



Good practices in scholarly publishing

Katarzyna Gaca-Zajac, PhD Eng.

Customer Consultant for Central-Eastern Europe



Agenda

- Scholarly publishing overview
- Smart journal choice
- Submission and peer-review
- Ethical concerns
- Questions and answers





Origins of scholarly publishing

1439: Gutenberg and moveable type



1580: Founding of the House of Elzevir



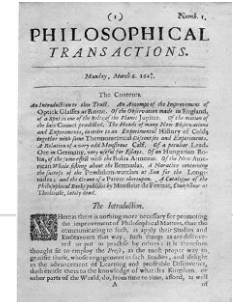
**Henry Oldenburg
(1618- 1677)**

Founding Editor and
Commercial Publisher of
the first scientific journal



March 6, 1665
Philosophical
Transactions
of the Royal Society

First truly scholarly
journal



Good practices in scholarly publishing

THE LANCET.

VOL. I.—No. 1.] LONDON, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1823. [*Price 6d.*

PREFACE.

It has long been a subject of surprise and regret, that in this extensive and intelligent community there has not hitherto existed a work that would convey to the Public, and to distant Practitioners as well as to Students in Medicine and Surgery, reports of the Metropolitan Hospital Lectures.

Role of scholarly publishing

Registration

- The timestamp to officially note who submitted scientific results first

Certification

- Perform peer-review to ensure the validity and integrity of submissions

Dissemination

- Provide a medium for discoveries and findings to be shared

Preservation

- Preserving the minutes and record of science for posterity





Smart journal choice



Why does journal choice matter?



A glowing lightbulb is centered within a large, soft, white cloud. The lightbulb is bright yellow and orange, with a visible filament. The cloud has a painterly, textured appearance with soft edges and some darker shading. The background is a pale, hazy blue.

**Aim to reach the intended
audience for your work**

How do I choose the right journal?

Shortlist a handful of candidate journals

- Check your reference list
- Supervisor and colleagues can provide good suggestions
- Search in databases, check quality indicators

And investigate them:

- ? Aims & Scope
- ? Accepted types of articles
- ? Peer review process (single blind, double blind, open)
- ? Readership, publisher
- ? Ethics statement
- ? Speed of publication
- ? Subscription versus Open Access



Golden Rules for using bibliometrics

When used correctly, research metrics together with qualitative input give a balanced, multi-dimensional view for decision-making

Always use **both qualitative** and **quantitative** input into your decisions

Always use **more than one** research metric as the **quantitative** input



Good practices in scholarly publishing

Bibliometric indicators: a basket of metrics



Are there any tools available?

Scientific databases: Scopus

<http://journalfinder.elsevier.com/>

ELSEVIER

Type here to search on Elsevier.com



Advanced search

Follow us:



Help & Contact

Journals & books

Solutions

Authors, editors & reviewers

About Elsevier

Community

Store

For Authors

Journal authors' home

Author Rights

Ethics

Agreements

Open access

Author services

Authors' Update

Early career researchers

Book authors' home

Elsevier for authors

How to publish in an Elsevier journal

Every year, we accept and publish more than 250,000 journal articles. Publishing in an Elsevier journal starts with finding the right journal for your paper. If you already know which journal, you can enter the title directly in the search box below. Alternatively, click on the 'Start matching' button to find a suitable journal based on the abstract of your article.

Publishing
process

Find a journal

Prepare your
paper

Submit paper

Check status

Match your abstract to a journal

Search for a journal by name



Gc

How to check if the journal acts ethically?

- The journal must have a clear Ethics and Malpractice Statement in place.
- **The statement must comprehensively describe rights and responsibilities of authors, reviewers and editors, as well as consequences if misconduct is detected or reported.**
- Scopus, as well as some other databases, are open to reporting misconduct of the indexed journals.
- The statement protects you as an author against predatory journals...



Nobody is immune to predatory publishing

Home / News & Opinion

German Scientists Frequently Publish in Predatory Journals

At least 5,000 of the country's researchers have published their work on questionable platforms, often forking over exorbitant fees, a report finds.

