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## **Predatory journals: a growing issue within the open access model**

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# Predatory Journals

## A growing concern within the open access publishing model

Linda Östlundh

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عنوان رئيسي  
عنوان فرعي

# Introduction

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- Growing market of open access (OA) journals
- Supports the concept of information tolerance
- Academic information for all. Supported by libraries worldwide
- Possibility to increase the research impact
- Predatory publishing has become growing concern within OA



# Predatory Journals

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Rapid publishing of papers to low or no cost with false information about:

- impact factors
- indexing databases
- editorial boards
- scientific status



Illustration by David Parkins from Moher et al. 2017



# Predatory Journals

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- Non-academic peer review and editing processes
- Large volumes, and a high acceptance rate
- Mass e-mails
- Well-designed journal home pages



Illustration by Robert Neubecker from <https://www.sciencemag.org>

# Hijacked journals –example Jökull



## Menu

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## General Information:

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## JCR 2015

5-Year Impact Factor: 1.342  
Cited Half-life: 7.4  
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## Jökull journal

Jökull journal has a long lasting history in production of novel scientific works which are both well trusted and broadly indexed in international databases. Jökull publishes research papers, notes and review articles concerning all aspects of the life sciences. The journal currently owns the five-year impact factor of 1.342

## Scope and policy

Formerly focused on glaciology, glacial geology, physical geography, general geology, petrology, volcanology, geothermal research, and geophysics, meteorology, hydrology and oceanography, the journal now expands the coverage area to all aspects of the life sciences including human sciences and technologies. Jökull also publishes research notes and reports from expeditions, book reviews, and other materials of interest to the members of the editorial board.

## Submission of manuscripts

Papers submitted to Jökull should report original and unpublished work which is not being considered for publication elsewhere. Each paper is reviewed by at least two independent referees. After acceptance, we submit a copy of the final manuscript to be submitted via the online form introduced to the authors of accepted papers. Accepted languages are Icelandic, German and English.

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## Jökularannsóknafélag Íslands

The Iceland Journal of Life Sciences

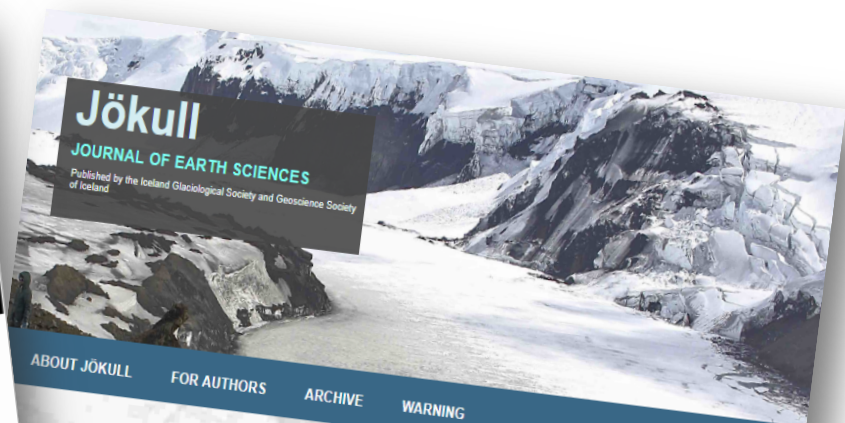


## Archive

Issues Before 2017 [Access issues](#)

2017	2018
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2017  
Parts are all printed in one cover by the end of the year  
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## Jökull Research Journal

Jökull publishes research papers, notes and review articles concerning all aspects of the Earth sciences. The journal is primarily aimed at being an international forum for geoscience research in Iceland. Specific areas of coverage include glaciology, glacial geology, physical geography, general geology, petrology, volcanology, geothermal research, geophysics, meteorology, hydrology and oceanography. Jökull also publishes research notes and reports from glacier expeditions, book reviews, and other material of interest to the members of the Icelandic Glaciological and Geological Society.

