

About predatory conferences and journals

Predatory conferences appear as legitimate scientific conferences, but they do not have very high scientific added value. As the goal of these conferences is profit making, they are usually very expensive (e.g., \$200-500 for an online conference). In addition to the high registration fee, they are characterized by the fact that there is no academic institution behind them, usually only the city is marked in the advertisement. Their scientific committee is not built up by grounded scholars and it is extremely easy to get accepted to these conferences: there is almost no threshold for presentation – as the primary goal is to collect the registration fee. Thereby, the participants do not have valuable scientific feedback for their work and as the audience is not selected from among the active scholars of a field, the dissemination of the participant's work will be not realized. Such conferences are pointless and ineffective for serious scientific scholars.

Similarly to predatory conferences, predatory journals also exist. The goal of these journals is also profit making, so the publishing fee is extremely high (e.g., \$1000-3000). Take into account that most scientific journals do not have publication fee by default. (Except for gold open access publications. In this case some publishers require payment from the author for APC (article processign charge)). One of the most important characteristics of a predatory journal is that no well-grounded scientific publisher is behind the journal, and the editorial board does not consist of reputable scholars. Although they can pretend, they have a peer-review system, the acceptance rate of these journals is 100 percent, sometimes they even publish papers, which have already been published in other journals. These journals are not part of serious scientific catalogues, not indexed there.

Search if SCIMAGO or Web of Science index the journal. If not, be suspicious.

For a list of predatory journals, see e.g., <https://bealllist.net/>. However, the list cannot follow the latest predatory journals as they are founded on a daily basis.

You can check the ISSN number of the journal – if it exists – here: <https://portal.issn.org/>

If the journal is open access, you can check if the publisher is registered here: <https://oaspa.org/>

If you are unsure about a conference or a journal, do not hesitate to ask your supervisor, the Head of your Doctoral Program, the Secretary of your Doctoral Program, or the Head of the Doctoral School. You can also contact the library service of the Faculty (konyvtar@tatk.elte.hu), specifically Krisztina Egri, Head of the Library (egri.krisztina@tatk.elte.hu).