Jul 19, 2018

CATHERINE OFFORD

More than 5,000 German scientists have published their work in at least one predatory journal, internet platform, or conference, according to a joint report released today (July 19) by [NDR](#) and several other German news organizations. Predatory publishers exert limited, if any, editorial oversight of the content they produce, the report finds, and may charge authors—many of whom are supported by public funding—exorbitant prices for the opportunity.

Predatory publishers and journals

- Predatory publishers and journals exploit the necessity to communicate science, the idea of Open Access, as well as the speed of publication process.
- Typical warning signs:
 - Fast publication (one or two weeks)
 - „Predicted” or „local” bibliometric parameters
 - Poor language, „suspicious” website
 - Relatively low charges without any justification
 - Scarce information about the publisher, the editorial board and publication process

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>



Predator or not?

Subject: Polite request for submission of manuscript in a peer reviewed journal

Dear Colleague,

Thank you for cooperation and support Your kind attention is requested for the following announcement.

Journal: [redacted] (<https://tinyurl.com/journal-53d>)

Past name: [redacted]

Frequency: Monthly

Publication model: Online as well as Hard copy

Discounted Publication Charge: 60 USD (Up to the end of this month)

Original Publication Charge: 500 USD

Ongoing volume: vol 25

Transparent and High standard Peer review: This journal follows highly respected OPEN peer-review system (Example <https://tinyurl.com/review-53d>).

Time Schedule:

Submission to review decision: 7-10 days

Submission to publication: 12-14 days



Submission and peer-review



Submission

- Choose only **one journal**
- **All authors must approve** the manuscript and journal choice
- Adhere to **author guidelines**
- Submit the paper according to the **journal instructions**
- Provide a **cover letter** for your manuscript
- Editorial times and peer review duration **vary**
- If in any doubt, **reach out to the handling editor**



Purpose of peer review

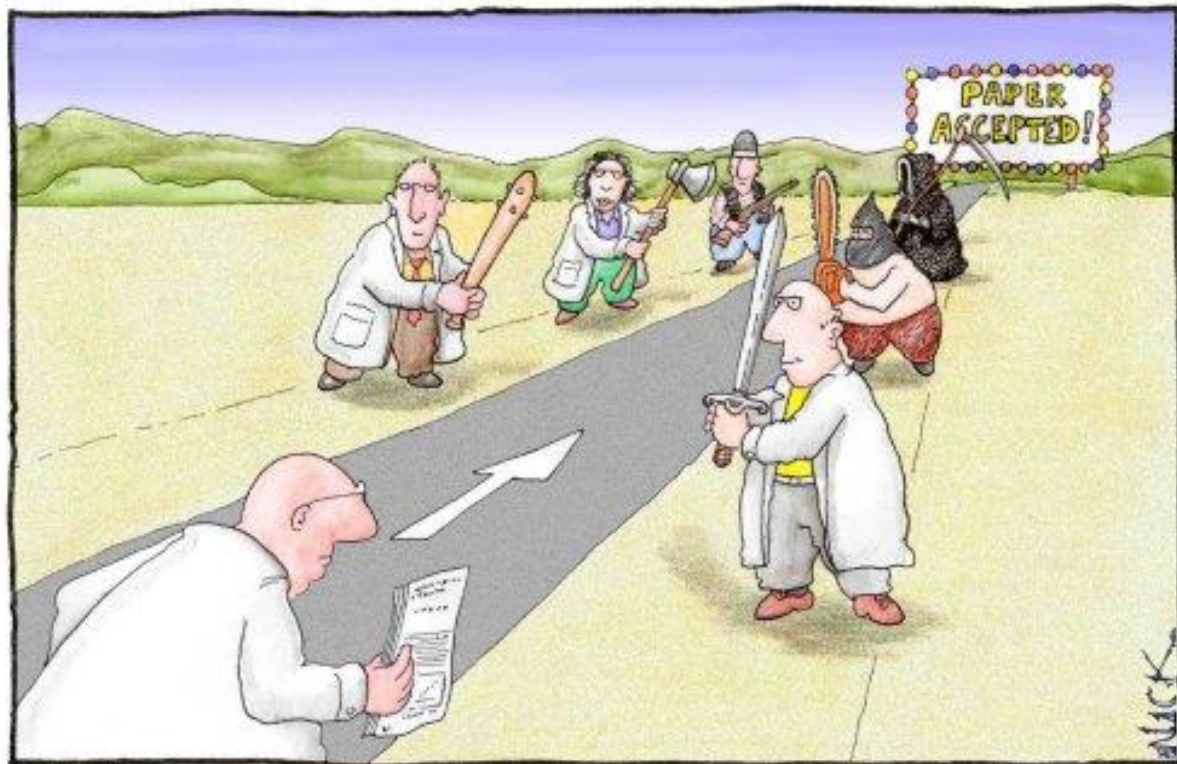
- Helps to **determine** the **quality, validity, significance**, and **originality** of research
- Helps to **improve** the **quality** of papers
- **Publishers** are **outside** the academic process and are not prone to prejudice or favour
- **Publishers facilitate the review** process by online review systems and providing tools to help Editors and Reviewers



