Checklist for Identifying Predatory Journals

This checklist is designed to help researchers, especially early-career academics, identify predatory journals and avoid falling into their traps.

1. Contact Information
- Does the journal's website provide complete contact information?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- Does the journal list a valid, physical address?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

2. Journal Scope
- Is the journal's scope multidisciplinary (covers many unrelated fields)?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- Does the journal cover a broad, unrelated range of topics?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Editorial Board
- Is the editorial board made up of recognized experts in the field?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- Have you contacted a few editorial board members to verify their association with the journal?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

4. Author Fees
- Does the journal charge authors any fees?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- Have you reviewed the payment policy and the amount?
- ☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Article Quality
- What is the quality of the articles published in the journal?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Have you consulted your mentors or other experts for their opinion on the journal's quality?

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Peer Review Process
- Is the journal's peer review process clearly explained on the website?

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Indexing and Coverage
- Is the journal indexed in reputable databases?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Are the claimed indexing and impact metrics on the journal's website legitimate?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- Does the journal provide a questionable metric like Index Copernicus Value (ICV)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Retraction Policy
- Has the journal clearly stated its retraction policy?

☐ Yes

☐ No

9. Review and Publication Time
- Has the journal disclosed the time it takes for peer review and publication?

☐ Yes

☐ No

- What is the average time for review and publication?
☐ Yes
☐ No

10. Email Invitations
- Do the emails from the journal, editor, or other members come from a professional domain (not from Gmail, Yahoo, etc.)?
☐ Yes
☐ No

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