Indexed and abstracted by Clarivate Analytics in their Science Citation Index Expanded and Journal Citation Reports/Science Edition.  
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The Glaciological Society of Iceland was founded by scientists and explorers in 1980 with the aim to promote glaciological research and travels. In addition to publishing the research journal Jökull, the society promotes scientific research through educational lectures and monitoring of the glacier environment. The society also organizes glacier expeditions and operates chalets on the Vatnajökull and Langjökull glaciers.

# Hijacked journals –example Jökul

Volume: 2017 (67); Issue: 8

Title	IMPACT OF COMBINED ANAESTHESIA ON COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS OF PATIENTS AFTER CARDIAC SURGERY
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Keywords	bypass, cardiac surgery, cognitive functions, postoperative cognitive dysfunction, thoracic epidural anaesthesia
Abstract	<a href="#">Read More...</a>
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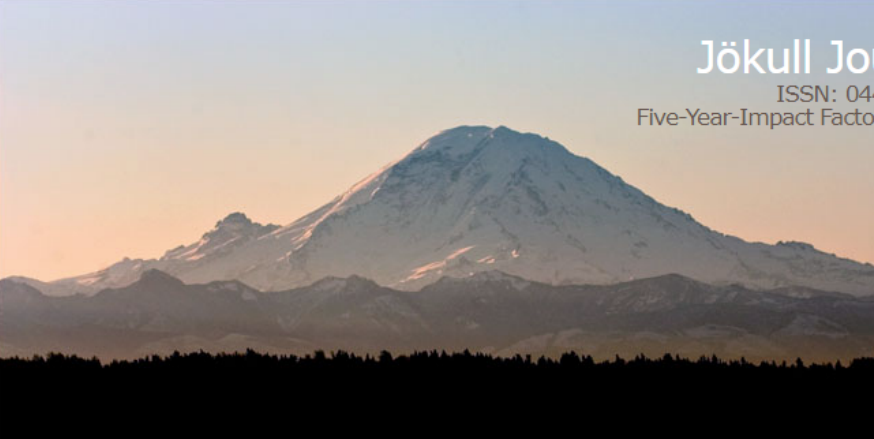
Title	Development of Clinical Decision Support System Using Data Warehouse and Data Mining Techniques for Lung Cancer Clinical Data
Paper ID	hEdxV
Keywords	Healthcare decision support system, data warehouse, data mining, lung cancer data
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# Hijacked journals –example Jökull

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## Jökull Journal

ISSN: 0446-1892  
Five-Year-Impact Factor: 0.12



**Menu**

- Submission Guideline
- Paper Submission
- Publication Charges
- Editorial Board

**General Policies**

Jökull journal receives many more submissions than it can publish. Therefore, reviewers to keep in mind that every paper that is accepted means that another must be rejected. In general, to be acceptable, a paper should represent an advance in understanding likely to influence thinking in the field. There should be a discernible contribution that the work deserves the visibility of publication in Jökull journal rather than the best of the specialist journals. Submitted papers must be in English, Icelandic or German and must not have been published elsewhere or being currently under consideration by any other journal.

**Peer review policy-Review Process**

All submitted manuscripts are read by the editorial staff to save time for authors and reviewers, only those papers that seem most likely to meet our editorial criteria go through formal review. Those papers judged by the editors to be of insufficient general interest or otherwise inappropriate are rejected promptly without external review (although such decisions may be based on informal advices from specialists in the field). Manuscripts judged to be of potential interest to our readership are sent for formal review, typically to two reviewers, but sometimes more if special advice is needed (for example on statistics or a particular technique). The editors then make a decision based on the reviewers' advice. The review process usually takes 2 weeks since submission time.

