WHERE NOT TO PUBLISH: List and analysis of potential editorial scams in academic journals in Health Sciences

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1. AIM

The aim of this work is to offer a tool for identifying potentially fraudulent journals in Health Sciences, as well as for the analysis of these journals through the elaboration of a quality standard that allows corroborating or questioning the fraudulent nature of the publication.

2. METHODOLOGY

First of all, a list of potentially fraudulent health journals was compiled. It was obtained from two groups of sources: blacklists and specialized bibliography. From this list, we have worked on the selection of other types of sources to elaborate a quality standard for analyzing each of the selected publications (12 sources in total).

2.1. Compilation of the list of core journals

✓ **Journals added from blacklists:**

There are several blacklists of potentially fraudulent publications. One of the premises of our work was that we should work with open blacklists:

- Beall List
- Kscien List
- No DOAJ

All these sources are multidisciplinary, not focused on Health Sciences. In order to obtain a list of health journals, a previous work of detection and selection of titles has been performed, using terms from the MeSH Thesaurus.

✓ **Journals added from articles in specific disciplines in the Health area:**

There is an extensive (and growing) academic literature focusing on scam journals in specific medical disciplines. Many articles provide a detailed list of fraudulent journals in their fields, which assists researchers in that field in the task of selecting -or discarding- a journal.

These journals are also incorporated to our list, based on different articles, which are referenced at the end of the document.

2.2. Selection of quality resources for the analysis

Once the core list of potentially fraudulent journals had been compiled, the sources of quality control have been selected and used to verify their reliability. Among the various quality indicators for measuring the degree of trustworthiness of a health

journal, the following have been selected:

- ✓ **Databases**. The inclusion of a journal in any of these databases is an indicator of quality, either because the source follows strict acceptance criteria in its selection processes, or because they are comprehensive databases that include all academic journals, or all open access academic journals:
  - Web of Science
  - Medline
  - Scopus
  - Ulrichweb[1]
  - DOAJ

- ✓ **Publishers' recommendations**. The presence of titles in the lists of entities that ensure compliance with the principles of transparency, ethics and good practices in the publication of academic journals is also an evidence of quality. Four different publishers' associations have been chosen to be included in the tool:
  - ICMJE
  - WAME
  - COPE
  - ISMTE

- ✓ **Other sources**. As a complement, other prestigious sources have been included to assess the quality (or lack of it, in the case of article retractions reported by Retraction Watch) of academic journals:
  - JournalGuide
  - JournalTOC
  - Retraction Watch

3. COLLATION OF JOURNALS

Thus, we have on one hand a list of potentially fraudulent health journals to analyze their reliability, and on the other hand a selection of quality sources that will be useful for this analysis.

The tool allows us to check the journals on our list against all the sources that conform the quality standard designed, verifying whether they are indexed or meet the quality

[1] Only those publications that reported having peer review in the *Ulrichweb* directory were taken into account.

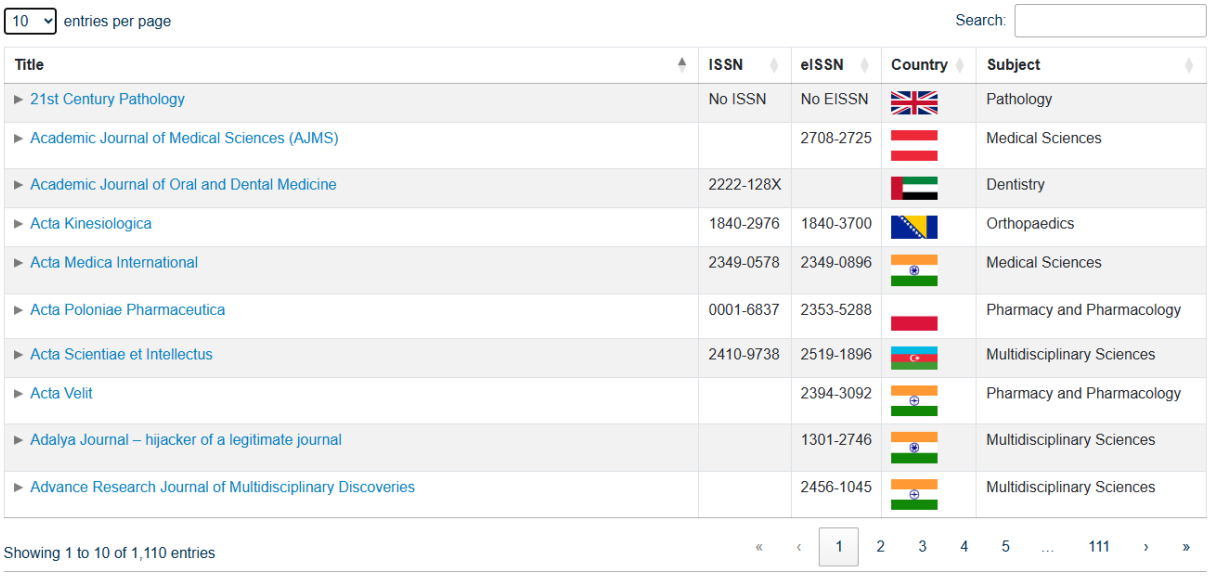
criteria, in order to confirm or question their fraudulent nature.

Checking the journals against all these criteria allows us to have more information about the quality of the publication, and to offer more information to health researchers when selecting (or discarding) a journal to publish in.

