



## Open Access Journal Publishing Checklist

Whilst there are many credible and academically robust open access journals, there are also those that attempt to take advantage of authors through fake editorial processes, hidden fees, and poor indexing or citation practices.

**To avoid publishing in a predatory open access journal consult this checklist before submitting.**

- ✓ The journal is peer-reviewed (pre-publication).
- ✓ The peer-review process is described in detail and timeframes are given as a guide for authors.
- ✓ The journal is listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
- ✓ The journal is indexed by services such as Scopus, Web of Science, Google Scholar, Google, Ulrichsweb.
- ✓ The journal makes all articles available immediately on publication, rather than providing hybrid access.
- ✓ The journal is highly relevant to your field of research and publishes papers you want to read and cite.
- ✓ The business model of the journal is clearly articulated and fees such as article processing charges are openly available.
- ✓ The journal assigns DOIs or other unique, persistent identifiers for all published content, which resolve to the content when expressed as a URL.
- ✗ The journal promises completion of peer-review and publication in a very short timeframe (indicating a fake or poor quality process)
- ✗ The title and logo of the journal and/or publisher very closely resemble an existing high-impact journal / publisher.
- ✗ The journal is not listed in the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).
- ✗ You receive unsolicited email invitations to submit a paper, especially if these contain spelling, grammatical or typographic errors.
- ✗ The journal is not indexed by well-known sources and is hard to find online.
- ✗ The journal requests a surprise fee for publication processing after the article has been submitted or accepted.
- ✗ Editorial staff and publisher contact details are not available or only given as a web-based email addresses such as Hotmail or gmail.
- ✗ The journal publishes papers which do not present new knowledge or are general in nature.

### Useful Links

- ◆ [Journal Finder](#) – Contains the latest ERA Journal List (log in required off-campus, best viewed in Chrome)
- ◆ [Think-check-submit](#) Another checklist researchers can use to assess the credentials of a journal or publisher.
- ◆ [COPE](#) - Committee on Publication Ethics
- ◆ [DOAJ](#) - Directory of Open Access Journals
- ◆ [OASPA](#) - Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
- ◆ Australian Business Deans Council [Business Journal Quality List](#)