

# Scopus workshop – how to increase the visibility of your research?

Presented by:

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**Research Intelligence** 



## Today's agenda

- 1. Visibility how do we measure it?
- 2. Smart journal choice
- 3. Scopus supports better decision-making
- 4. Visibility of your research



# Visibility – how do we measure it?





Source: Scopus, April 2022.

ELSEVIER

Scholarly Output



Field-Weighted Citation Impact







# Smart journal choice



## Scientific Publishing nowadays

~5,500 scientific journal publishers ~35,000 peer-reviewed scholarly journals ~2,600,000 published articles per year (this rate increases ~3% per year) ~4,000,000 unique authors in a year (this number increases with ~3% per year)



40% of all journals





## Predatory publishers and journals





#### Selecting the right journal is important

The consequences of choosing a bad journal for good work:

- Monetary costs for the author/institution
- Reputational costs for the work and people involved
- Negative impact on rankings and research assessment
- Durability: no assurance of longevity of the paper
- Delisting of the journal by indexing services
- Possible legal consequences



## Predatory publishers and journals

- Predatory publishers and journals exploit the necessity to communicate science, the idea of Open Access, as well as the speed of publication process.
- Typical warning signs:
  - Fast publication (one or two weeks)
  - "Predicted" or "local" bibliometric parameters
  - Poor language, "suspicious" website
  - Relatively low charges without any justification
  - Scarce information about the publisher, the editorial board and publication process

https://thinkchecksubmit.org/



#### Consensus definition of "Predatory journals"

- The definition of predatory journals has been contentious.
- In 2019 a group of researchers met to define what predatory publishing is and reached a consensus definition (*quoted right*)
- An important part of this statement is "entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship".

"Predatory journals and publishers are entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and are characterized by false or misleading information, deviation from best editorial and publication practices, a lack of transparency, and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices."



Source: <u>Grudniewics et al. (2019) Predatory journals: no definition, no defence</u> and <u>Cukier et al (2020) Defining predatory journals</u> and responding to the threat they pose: a modified Delphi consensus process

#### Threat to science: Predatory journals are on the rise

Various studies have indicated that there is an escalation in predatory journals. However, it is near impossible to determine the extent of predatory journals since they appear and disappear continually. In 2015, a study by Shen and Bjork of Hanken School of Economics in Finland found more than 420,000 articles in predatory journals published between 2010-2014. This number was up from 53,000 in 2010.



Source: https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2015/10/01/study-finds-huge-increase-articles-published-predatory-journals



## Where did it start?

- Coined by Jeffrey Beall in 2010
- Unofficial 'watchdog' of predatory publishing
- Website/blog listed questionable, scholarly open-access ... www.beallslist.net
- Beall's definition'...journals that 'prey' on (often unsuspecting and often young) scholars to submit their manuscripts for the sole purpose of making money from these scholars"
- Criticism for Beall

money from these scholars"	<ul> <li>Beall's List - of Potential Predato: × +</li> <li>← → C</li></ul>	* 🖸 0 🚾 🛙		
Criticism for Beall	BEALL'S LIST			
<ul> <li>Website closed on 17 January 2017</li> </ul>	OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS			
	Search for publishers (name or URL)			
Source: <u>Berger &amp; Cirasella (2015) Beyond Beall's List: Better understanding predatory publishers</u> Beall's list (archived): <u>https://beallslist.net/</u>	Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers Instructions: first, find the journal's publisher – it is usually written at the bottom of the journal's webpage or in the "About" section. Then simply enter the publisher's name or its URL in the search box above. If the journal does not have a publisher use the Standalone Journals list. All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise.	Important message We have successfully moved from Weebly to an independent server. Contact form is now working as		
ISEVIER	Original list CO TO UPDATE This is an archived version of the Beall's list – a list of potential predatory publishers created by a librarian Jeffrey Beall. We will only update links and add notes to this list.	always. Useful pages List of journals falsely claiming to		



#### Driving forces

- **Publish or perish:** For many academics, career progression depends on the research papers they publish.
- Technology: Easy to set up a website, spamming thousands of potential authors and receiving electronic payments
- Inexperience / Online environment: Working online without access to expertise to distinguish bogus impact factors etc.
- Exploitation of the open access model: Pay-to-publish model misused\*

\* In "conventional" journal publishing, journals generate revenue by selling them to libraries on a subscription basis. Open-access, on the other hand, often involves publishers charging an upfront "author fee" to cover costs—then making the papers available online for free. The open-access movement has produced many well-respected publishers, including PLoS and BioMed Central as well as Elsevier!!



#### Journal hijack

The journal website and content gets hijacked by another party to take advantage of the journal's brand and reputation and use it for publication malpractice.

**Examples**: Transylvanian Review, Journal of Research on the Lepidoptera

#### **Responsibility and consequences:**

In most of the cases the original journal is not to blame and there are no consequences for the genuine journal. Content from the fake source will be removed. There is the responsibility of Scopus to make sure that journals are sources from authentic URLs and the coverage is complete.



