

NEWSBYTES

News and information from the
[Research Medical Library](#)

How to spot a predatory journal



Predatory journals send phishing emails to authors, asking them to submit articles or join the editorial board. It may be tempting to reply and submit your manuscript or agree to be a member of the team. However, a lot is at stake if you respond: money, time, and the reputation and discoverability of your work.

So, what makes a journal predatory? Predatory journals solicit manuscripts and ask for fees but fail to provide peer-review, editorial, indexing, or marketing services. Without editing or peer-review, your publication may be viewed with suspicion by other researchers and authors. In addition, publishing with a predatory journal often means that your article will not be indexed in major databases like PubMed, and you will not receive credit for the citation.

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Four ways to spot a predatory journal

- Is the email phishy? Predatory journal emails tend to be vague and unspecific. They use journal names that sound familiar but aren't quite right. They may have spelling errors or language that is overly enthusiastic. They often don't include contact information, and if you Google the individual mentioned, you often cannot find them online.
- Is the website phishy? Google the journal website. Does it look cheesy, with pixelated images, too many ads, and a focus on authors instead of readers? If the journal claims to have an impact factor or impact score, check the [Journal Citation Reports](#) database to make sure the impact factor is real.
- Is the journal on Cabells Blacklist? The library subscribes to [Cabells](#) which tracks suspicious journals. If the journal or publisher is on this list, you should avoid the journal.
- Is the journal listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals? [The DOAJ](#) reviews journals regularly and will not include journals that are suspicious or predatory.

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www.mdanderson.org/library/

2020 Impact Factors

The latest [impact factors](#) have been released in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) database. There are some changes to the way impact factors are calculated. You can learn more in the [Spring issue of The Write Stuff](#). In addition, the JCR database has a new look and feel.

Access library resources anywhere, anytime.

If you are working off-site and you need access to the library, use the off-campus login page to get full access for as long as your browser is open.

<https://login.elibrary.mdanderson.org/login>

CLASS: Cochrane Systematic Reviews: An Introduction

Thursday, July 15; 11:00am

[Register to attend.](#)

Cochrane systematic reviews are the gold standard of high-quality systematic reviews. This 45-minute class will examine a Cochrane systematic review so you can select the elements that benefit your own review.

NEW JOURNALS

Access journal subscriptions are accessible 24/7 through the library's website.

- [Anesthesiology Clinics](#)
- [British Journal of Anaesthesia](#)
- [Clinics in Chest Medicine](#)
- [Clinics in Laboratory Medicine](#)
- [Clinical Microbiology & Infection](#)
- [Medical Clinics of North America](#)
- [Urologic Clinics of North America](#)

Questions about predatory journals or the JCR platform?

[ASK THE LIBRARY](#)

- Email: RML-help@mdanderson.org
- Phone: 713-792-2282
- Text: 281-369-4872
- Chat us
- [Request a consultation](#)