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**Volume: 2018 (68); Issue: 2**

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# Publishing in predatory Journals

- Negative impact on researcher's career
- A lot of hard work lost
- Very hard to publish elsewhere
- Impact possibilities for future funding

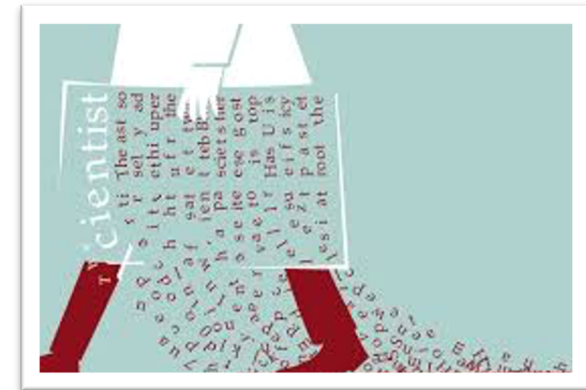


Illustration by Eduardo Luzzatti from <https://www.nytimes.com>

# Publishing in predatory Journals

- Loss of career building bibliometrics
- Expensive to withdraw articles
- Junior researchers and researchers from developing countries most affected
- Temptation for researchers under pressure to publish

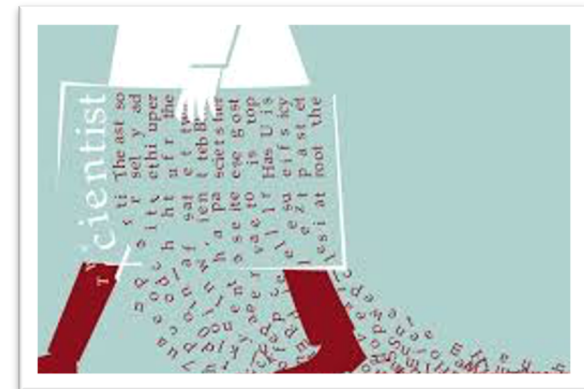


Illustration by Eduardo Luzzatti from <https://www.nytimes.com>



# Impact and growth of predatory open access journals

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- Shen and Björk 2015: a growth of predatory OA journal articles from 53,000 in 2010 to an estimated 420,000 in 2014
- Medicine is one of the most affected fields
- Predatory journals has outnumbered the legitimate journals in some medical specialties



Illustration: David Plunkert from Bohannon, 2013

# Impact and growth of predatory open access journals

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- Predatory journals can be found in core academic databases like PubMed, Embase and Medline
- A concern for evidence-based-medicine and patient safety



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# Checklists, blacklists and whitelists

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- “white lists” of legitimate journals, “blacklists”, of predatory journals and checklists for peer-reviewing of OA journals available.
- First blacklist by librarian Jeffery Beall
- Beall coined the word “predatory publishing” in 2010



Image from Shutterstock

# JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS

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## Potential predatory scholarly open-access journals

**Instructions:** simply enter the journal's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal has a publisher that was assessed to be predatory, then it is included on the [Publishers](#) list.

### Original list

[GO TO UPDATE](#)

This is an archived version of the Beall's list - a list of potential predatory journals created by a librarian [Jeffrey Beall](#). We will only update links and add notes to this list.

- [Academic Exchange Quarterly](#)
- [Academic Research Reviews](#)
- [Academy of Contemporary Research Journal \(AOCRJ\)](#)
- [ACME Intellects](#)
- [Acta de Gerencia Ciencia \(CAGENA\)](#)
- [Acta Advances in Agricultural Sciences \(AAAS\)](#)
- [Acta Kinesiologica](#)
- [Acta Medica International](#)
- [Acta Scientiae et Intellectus](#)
- [Acta Velit](#)
- [The Advance Journals of Engineering Mathematics and Computer Sciences \(AJEMCS\)](#)
- [Advance Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Discoveries](#)
- [The Advanced Science Journal](#)
- [Advances in Aerospace Science and Technology \(AAST\)](#)
- [Advances in Biomedicine and Pharmacy \(ABP\)](#)
- [Advances in Forestry Letter](#)

## Original description

This is a list of questionable, scholarly open-access standalone journals. For journals published by a publisher, please look for the publisher on the list of publishers, [here](#). This list is only for single, standalone journals.

