CARL 2018 Poster Session

Title:
New Tool in Town: Identifying the God, the Bad, and the Predatory OA Journal

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Poster Description:
As publishing models continue to change and evolve, libraries have remained constant in their pursuit of information access. After nearly three decades, academic institutions are still adapting to open access publishing. At a medium-size, private institution, a library working group was formed in order to alleviate rising faculty concerns on predatory OA journals.

In Spring 2015, three librarians formed the Credible Journal Criteria Working Group (CJCWG) in response to faculty inquiries on open access (OA) publishing, particularly, how to evaluate OA journals for quality and credibility. This new project was an exciting opportunity to extend the OA conversations at the local institution. The development of the Journal Evaluation Rubric was an institution-wide collaboration, including feedback and input from the Office of Assessment, faculty from the science and engineering departments and librarians.
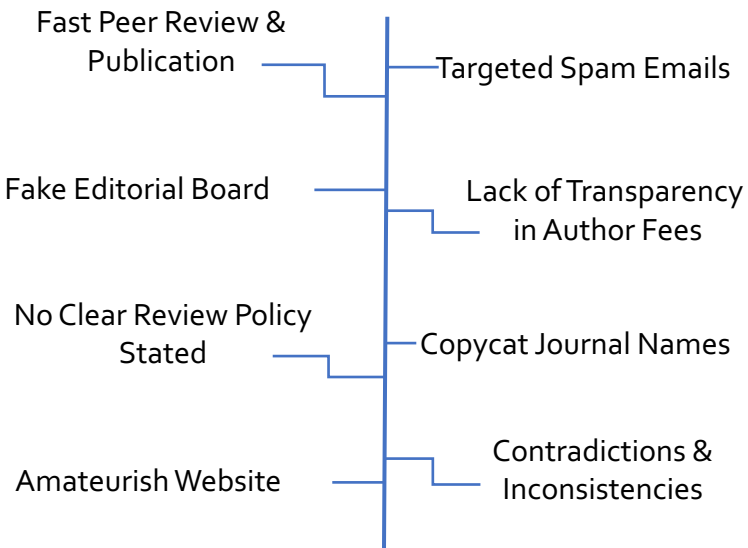
This poster presentation will share the process of developing a rubric for evaluating OA journals, findings from the faculty focus group and ideas to implement the rubric in your own institution.

NEW TOOL IN TOWN:
IDENTIFYING THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE PREDATORY OA JOURNAL

OPEN ACCESS (OA) PUBLISHING

Predatory publishing is an unintentional by-product of the OA movement and a rising concern for scholars. The term refers to those journals that are deceptive and exploit the gold OA model. Librarians play a key role in educating scholars about publishing in a digital environment in the era of predatory publishing.

CHARACTERISTICS OF PREDATORY PUBLISHING

Fast Peer Review & Publication

Targeted Spam Emails

Fake Editorial Board

Lack of Transparency in Author Fees

No Clear Review Policy Stated

Copycat Journal Names

Amateurish Website

Contradictions & Inconsistencies

At Loyola Marymount University, a task force was created to assist faculty in identifying credible and reliable open access journals.
Acknowledgements to Marie Kennedy and Shilpa Rele (task force members).

THE JOURNAL EVALUATION RUBRIC

🔍 LITERATURE REVIEW
Sources on OA publishing; collection of criteria

✔ CHECKLIST
List of "good"/"bad" indicators

▦ RUBRIC & SCORING SHEET
List of criteria to evaluate OA journals with rationale

◎ ASSESSMENT
Collaboration with Office of Assessment, LMU librarians, and select faculty to validate instrument

CRITERIA	RATIONALE
Web search for the journal	Reputation must be credible
Journal name	Journal name is distinguishable
Editorial board	Names & affiliations are accurate
Review process	Policy is clearly stated
Conflicts of interest	Policy is clearly stated
Revenue sources	Transparency in business model
Journal archive	Full-text articles are accessible
Publishing schedule	Schedule is consistent
Author fees	What & how much is the fee
https://lmu.box.com/v/journalevaltool	

Each criteria on the rubric is scored: Good (3), Fair (2), or Poor (1).

PILOT TESTS

Pilot tests were conducted with 11 LMU librarians & 6 faculty from LMU's Seaver College of Science and Engineering:

- Faculty & librarians expressed taking longer time evaluating the OA journal than expected
- All participants assigned the journal within the scoring range *Good* but there were differences in the scores for the various criteria
- Faculty found *Revenue Sources* & *Publisher Information* problematic (17% agreement)
- Librarians found *Revenue Sources* & *Journal Name* problematic (31% agreement)

PERCENT OF AGREEMENT

LIBRARIANS
66%
The interrater reliability is substantial agreement

2.59
The overall average score is Good

FACULTY
59%
The interrater reliability is moderate agreement

2.53
The overall average score is Good

TL: DR: Due to research bias & subjectivity of evaluating journals it is important to educate & empower scholars in identifying credible journals

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