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## Journal Evaluation Workflow

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# Journal Evaluation Workflow

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Is the journal listed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)?

If yes, the journal is probably not predatory and you can stop looking.

If no, you need more information.

Is the journal listed in [Journal Citation Reports](#) (only relevant for journals indexed in the Web of Science)?

If yes, the journal is probably not predatory and you can stop looking.

If no, you need more information.

Does the journal have a [Cite Score](#) (only relevant for journals indexed in Scopus)?

If yes, the journal is probably not predatory and you can stop looking.

If no, you need more information.

Is the journal listed in [Cabell's Scholarly Analytics](#)?

If it is listed under the Journalytics tab, the journal is probably not predatory and you can stop looking.

If it is listed under the Predatory Reports tab, the journal is predatory.

If it is not listed, you need more information.

Is the journal listed in [Ulrich's Global Serials Directory](#)?

If no, the journal is probably predatory.

If yes, you need more information (both legitimate and predatory journals have records here).

On the journal's page in Ulrich's, does the "abstracting and indexing databases field" and/or the "full text sources" field have many entries?

If yes, that favors the journal not being predatory, but you need more information.

If no, the journal may be predatory, but you need more information. [Predatory](#) example, [not predatory](#) example, another [not predatory](#) example.

Look at the publisher listed in Ulrich's. Then visit the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) [membership page](#) and look up the journal name.

If the journal is listed that means the publisher is a COPE member and the journal is probably not predatory.

If the journal is not listed, you need more information.

Visit the Open Access Scholarly Publishing Association (OASPA) [member list](#) and look up the publisher's name.

If the publisher is listed that means the publisher is an OASPA member and the journal is probably not predatory.

If the publisher is not listed, you need more information.

Go back to the journal's website listed in [Ulrich's](#) and look at the following data points:

Does the ISSN listed on the website match the ISSN listed in Ulrich's?

If yes, that is a point in favor.

If no, that is a point against.

Do the abstracting and indexing claims on the website match what is listed in Ulrich's?

If yes, that is a point in favor.

If no, that is a point against.

Does the physical address match what is listed in Ulrich's?

If yes, that is a point in favor.

If no, that is a point against.

Look up all physical addresses listed on Ulrich's or the journal's website on Google Maps. Are they for a residential house or an unrealistic location (ex: Rockefeller Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, etc.)?

If no, that is a point in favor.

If yes, that is a point against.

Look up the name of the publisher on [Google Maps](#), what address comes up and what do the reviews say?

If the address matches the publisher's name and there are reviews that look legitimate, that is a point in favor.

If the address does not match the publisher's name or there are negative reviews that is a point against.

Criteria	Point in favor	Point against
Does the ISSN listed on the website match the ISSN listed in Ulrich's?		

Do the abstracting and indexing claims on the website match what is listed in Ulrich's?		
Does the physical address match what is listed in Ulrich's?		
Look up all physical addresses listed on Ulrich's or the journal's website on Google Maps. Are they for a residential house or an unrealistic location (ex: Rockefeller Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, etc.)?		
Look up the name of the publisher on Google Maps, what address comes up and what do the reviews say?		
<b>Total points</b>		

Does the journal's web page have any of the following? Bad grammar, low quality images, PayPal or other payment link, article submission as a document through a form, unclear peer review policies, unclear copyright policies, unclear archiving and digital preservation policy, publisher's contact is through private emails (hotmail, yahoo, gmail, etc.), the journal's scope is extremely broad, or editorial board members expertise does not match the scope of the journal.

For each one of these that is a point against. [0]

If the journal's website does not have each one of these, that is a point in favor.

Criteria	Point in favor	Point against
Bad grammar		
Low quality or unprofessional images		
Payment link (PayPal, Venmo, etc.)		
Article submission via attaching a document to a form		
Peer review policies are unclear		
Copyright policies are unclear		
Archiving and digital preservation procedures are unclear		
Publisher's or editor's contact information is through private emails (hotmail, gmail, yahoo, etc.)		
The scope of the journal seems unusually broad		
Editorial board member's expertise does not match the stated scope of the journal.		

If the journal has any points against it please contact your librarian for a consultation. Predatory journals have been known to hijack the identifying information of legitimate journals and can sometimes be hard to identify.