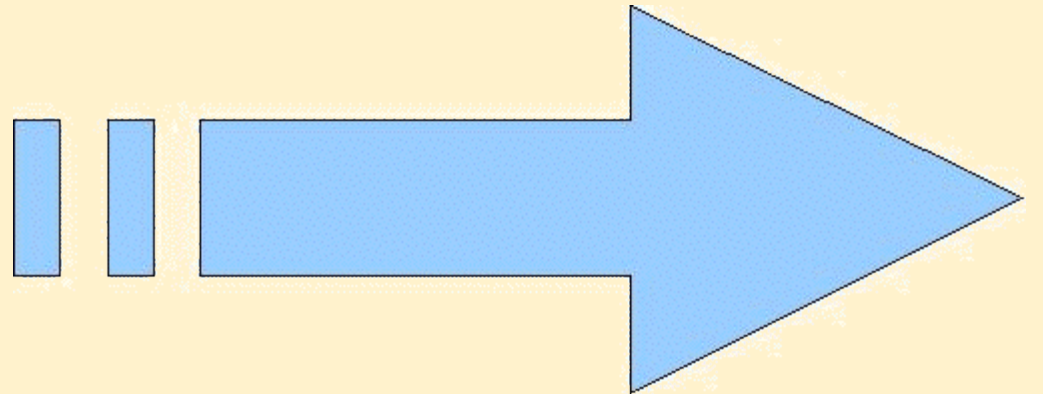
* but they used to be! (pre-1978)



Copyright Transfer

Most publishers want the author to transfer the copyright to the publisher.

Sometimes they settle for “all publishing rights”, which amounts to the same thing in effect.



When you sign over your copyright, the assignee can keep your work totally locked up for:

- the rest of your life
- plus 70 years after you die



=



+



What are you willing to give?

A: The right to distribute your work.



What are you unwilling to give up?

A: The right to distribute your work.



**So, how do you give your “cake”
and still have it?**



Giving “permission to publish”

- Retaining copyright
- Or giving “*right of first publication*”
- “*exclusive*” vs. “*non-exclusive*”



Open Access / Creative Commons license

This gives everyone permission to re-distribute, revise, re-format, re-organize, make derivative works, etc.

So you can distribute, but so could anyone else.



Drawbacks



1. Costs money (up to \$4500)
2. Surrenders control over further uses and derivatives

Green OA – Use the Repository

- Publish where you normally would.
- Take advantage of most publishers' policies to deposit a version in your institutional repository—like the UNL Digital Commons.
- This creates *public* access, not open access.

Advantages



- Free to author
- Free to user
- Google-indexed, no barriers
- Widest possible dissemination

author's rights

Remember **Lesson #1: All publishers are predators.**

The publishing industry needs new content like the beef industry needs dead cows.



Scapegoating

Some publishers are more unscrupulous, and so the industry calls them “predatory.” This may distract us from the “normal” practices that victimize authors routinely.

Don't be misled by predatory publishers. But don't be misled by the other publishers, either. A grandiose self-image might conceal hands that are not overly clean.



What publishers say:

- We are all in this together.
- We are doing it for scholarship/science.
- Our interests are aligned.
- We want to work together.



What publishers do:

- Restrict distribution.
- Earn extravagant profits.
- Take and hoard copyrights.
- Exploit faculty and researchers.
- Sue libraries over fair use of educational materials.
- Circulate misleading advice on copyright issues.
- Misrepresent their own motives.

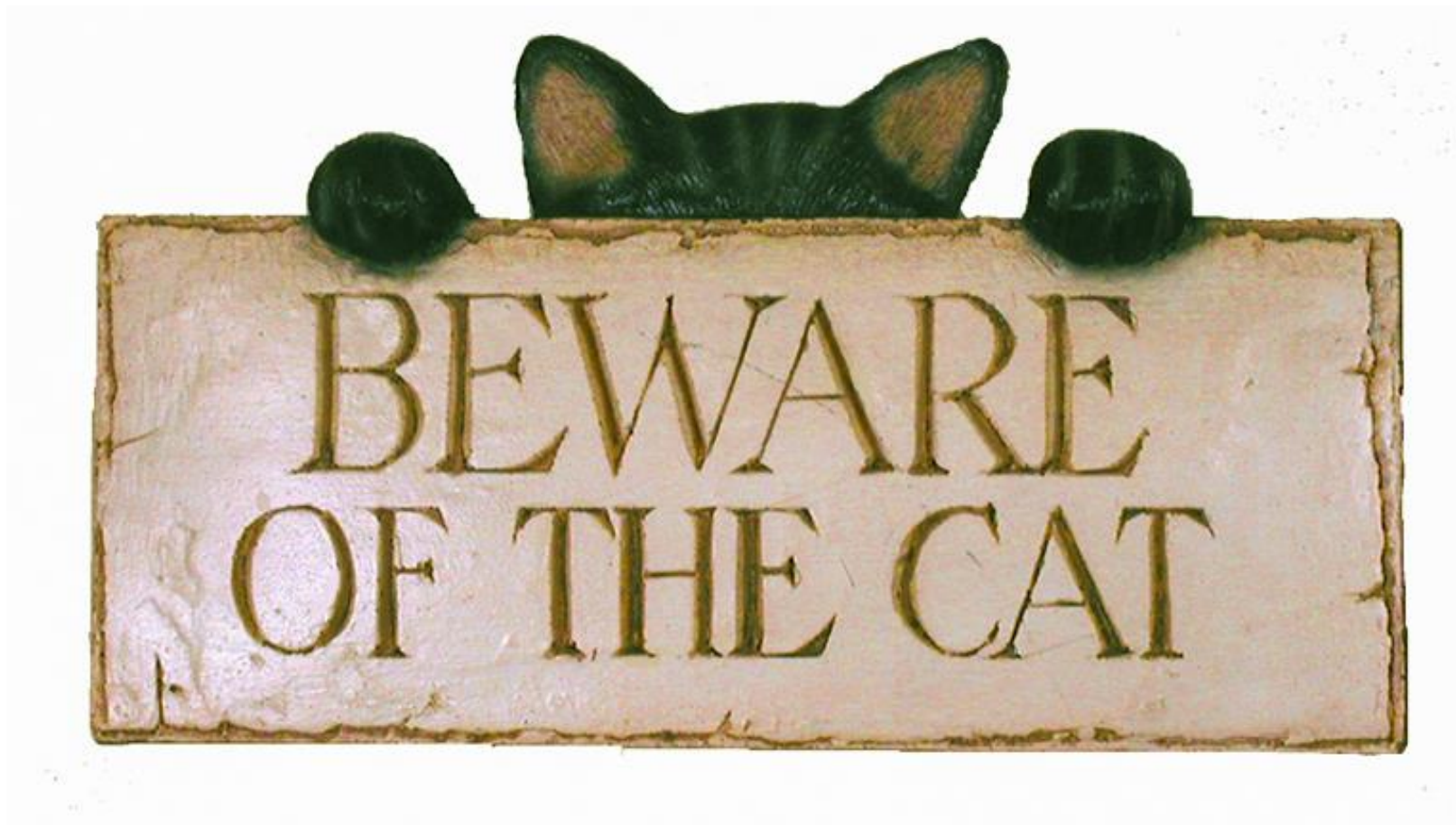


So we live in a jungle,



watch out for predators!

Thank you, and ...



<http://digitalcommons.unl.edu>