We recommend that scholars read the available reviews, assessments and descriptions provided here, and then decide for themselves whether they want to submit articles, serve as editors or on editorial boards. In a few cases, non-open access journals whose practices match those of predatory journals have been added to the list. The criteria for determining predatory journals are [here](#).

We hope that tenure and promotion committees can also decide for themselves how

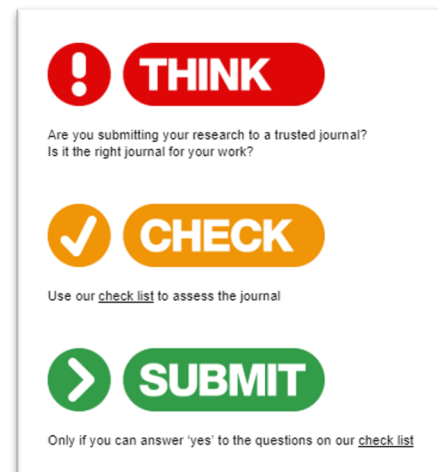


**Jeffery Beall**

Photo from Wikipedia

# Checklists, blacklists and whitelists

- DOAJ removed 40% of its content after introducing the “Principles of Transparency”
- “Think, Check, Submit” checklist from OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association’s)
- Cabell’s Scholarly subscription-based blacklist and whitelist



# Controversies and call for standards for identifying predatory journals

- No generally accepted standard criteria for identifying predatory journals
- Subjectivity behind the “white” and “black” lists is criticized
- Urgent need for scientifically standardized evaluation criteria for OA journals

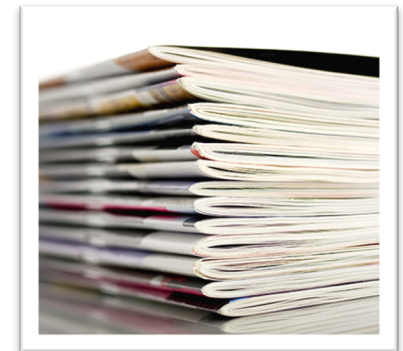


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# Controversies and call for standards for identifying predatory journals

- Beall's list was shut down in early 2017. Updated by anonymous
- The Bohannon experience, one of a series of hoax experiment to highlight the extent of predatory publishing
- Predatory practice also in subscription-based world leading scientific publishers

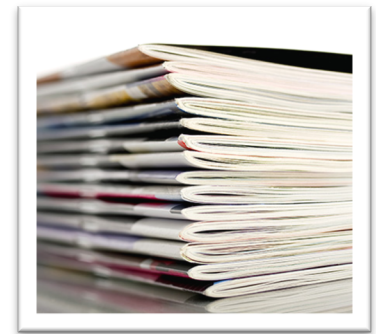


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# How can librarians support patrons to identify predatory journals?

- Information about the concept of and risks of predatory journals urgently needed
- Support needed as libraries increasingly rely on OA journals rather than traditional payed subscriptions
- Librarians can help patrons to navigate safely in the landscape of OA



Photo of Jeffery Beall from Silver, 2017

# How can librarians support patrons to identify predatory journals?

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Librarians have the potential to be key resources at their institutions and guide researchers to safe OA publishing with a direct impact on universities and single researchers' scholarly output and reputation



# Conclusion

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- Predatory journals are a growing concern within the open access model
- Predatory publishing is a threat to information tolerance and the concept of open access
- The increasing number of predatory journals is a threat to scientific research, evidence-based practice and to information tolerance.
- Standardized criteria for defining predatory publishing needed
- Publishers, researchers, and librarians have a great potential to work together to defeat the predatory journal industry and to support the development of OA in the context of information tolerance.



# Thank you!

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