Predatory Open Access Journals

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Open Access

• Definition
  – Generally
  – Green vs. Gold

• Access to knowledge
  – mostly article like publications
  – Some monographs, learning objects
  – Data sets (much generated by government agencies)

• Access for students after graduation
  – Institutionally unaffiliated

• Trends to greater number of downloads
Open Access

• Spawned “Predatory” journals
  – Exploiting the “Gold” model

• Predatory OA have uneven peer review
  – Or even no peer review

• Typically target less experienced scholars
  – Heavy e-mail / spam like solicitation

• Typically targeting in less developed countries
  – Where “international” exposure is a P&T must
  – More aggressive in developed parts of the world recently
Open Access Publishing Infographic

- https://magic.piktochart.com/output/1800841-open-access-and-the-publishing-c
“Red Flag” attributes of Predatory OA Journals

• Beall’s list, http://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/
  – Not perfect, not comprehensive
• Publishers content, practices, website
• Contact info, no location
• Minimum or no copy editing
• Aggressive email solicitation
• Content is overly broad
• Journal name is similar to an established journal
“Red Flag” continued

• Immediate payment, payment on submission

• Distribution of scholars on editorial board
  – From a variety of countries/institutions
  – Contact information
Positive attributes of Open Access Journals

• Indexed in LibrarySearch discovery service
• In Serials Directory
• In Cabell’s Directories of Publishing Opportunities
• In Directory of Open Access Journals, doaj.org
• Archives, previously published articles available

• Try checklist approach from Think Check Submit
  – http://thinkchecksubmit.org/
Activity

   http://jswhr.com/

2. PLOS Medicine
   http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/

3. American Journal of Polymer Science
How can the librarian help?

• Subject librarians
  – Will perform searches in
    • Serials Directory
    • DOAJ
    • Library Search
    • Cabell’s Directories of Publishing Opportunities
  – Will run checklists
    • Beall’s
    • ThinkCheckSubmit
  – Will recommend alternative publishing venues
Thank you!

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