Types of peer-review

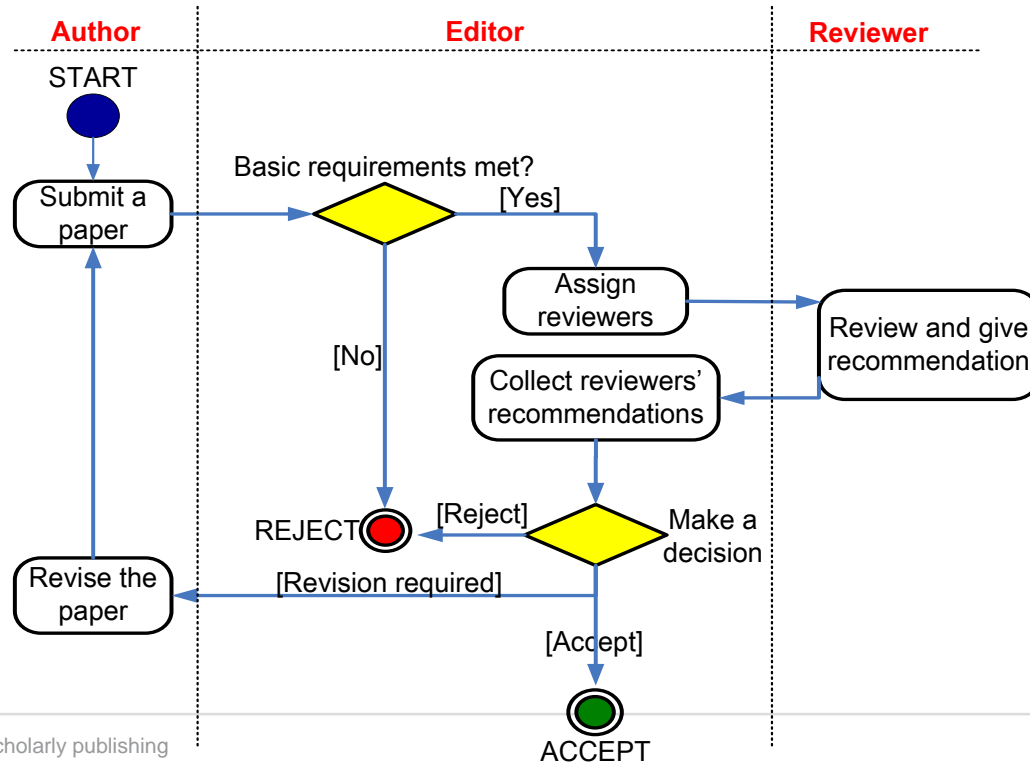
- **Single blind**: reviewer sees the author's name
- **Double blind**: nobody sees any names
- **Open**:
 - with reviewer name disclosed to author alone
 - with reviewer name published
 - with reviewer report published anonymously
 - with reviewer report and name published
 - reviewed both pre- and post publication
 - reviewed only post-publication





Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as 'quite an improvement.'

What actually happens?



