















Be iNFORMED!

Authors need to be iNFORMED when choosing where to publish. Predatory publishers do exist, and authors should protect their research by evaluating potential outlets for their scholarship.

Note: Publishers and journals may not meet all criteria! Use this checklist as a framework for determining the potential legitimacy of an unknown publisher or journal.

N umber	<p>For journal articles, how many articles has the journal published? How many citations are there to those articles?</p> <p>For books, how many other books has that publisher produced?</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has already published high quality articles• Articles in this journal have been cited elsewhere <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No articles or books published• Articles and books have not been cited elsewhere
F ee	<p>Is the fee reasonable?</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fees fall in the industry standard \$1500 - \$5000 range. <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fees too low (e.g., \$300) or too high• The publisher appears to be trying to raise revenue by soliciting / spamming authors
O wnership	<p>What company owns and produces the journal or book? Can you tell who owns the company?</p> <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smaller imprint of a bigger publisher• Owned by a society or recognized institution <p></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information not available at all• Address and contact information seems unlikely for a publishing company

R _{review}	<p>Are articles and chapters peer reviewed before acceptance? How robust is the review process?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer review process described in detail and is standard for the discipline.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not available at all • Fast review turnaround promised (e.g., 3 days or a week) • No review process; all articles accepted • No acceptance rate listed
M _{embership}	<p>What associations or OA alliances does the journal or publisher have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Associations listed, such as ICJME, COPE, OASPA • Indexing sites listed. Note: indexing in MEDLINE can take a couple of years for new journals. • Preservation / archiving policies listed  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acronyms may be listed on the website, but the publisher may not be a member • Publisher recommends standards, but does not require them
ED _{itorial}	<p>Who is on their editorial board and staff?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts in the field with institutional affiliations  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No information listed about editors or staff • No information listed under about us • Open calls for editorial boards and reviewers

Additional resource: Consider checking *Beall's list of potentially predatory publishers*.

More questions? Need assistance? Contact Duke Medical Center Library & Archives

- 919.660.1100
- medical-librarian@duke.edu
- <http://guides.mclibrary.duke.edu/authors>

