# Predatory publishing: A to Z elements

There is no single checklist for determining if a publisher or journal is predatory. However, reputable publishers and journals share some common qualities and features.

## Affiliation
Reputable journals are established by academic and research institutions or organisations.

## Be vigilant
Use a tool such as Think. Check. Submit. to determine if a journal or publisher is legitimate or predatory.

## Copyright
User and author rights and copyright information are clearly stated on the website of reputable publishers or journals.

## Directory
The Directory of Open Access Journals is a good reference list for legitimate open access journals.

## Editors/editorial boards
Editors or Editorial Boards of reputable journals consist of recognised experts in the publication's subject field.

## Fees
Information on publication fees for reputable journals is easy to find and understand.

## Genuine
An approach from a reputable publisher will correctly identify your research area.

## Hijacked journals
Hijacked journals are predatory journals which are created to look like reputable journals. Access a list of hijacked journals.

## ISSN
Every journal has its own unique and regular ISSN. Hijacked journals typically use the ISSN of a legitimate journal.

## Journal ranking and impact factor
Predatory journals may advertise a fake or inflated impact factor. Journal impact factors can be checked in the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) Database.

## Known
Reputable journals are well-known. Ask your peers if they have heard of the journal you are submitting to.

## Landscape
Check if the academic publishing landscape is clearly defined (e.g. the publishing and access options and the editing and publishing services).

## Mistakes
Beware of red flags such as incorrect or clumsy use of scientific terms and language, formatting errors and more.

## Non professional
Predatory publishers will often contact you using non-professional email addresses (i.e. not linked to an institution or publication).

## Open access
Open access publishers should have a clear Open Access policy and be a member of the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA).

## Peer review
Predatory journals typically have poor or non-existent peer review processes.

## Quality
Predatory journals tend to publish most, or all, the submissions they receive, regardless of quality.

## Requirements
Reputable journals provide clear requirements regarding the submission of papers.

## Scope
The scope of reputable journals is well defined and clearly stated on the journal's website.

## Track record
Reputable publishers and journals have a good track record on quality publishing and have been working to a regular publishing schedule.

## Unwanted solicitation
Predatory journals often send call-for-paper emails or other forms of solicitation to researchers individually.

## Verifiability
Contact information of reputable publishers and authors are clearly provided on their website.

## Workflows
Publishing options and workflows or stages, including the peer review process, are clearly indicated for legitimate journals.

## X Retraction policy
Reputable journals have clear retraction policies while predatory journals do not.

## You
Legitimate publishers and journal editors want to help you! They are approachable and will answer publishing-related enquiries and clarifications.

## Zero tolerance for plagiarism
Reputable publishers promote zero tolerance for plagiarism and have put steps in place to prevent plagiarism during the publishing process.

**TEQSA**