Example of a reviewer checklist

Reviewer's recommendation Accept / Minor Revision / Major Revision / Reject

Overall manuscript rating 1 → 100 (poor → perfect)

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1. | Is the subject matter suitable for publication in JCR? | Y/N |
| 2. | Is the paper acceptable in its present form? | Y/N |
| 3. | Is the paper better suited for another journal?
<i>If "Yes", which other journal?</i> | Y/N |
| 4. | Does it contain material that might well be omitted? | Y/N |
| 5. | Does it give adequate references to related work? | Y/N |
| 6. | Is the English satisfactory? | Y/N |
| 7. | Is the presentation of the work well organized? | Y/N |
| 8. | Rate the paper using the following scale
(4 = <i>Very good</i> , 3 = <i>Good</i> , 2 = <i>Marginal</i> , 1 = <i>Poor</i>) | |
| | a. Originality | 1 2 3 4 |
| | b. Scientific quality | 1 2 3 4 |
| | c. Significance of findings | 1 2 3 4 |



**KEEP
CALM
AND
RESPOND
TO THE
REVIEW**



Good practices in scholarly publishing

How to respond to the review?

- **C**omprehend: stay cool
- **A**nswer – address, advocate or amend
- **L**ist the comments, questions and your changes
- **M**indful – make it easy for the editor and reviewers





Ethical concerns





J. H. Hetherington

Compliments
of the authors



VOLUME 35, NUMBER 21

PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

24 NOVEMBER 1975

Two-, Three-, and Four-Atom Exchange Effects in bcc ^3He

J. H. Hetherington and F. D. C. Willard

Physics Department, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

(Received 22 September 1975)

We have made mean-field calculations with a Hamiltonian obtained from two-, three-, and four-atom exchange in bcc solid ^3He . We are able to fit the high-temperature experiments as well as the phase diagram of Kummer *et al.* at low temperatures. We find two kinds of antiferromagnetic phases as suggested by Kummer's experiments.

What is unethical behaviour?

- Fabrication of data or cases
- Wilful falsification of data
- Plagiarism
- No ethics approval
- Not admitting missing data
- Ignoring outliers
- No data on side effects
- Gift authorship
- Redundant publication
- Inadequate literature search

**Serious
ethical
violations**

**Questionable
research
practices**

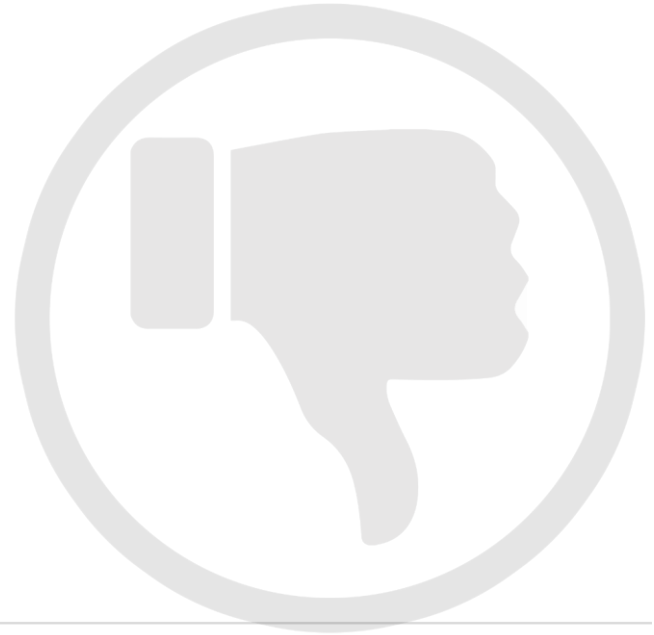


Good practices in scholarly publishing

How do publishers detect plagiarism?



- Database of 30+ million articles, from 50,000+ journals, from 400+ publishers
- Software alerts Editors about any similarities between the submitted article and already published articles





Final remarks



Researcher Academy

Nobody is born a great writer, reviewer or editor: improve your skills

<https://researcheracademy.elsevier.com/>

Researcher Academy

Learn

Career path

Blog



Unlock your research potential

Navigate your research journey with Researcher Academy. Free e-learning modules developed by global experts. Career guidance and advice. Research news on our blog.

Start learning >

RESEARCH
PREPARATION



WRITING
FOR RESEARCH



PUBLICATION
PROCESS



11 MODULES
3 TOPICS
NAVIGATING
PEER REVIEW



COMMUNICATING
YOUR RESEARCH





Any questions?





Hvala!

Katarzyna Gaca-Zajac, PhD Eng.

k.gaca-zajac@elsevier.com