4. PRESENTATION OF DATA

The design of the tool has been done with the free software Datatables, which allows to transform regular HTML tables into interactive and dynamic tables with a wide range of features and functionalities, including searching, sorting, filters, and even the ability to export data in different formats such as Excel, CSV, PDF, etc.

At a first level of visualization, you can see the list of journals ordered by title (linked to the journal's own website), with information on ISSN and eISSN, country and subject. It allows you to choose the number of records to display (between 10 and 100), and you can search for a specific title in the search box.


10 entries per page

Search:

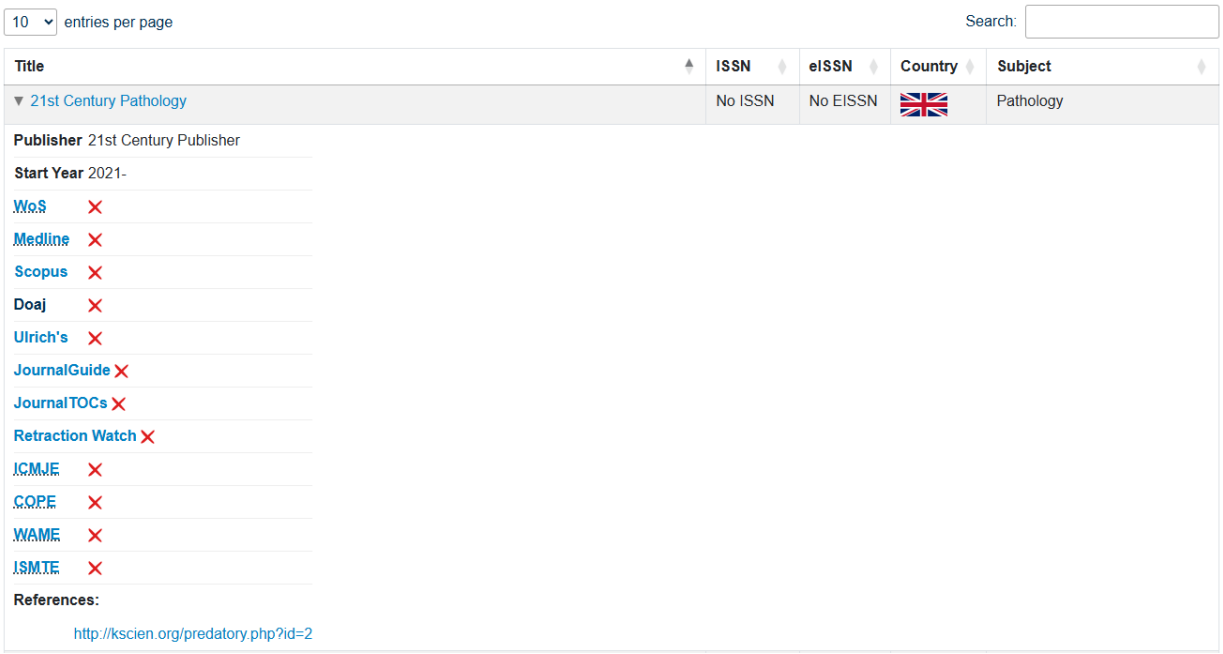
Title	ISSN	eISSN	Country	Subject
▶ 21st Century Pathology	No ISSN	No EISSN		Pathology
▶ Academic Journal of Medical Sciences (AJMS)		2708-2725		Medical Sciences
▶ Academic Journal of Oral and Dental Medicine	2222-128X			Dentistry
▶ Acta Kinesiologica	1840-2976	1840-3700		Orthopaedics
▶ Acta Medica International	2349-0578	2349-0896		Medical Sciences
▶ Acta Poloniae Pharmaceutica	0001-6837	2353-5288		Pharmacy and Pharmacology
▶ Acta Scientiae et Intellectus	2410-9738	2519-1896		Multidisciplinary Sciences
▶ Acta Velit		2394-3092		Pharmacy and Pharmacology
▶ Adalya Journal – hijacker of a legitimate journal		1301-2746		Multidisciplinary Sciences
▶ Advance Research Journal of Multidisciplinary Discoveries		2456-1045		Multidisciplinary Sciences

Showing 1 to 10 of 1,110 entries

« ‹ 1 2 3 4 5 … 111 › »

To obtain the information resulting from the analysis of the journal (inclusion or not in the sources that make up the quality standard), please click on the arrow next to the title of each journal to expand the content.

For each source, there is a graphic indication of whether the journal is indexed or not, and at the end the source that has been used to determine its inclusion in the list of potentially fraudulent journals is shown.



10 entries per page Search:

Title	ISSN	eISSN	Country	Subject
▼ 21st Century Pathology	No ISSN	No EISSN		Pathology

Publisher 21st Century Publisher
Start Year 2021-
WoS ✗
Medline ✗
Scopus ✗
Doaj ✗
Ulrich's ✗
JournalGuide ✗
JournalTOCs ✗
Retraction Watch ✗
ICMJE ✗
COPE ✗
WAME ✗
ISMTE ✗
References:
http://kscien.org/predatory.php?id=2

5. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOOL

For detailed information on the design of the *Where Not to Publish* tool, please refer to the following article:

Álvarez-Vizcaino, M., & Climent Piqueras, B. (2023). Herramienta para la identificación y análisis de revistas depredadoras en ciencias biomédicas. Revista Española De Documentación Científica, 46(4), e373. https://doi.org/10.3989/redc.2023.4.1445

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These references have been updated in 2024, including a list of predatory journals in specific medical disciplines:

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