

The Experience and Attitude of TMU Faculty and Researchers Toward Predatory Journals and Research Productivity

Li-Chuan Huang*

Ya-Fang Hsiao**

Shu-Yuan Siao***

Hsiao-Fen Yu****

Tzu-heng Chiu*****

Abstract

The purpose of this study is to investigate the submission status as well as the problems faced by the Taipei Medical University (TMU) researchers, from 11 colleges, center of General Education, 11 university-level research centers, as well as the 3 affiliated hospitals. This study was based on a questionnaire survey. A questionnaire about the journal submission was sent to TMU faculty and researchers for a 2-week period via email. Major contents of the questionnaire related to following 3 questions:

- (a) the experience of publishing in predatory journals;
- (b) with regard to predatory journals, the respondents expect what kind of support from the library and TMU;
- (c) the perspective and suggestions for changes in the Impact Factor (IF) which exists in the year of submission but was suppressed/dropped by SCI/ SSCI JCR or the value reduced dramatically when the year they need for calculating the quantitative research productivity for reward or promotion.

1,286 questionnaires were sent and 114 valid questionnaires were returned, resulting in a response rate of 8.9%. The main findings were:

- (a) All of the respondents have the experience to be invited by an unfamiliar journal, and approximately 80% of them have ever been invited as a reviewer. Furthermore, over a half of them have ever been invited as an editor;

* Taipei Medical University Library, Taiwan, jessica@tmu.edu.tw

** Taipei Medical University Library, Taiwan, avon001005@tmu.edu.tw

*** Taipei Medical University Library, Taiwan, a9010015@tmu.edu.tw

**** Taipei Medical University Library, Taiwan, xiao@tmu.edu.tw

***** Taipei Medical University Library, Taiwan, tzchiu@tmu.edu.tw

(b) 16% of the respondents have accidentally published articles in a predatory journal;

(c) As to issues related to predatory journals, 60% of the respondents expect the library to provide blacklist and whitelist, as well as promotion events and advisory services. And hope that the university could provide negotiations and legal assistance when they want to withdraw those articles;

(d) 15.8% and 30.7% of the respondents have experienced the changes in the IF (down to zero or decrease dramatically) that affect the calculation result of their research productivity, respectively.

(e) More than 50% of the respondents hope the university to modify the calculation method or the year selection of the IF, to avoid research effort in vain or unable to reach the expected score.

To sum up, predatory journals are very often an open access journal, but journals without IF or suppressed/dropped by JCR are not necessarily to be a predatory journal, the definitions are different. Base on the research findings, the TMUL will strengthen the following measures to help our faculty and researchers not to submit articles to predatory journals accidentally: provide the existing reference list of predatory journals on the Internet, encourage faculty and researchers to apply for our initial inspection services of predatory journals for basic background checks of journals, and provide customized advisory services to individual case.

Keywords: Predatory Journals, Research Productivity, Scholarly Communication, Taipei Medical University

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