#### Example 1 - Journal hijack

#### **Transylvanian Review**

#### KEYWORDS

Background subtraction Eembedding endomorphism Effective decisions, fuzzy inference systems, ID3 method. Fitting's Lemma Histogram equalization Intellectual disability Intelligent Environments Multi feature fusion Multi-object tracking Opuntia, polisaccharides, mucilage, functional properties, films Physical fitness Silent Sinus Syndrome, CBCT, Retro-bulbar headache, Maxillary atelectasis, Enophtalmos Sociality Ubiguitous Computing central endomorphism. direct decomposition eSports hepatitis C virus, Immunization, Core protein, E1 protein, E2 protein nilpotent endomorphism projection  $\Omega$ -partial group

#### CURRENT ISSUE





#### Example 2 - Journal hijack



#### Language Plagiarism

(Language) Plagiarism – an article published in a (local language) journal is published again in an international journal without reference to the original. Detection might be difficult since the original document is not readily available or because of the language not readable for everyone. The target journal may not be involved and aware.

**Examples**: some cases have been identified via a report from RAS (Russia)

#### **Responsibility and consequences:**

Plagiarism is the responsibility of the author and particularly in this case where detection is difficult, the journal is not to blame. Only if this happens on structural basis and the content is not related to the scope of the journal, Scopus might need to act.



#### Citation manipulation

Citation manipulation – citation manipulation by including references to a paper without relevant reason is a known thing to try to boost the IF or CiteScore of a journal. However, new is that this may be done by individual authors. Although the journal could benefit, they may not be aware and an actor in this. We think that this malpractice is driven by authors who get credits based on the reputation/citations of the journal they publish in.

**Examples:** JCR Title suppressions

#### **Responsibility and consequences:**

If the journal/editor is involved, this would be a reason for re-evaluation. Scopus is developing policies around 'ghost citations' coming from genuine journals to discontinued journals after the journal is discontinued.



#### Common red flags

False or misleading information	Fake impact factors, incorrect addresses, misrepresentations of the editorial board, false claims of indexing or membership of associations and misleading claims about the peer review	
Deviation from best editorial and publication practices	An unprofessional-looking web page — with spelling or grammar mistakes or irrelevant text — should also raise red flags.	
Lack of transparency	Little or no information about how editorial decisions are made, fees applied and peer review organized; absent contact information; no details about article processing charges; editors and members of their editorial boards are often unverifiable.	
Aggressive, indiscriminate solicitation	Aggressive solicitation such as repeated e-mails, excessively flattering in tone (A clear warning sign is that the invitee's expertise is outside the journal's scope)	
	Source: https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03	3759-у



(\*Red flags are clues, not necessarily evidence, of predatory activity)

## Examples of red flags - Spamming





#### Examples of red flags – website / branding



- Clipart as brand images
- Garbage characters indicating copy/paste

\*The red flags are clues, not necessarily evidence, of predatory activity



#### Examples of red flags – false & misleading metrics



- Random photo and clipart used as branding
- Ambiguous and misleading metrics "CiteFactor" = CiteScore / "JIFACTOR" = Journal Impact Factor or JIF
- Too broad scope of accepted manuscripts



#### \*The red flags are clues, not necessarily evidence, of predatory activity



# Scopus supports better decision-making



Scopus uniquely combines a comprehensive, curated abstract and citation database with enriched data and linked scholarly content.



Quickly find relevant and trusted research, identify experts, and access reliable data, metrics and analytical tools to support confident decisions around research strategy – all from one database and one subscription.

#### Scopus Coverage Summary (August 2022)

Global representation means global discovery across all subjects and content types

88.1M records from 27.3K serials, 144K conferences and 267K books

from more than 7,000 publishers in 105 countries

- Updated daily—approximately **11,000** new articles per day indexed
- 19.56M open access documents
- "Articles in Press" from >8,740 titles
- **1.37M** preprints from multiple preprint servers
- 5,823 active Gold Open Access journals indexed

Number of journals by subject area**	Journals	Conferences	Books	Patents
Physical sciences 9.065	<b>26,039</b> ** active peer-reviewed journals	<b>144K</b> conference events	<b>69.2K</b> individual book series volumes	48.2M patents
Health sciences 7,596	<ul><li><b>189</b> trade journals</li><li><b>5,823</b> Gold OA Journals (DOAJ/ROAD)</li></ul>	<ul><li>11.3M conference papers</li><li>12.9% of database</li></ul>	<ul><li>269K stand-alone books</li><li>2.54M total book items</li></ul>	<ul> <li>5 major patent offices:</li> <li>WIPO</li> <li>EPO</li> <li>USPTO</li> </ul>
Social sciences 11,526	<ul><li><b>18.0M</b> fully-indexed funding acknowledgements</li><li><b>1.37M</b> preprints</li></ul>	Mainly Engineering and	Focus on Social Sciences and A&H	<ul><li>JPO</li><li>UK IPO</li></ul>
Life sciences 5,164	<ul> <li>Full metadata, abstracts and cited references (refs post-1970 only)</li> <li>Citations back to 1970</li> </ul>	Computer Sciences		

