

Publication Scams: A trap for researchers searching for journals that provide fast and indexed publication

Acceptance and publication of a research paper in a reputed journal is the dream of every researcher. Since the publication is the end product of years of research, every author wants their paper published in an indexed journal. Journals indexed in reputed indexing, including PubMed, Scopus, UGC Care, or Embase, usually received hundreds of papers for every issue but could publish only a limited number of quality papers. Reputed publishing agencies, including Springer, Nature, Oxford, BioMed, Frontier, Talor and Francis, Willey, Elsevier, and Medknow, have a high rejection rate, which for some journals goes up to 90%, which means 90% of the papers submitted to that journal are rejected before or after peer review.

The high rejection rate and time consumed in the publication process frustrate the scientists, and they start looking for an easy way out to get their papers published. The time consumed by a journal depends upon the peer review and production process. The peer review process almost takes 80% of the time of paper publication. The paper is sent for peer review to at least three reviewers, and the review process usually takes one to two months because reviewers are usually the faculty of reputed institutes and have to manage the time to review the paper. Moreover, journals do not provide any incentives to the reviewers. Therefore, reviewers also do not take the timelines seriously. After the peer review is completed, the authors have to answer the queries of the reviewers, which again takes time. After the review process is completed, the journal takes some time to generate the final format of the paper and its publication on online or printed mode.

The author desired the indexed journals because of several regions. Publication in a good journal is an indicator of the quality of research, and a good publication record builds the reputation of a researcher in academia. Then, there are some universities and medical institutes where the publication of papers in reputed journals is requisite for promotion to higher academic positions or submission of a thesis of postgraduate programs. Authors also desire good indexing to build their biodata for academic job applications. Good publications also give advantages to students who want to complete their further studies abroad. For all these regions, the researcher desires an indexed publication.

After a few journals reject the paper, authors usually start searching for some way to publish their paper in journals that are indexed and provide fast publication, and this desire leads them to fall in publication scams. Several scams are going on nowadays to trap the naïve researchers. They offer fast acceptance of papers, provide the acceptance letter in a week, and publish the paper within a month. They provide a hundred percent acceptance rate despite poor quality and high plagiarism in the paper. They charge huge fees from the authors, ranging from ten thousand to fifty thousand or more.

The first scam category involves publishing papers in previous issues of journals. For example, if a journal is discontinued in Scopus after December 2023, the journal will keep taking the paper throughout the year 2024 and keep publishing it in 2023 issues. Another scam is that some people create replicas of the whole website of the journal and keep publishing the paper on that website, claiming that they are the original publishers. In another scam, journal websites falsely claim that they are indexed in Scopus or PubMed but are not.

Researchers are usually naïve to understand these things, and they do not know how to verify the authenticity of the journals. Therefore, indexing agencies like PubMed, Scopus, and Embase must list such scam journals on their website. They should also provide the original web address of the journal so that the author can know whether it is an original website or a replica. Moreover, authors should be patient when publishing research, as all good things in the world take time.

Atul K. Goyal, Jyoti Saini

Associate Editor, Journal of Pharmaceutical and Biosciences

Correspondence:

Dr. Atul K Goyal, Managing Director, Doc Navigator, New Chandigarh, Mohali, Punjab, India.
Email: atlgyl@gmail.com

Access this article online

Website: <http://www.jpbs-online.com>

E-ISSN: 2321-0125

How to cite this article: GoyalAK, Saini J. Publication Scams: A trap for researchers searching for journals that provide fast and indexed publication. J Pharm BioSci 2024;12(1):1-1.

Source of Support: Nil, **Conflicts of Interest:** None declared