

Guiding Authors through the maze of Scholarly Publishing and Avoiding Predatory Journals

ELENA F. TRIANTAFILLOU

University of Athens,
University Campus 157 84,
Zografou, Athens
GREECE

Abstract: - Publishing in reputable academic journals offers significant benefits for both faculty members and students. It allows researchers to share their findings with the global scholarly community, gain recognition, build credibility, and progress in their academic careers. Moreover, publishing in peer-reviewed journals enables authors to receive critical and constructive feedback from subject-matter experts, ultimately improving the quality of their work.

Key-Words: - WSEAS, anti-predatory policy, Predatory Journals, Scholarly Publishing

1 Introduction

Contributing to respected academic journals provides substantial advantages for both educators and students. It gives scholars the opportunity to disseminate their research to an international academic audience, earn acknowledgment, establish authority, and advance professionally. In addition, publishing in peer-reviewed outlets allows authors to benefit from insightful and constructive evaluations by experts in the field, which helps enhance the overall quality of their work.

For early-career researchers, navigating the publishing process can be especially complex. Authors must not only produce sound, original research, but also understand editorial expectations, align with a journal's scope, and adhere to formal submission guidelines. The time from submission to publication can range from weeks to several months, especially for reputable journals that emphasize rigorous peer review and academic contribution. High-quality journals—such as those published by WSEAS—are known for their meticulous editorial procedures. WSEAS journals, which are indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, and other respected databases, uphold a thorough peer-review process, ensuring that only robust and meaningful contributions are accepted. Many WSEAS titles report low acceptance rates,

highlighting their commitment to scientific excellence and integrity, [1], [2], [3].

2. The Threat of Predatory Journals

As the pressure to publish increases, some researchers may be tempted by seemingly attractive publication offers. Predatory journals exploit this vulnerability by advertising fast-track publication, minimal peer review, and low-quality editorial standards—all while charging significant fees. These deceptive publishers often mimic the names and website layouts of legitimate journals to mislead authors. Publishing in such outlets can severely harm an author's reputation, devalue their research, and reflect poorly on affiliated institutions. Unlike respected platforms such as WSEAS, predatory journals often lack transparency, editorial credibility, and inclusion in trusted indexing databases.

3. How to Spot a Predatory Journal: - Key Warning Signs

To avoid falling into the trap of disreputable publishers, authors should watch for these common red flags:

First of all you can see the unsolicited Email Invitations. Be cautious of flattering emails from unknown journals guaranteeing

publication or promising rapid turnaround. Another important feature is the lack of Publisher Reputation: If the publisher is unfamiliar, do some digging. Review their history, look for independent assessments, and examine whether their practices align with established scholarly norms. On the other hand, check suspicious Metrics and Claims: Some predatory journals display fabricated impact factors or cite unverified metrics. Reputable publishers like WSEAS clearly indicate where their metrics come from—typically from trusted sources such as Clarivate, Scopus, or DOAJ.

You have also to check the Editorial Board: Transparent journals list their editors with full academic affiliations. Cross-checking these names via platforms like ORCID or Google Scholar can confirm legitimacy.

You must check the Indexing of the Journal. No Proper Indexing is a bad sign. Reputable journals are indexed in major databases such as Scopus, Web of Science.

WSEAS journals, for instance, have passed the strict evaluation criteria required for inclusion in these databases.

Predatory journals often lack clear information on how they evaluate submissions. In contrast, WSEAS explicitly describes its multi-phase, double-blind peer review process and rejection rates, underscoring its editorial rigor.

4. Useful Tools and Resources

Combating the rise of predatory publishing requires a joint effort among academic institutions, libraries, and scholarly communities. By promoting media literacy, training sessions, and open dialogue, we can help researchers make informed choices about where to publish.

Supporting reputable journals—such as those under the WSEAS umbrella—contributes to the preservation of academic excellence. WSEAS continues to maintain high ethical standards, transparent processes, and a commitment to supporting both authors and readers in advancing science and engineering.

The prestige of WSEAS Journals comes from their commitment to quality, transparency,

international indexing, and scientific contribution. Their inclusion in Scopus, strict peer-review practices, and support from a respected global academic network all contribute to their standing as trusted and influential journals in the scientific world

Navigating the complex landscape of scholarly publishing can be daunting for authors, especially with the rise of predatory journals that exploit the open-access model for profit without providing legitimate peer review or editorial services. To assist researchers in identifying reputable publication venues, Bournemouth University offers comprehensive guidance on scholarly publishing.

In the realm of trustworthy academic publishers, the WSEAS stands out for its commitment to rigorous peer review and ethical publishing practices. Established in 1996, WSEAS has built a reputation for upholding high academic standards across its various journals.

WSEAS implements a thorough quality control process to ensure the integrity of its publications. Before initiating peer review, the organization conducts a pre-screening to assess the suitability and originality of submitted manuscripts. This initial evaluation helps maintain the quality of content considered for publication.

Furthermore, WSEAS has established clear criteria for appointing editors and reviewers, requiring a proven track record of publications in reputable indexing services such as Scopus and EI Compendex . This meticulous selection process ensures that only qualified professionals contribute to the editorial and review processes.