\*Journals may be classified in multiple subject areas: this count includes current actively indexed titles only \*\*Total number of Scopus journals in database including inactive titles is 42,474 Expert Curated content selection by the independent Content Selection & Advisory Board (CSAB)

### Expert curation



> Titles on Scopus are rigorously reviewed and selected by an independent board of subject matter experts to include 52% of the world's peer-reviewed scholarly literature. Curated content

> \* Source: Ulrich's Web Global Serials Directory, February 15, 2019

- The **CSAB** is an independent board of subject experts from all over the world.
- Comprised of 17 Subject Chairs.
- Board members are chosen for their expertise in specific subject areas; many have (journal) Editor experience.



#### Transparent Scopus selection criteria for serial content

1) <u>All</u> titles should meet <u>all</u> technical criteria in order to be considered for Scopus review:				
Peer-review	English abstracts	Regular publication	Roman script references	Publication ethics statement

2) Eligible titles are reviewed by the CSAB according to 14 selection criteria:				
Journal Policy	Quality of Content	Journal Standing	Regularity	Online Availability
<ul> <li>Convincing editorial concept/policy</li> <li>Type of peer-review</li> <li>Diversity geographic distribution of editors</li> <li>Diversity geographic distribution of authors</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Academic contribution to the field</li> <li>Clarity of abstracts</li> <li>Quality and conformity with stated aims &amp; scope</li> <li>Readability of articles</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Citedness of journal articles in Scopus</li> <li>Editor standing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No delay in publication schedule</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Content available online</li> <li>English-language journal home page</li> <li>Quality of home page</li> </ul>



## Discontinued titles broken down by reason of identification (2016-2020)





536 titles discontinued since 2016



# Visibility of your research



## Metadata

#### Cell extract gels as an example of active matter

Agnieszka Wisniewska<sup>1</sup> · Tomasz Kalwarczyk<sup>1</sup> · Jedrzej Szymanski<sup>2</sup> · Katarzyna Kryszczuk<sup>1,3</sup> · Kinga Matula<sup>1</sup> · Robert Holyst<sup>1</sup>

Check

update

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Illustrator         Advanced         PDF Properties (pdf, http://ns.adobe.com/pdf/1.3/)	Description	Advanced	
Powered By	Illustrator Advanced	<ul> <li>PDF Properties (pdf, http://ns.adobe.com/pdf/1.3/)</li> <li>Dublin Core Properties (dc, http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/)</li> <li>dc:format: application/pdf</li> <li>dc:identifier: 10.1007/s00397-020-01213-9</li> <li>dc:publisher (bag container)</li> <li>[1]: Rheologica Acta</li> <li>dc:description (alt container)</li> <li>[x-default]: Rheol Acta, doi:10.1007/s00397-020-01213-9</li> <li>dc:title (alt container)</li> <li>[x-default]: Cell extract gels as an example of active matter</li> <li>dc:creator (seq container)</li> <li>[1]: Agnieszka Wisniewska</li> <li>[2]: Tomasz Kalwarczyk</li> <li>[3]: Jedrzej Szymanski</li> <li>[4]: Katarzyna Kryszczuk</li> <li>[5]: Kinga Matula</li> <li>[6]: Robert Holyst</li> <li>dc:subject (bag container)</li> <li>[1]: Escherichia coli</li> <li>[2]: E. coli</li> <li>[3]: Lysate</li> <li>[4]: Viscoelasticity</li> <li>[5]: Adenosine triphosphate</li> <li>[6]: ATP</li> <li>[7]: Shear modulus</li> </ul>	
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Literature Review Primary Care Lymphedema Pandemic Adriatic Sea Fractional COVID-19 Generalized Convex Functions Schools Eastern Europe Farmers Internet of Things Adriatic Simulation System Genetic Algorithm Trapezium or Trapezoid Period Prevalence Integral Inequality European Countries Mesh Generation Balkan Peninsula Students Particle Swarm Optimization Dental Implant Rapid Thermal Annealing Identity Kosovo Inequality Fractional Integral Heavy Metal Hermite-Hadamard Inequality Fuzzy Implant Communist Hermite Tourism, Convex Function Fractional Integral Operator Cities Opinion Wireless Mesh Network Earthquake Transition Countries Childhood Obesity Case Report Differentiable Urban Properties



## Changes and corrections

#### What can be change?

- displayed affiliation
- mistake in name/surname
- add lost documents/citations
- other custom changes 🙂

#### How to make changes?

- use <u>Author Feedback Wizard</u>
- dedicated forms in Scopus Support Centre

#### Who can do it?

- the author(s)
- authorized person per authors request (colleague, librarian, etc.)





Find the relevant webinar/video at ELS Training Hub http://bit.do/TrainingHub



## Thank you! and see you next time ©



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