



Association for Information Science and Technology

Date: April 21, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: Lydia S. Middleton, MBA, CAE
Executive Director
Re: Revised Predatory Publishing Statement

Upon promulgation of the Predatory Publishing Statement, ASIS&T received feedback that Beall's is no longer considered a reliable resource in this area. This feedback was shared with the Publications Committee who amended the statement and sent the following message:

“Thank you for forwarding Sarah Polkinghorne's comments about Jeffrey Beall's list of predatory publishers being included in our ASIST Statement. The Publications Committee agreed with Sarah's arguments and revised the Statement accordingly.

We wanted to ensure that we included OA in the Statement and so we removed recommending Beall's list and added:

- If an open-access title, confirm that the publication or publisher is a member of the Committee on Publication and Ethics ([COPE](#)), Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association ([OASPA](#)), or listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)).

The full revised Statement can be found here: (attached)

Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention and thank you to the PC for their prompt responses and suggestions for alternatives.

Motion: To approve the revised Predatory Publishing Statement

ASIS&T Statement on Predatory Publishing

The Association for Information Science and Technology (ASIS&T) recognizes the critical importance of conducting ethical research and publishing practices to safeguard honesty, trust, integrity, and transparency in scholarly communications. Predatory journals and publishing organizations pose a serious threat to researchers publishing their work, research integrity, and publishing ethics in all fields of study and particularly in information science. This statement reflects scholarly publishing industry standards and is intended to support ASIS&T members and authors in identifying and avoiding predatory publications.

Predatory journals (also referred to as fraudulent, deceptive, or “pseudo” journals) are “publications that claim to be legitimate scholarly journals but misrepresent their publishing practice” (Elmore & Weston, 2020, p. 607) in order to generate revenue. The criteria for determining if a publication is engaged in predatory practices are rooted in the principles developed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): the [Code of Conduct for Journal Publishers](#) and the [Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing](#).

In order to identify and avoid predatory publishers, ASIS&T recommends that researchers in our field adopt the following practices when considering article submission or participation in peer review:

- Consider the standing of the journal and the publisher in your scientific community. Are known researchers in your area publishing their work with this journal and publisher? Is this journal cited in the literature? Do you recognize the names of researchers on the editorial board?
- Be alert when receiving unsolicited or aggressive emails recruiting your contributions (often at a fee with unrealistically fast publication timelines that bypasses traditional peer review).
- If an open-access title, confirm that the publication or publisher is a member of the Committee on Publication and Ethics ([COPE](#)), Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association ([OASPA](#)), or listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)).
- Beware of publications with article process charges (APCs) that do not include transparent terms and conditions or are expected upon submission rather than at manuscript acceptance.
- Avoid publications with submission systems that are overly simplistic; that have unclear copyright terms, licensing agreements, peer-review processes, or do not request a conflict-of-interest statement; and/or lack an archiving plan for the journal.
- Scrutinize journal names that sound familiar but are actually illegitimate derivations as well as unprofessional websites, emails, or other communications that lack street addresses or phone numbers.
- Confirm a journal or publisher is included in authoritative databases such as LISA, LISTA, PubMed, Scopus, or the [DOAJ](#); lack of indexing is a tell-tale sign that a publication is potentially fraudulent.

We encourage all authors to practice due diligence when submitting articles to potential publishers to protect the integrity of the research process, the scientific literature, the field of information science, and one's own reputation. Authors can consult with their departments and/or [libraries](#), and freely available resources such as [Think. Check. Submit.](#) for further guidance to support researchers in navigating potentially fraudulent publishing practices.

References

Code of Conduct for Journal Publisher (COPE):

<https://publication-ethics.org/resources/cope-core-practices/> (accessed February 11, 2025).

Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (COPE):

<https://publicationethics.org/guidance/guideline/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing> (accessed February 11, 2025).

Elmore, S.A. and Weston, E.H. (2020). "Predatory journals: What they are and how to avoid them." *Toxic Pathology*, 48(4).

Think. Check. Submit. <https://thinkchecksubmit.org/> (accessed February 18, 2025).

Acknowledgements

This statement was reviewed and approved by the ASIS&T Board of Directors in February 2025.