GUIDANCE NOTE

**Questionable Open Access Journals – ‘Predatory’ Journals**

There are now many Open Access (OA) journals that researchers can choose to publish their works in today. These journals operate by publishing your research article and making them openly accessible on the Internet. These OA publishers recover their cost of operation by charging an Article Processing Charge (APC) for each author whose work is accepted. Examples of well-known OA journals are the various PLOS journals.

Unfortunately there is also a rise of predatory or disreputable OA journals. These questionable OA journals will accept your article readily and they will claim to have proper editorial boards and peer review systems in place. However their objective is purely to earn money by collecting the APCs from authors.

NTU researchers are advised not to publish in OA journals that deemed to be of low quality or have questionable reputation. They should also not accept invitations to be on their editorial boards or in any way be associated with them.

In fact your name may be placed on such boards without your knowledge with your NTU affiliation. In order to protect your own reputation and that of the institution, it is strongly recommended that you periodically check these matters through, for example, ‘googling’ your own name to see what may be out there on the Web.

Generally if you receive unsolicited invitations that offer to publish your article for a fee and they promise a quick and easy publication process, you should be on the alert. A list of suspicious predatory OA publishers is given in the Beall List [http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/](http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/). As a quick reference, you can check this list before you decide to publish in any of the OA journal listed or accept invitations to be on their editorial boards. There are also other ways to check for questionable journals which the Library can advise.

You can also contact Samantha Ang, Head of Scholarly Communication Group, [samantha@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:samantha@ntu.edu.sg) at our Library to get advice on the reputation of OA journals.

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