Authors who have collaborated with WSEAS frequently commend the organization's dedication to excellence. For instance, Dr. Leonid Aronov from Brussels, Belgium, shared his experience:

"I organized a special issue and collected 43 articles. From them, WSEAS accepted only 5 articles. Each article received peer review from 3-8 reviewers! The comments were very important from scholars that work inside the area of each paper. This is a real publisher. We can call WSEAS an... anti-predatory publisher."

Such testimonials underscore WSEAS's role in fostering a credible and ethical academic publishing environment.

In an era where predatory journals pose significant challenges to scholarly communication, organizations like WSEAS provide a beacon of reliability. Their unwavering commitment to rigorous peer review, transparent processes, and academic integrity offers authors a trustworthy platform for disseminating their research. By choosing reputable publishers like WSEAS, researchers can ensure their work contributes meaningfully to the global body of knowledge.

5. Conclusions

WSEAS is transparent about its publishing policies, fees, and processes. It provides clear information about manuscript handling times, editorial guidelines, and the criteria used for acceptance. This level of openness starkly contrasts with the vague and opaque operations of predatory publishers. WSEAS also regularly organizes academic conferences around the world, which are well-attended and supported by academics from a wide range of disciplines, further reinforcing its reputation within the scholarly community.

Finally, the publisher's emphasis on ethical standards, scientific quality, and scholarly contribution reflects its commitment to advancing knowledge, not exploiting it. Authors who publish with WSEAS can be confident that their work is being handled by a professional

and academically sound organization that values the advancement of science and engineering.

In conclusion, the practices, reputation, and academic foundations of WSEAS place it well outside the category of predatory publishers. It continues to be a reliable platform for researchers seeking meaningful dissemination of their work within a legitimate scholarly framework.

So, the WSEAS demonstrates a high level of transparency in its publishing operations, setting it apart from questionable or predatory publishers. It clearly outlines its publication policies, including detailed information on manuscript submission procedures, peer-review protocols, and editorial standards. Authors are informed upfront about any publication fees, timelines for review and decision-making, and the criteria by which manuscripts are evaluated for acceptance. This openness ensures that contributors understand the process and can make informed decisions—something that is often lacking in the operations of predatory journals, which tend to obscure their policies and fees until after submission.

In addition to its publishing efforts, WSEAS is highly active in organizing international academic conferences across various countries. These events attract scholars from diverse fields such as engineering, mathematics, physics, computer science, and environmental sciences. The conferences are not only well-attended but also feature keynote speakers, peer-reviewed presentations, and proceedings that are archived and accessible—further enhancing the academic credibility of the organization. These gatherings create vibrant spaces for scholarly exchange, collaboration, and networking, which contribute significantly to the global academic community.

WSEAS's commitment to academic integrity is further reflected in its strict adherence to ethical publishing standards. The organization upholds internationally recognized guidelines for

authorship, peer review, and conflict of interest disclosures. It actively promotes scientific quality, encouraging submissions that offer genuine contributions to their fields rather than prioritizing quantity over rigor. This is a critical distinction from predatory publishers, whose main objective is often profit rather than the advancement of knowledge.

Authors choosing to publish with WSEAS can be assured that their research will be evaluated by qualified experts through a rigorous and ethical review process. The emphasis on quality, professionalism, and academic value helps researchers disseminate their findings within a reputable scholarly framework—something especially important in today's competitive and increasingly scrutinized research landscape.

In conclusion, the operational transparency, global academic involvement, and ethical rigor of WSEAS clearly distinguish it from predatory publishers. Its strong reputation, robust scholarly foundation, and ongoing contributions to academic discourse make it a trustworthy and respected platform for researchers seeking meaningful and legitimate dissemination of their work.

References:

[1] Charles A. Long, Nikos E. Mastorakis
Pierre Borne, Michael N. Katehakis, Klimis
Ntalianis, Bimal Kumar Bose, D. Subbaram
Naidu, Tadeusz Kaczorek, Panagiotis
Agathoklis, Imre J. Rudas, Philippe Dondon,
Vincenzo Niola, Petr Filip, Ng Yin Kwee,
Dora Foti, Satya Shah, Igor Neelov, Kostas
G.Arvanitis, Xiaodong Zhuang, Lucjan Setlak,
Badea Lepadatescu, Ivan Kazachkov, Nizhyn
Mykola, Myriam Lazard, John Kechagias,
Nikolaos V. Karadimas, Shahram Javadi,
Yuriy S. Shmaliy, Paolo Mercorelli, Has
WSEAS been ever engaged in Predatory
Publishing Practices?
<https://www.wseas.org/multimedia/Predatory-Publishing-Practice.pdf>

[2] Grudniewicz, A., Moher, D., Cobey, K. D., et al. (2019). Predatory journals: no definition, no defence. *Nature*, 576(7786), 210–212.

[3] Jiban Shrestha, Subash Subedi, Behzad Shokati, and Amit Chaudhary, "Predatory Journals: A Threat to Scholarly Publishing", *Journal of Education and Research*, Volume 8, Issue 1, March 2018