

WHERE NOT TO PUBLISH: Analysis and relation of potential scam health journals¹

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OBJECTIVE

The goal of this work is offer a specific tool for identify scams on academic health journals, through the analysis of their acomplisment of selected quality sources criteria.

METHODS

In order to work with a specific list of health journals, we began making a selection, getting journals from multidisciplinary black lists, and journals coming from lists offered by academic literature. After that, we selected different sources, all of them focused on quality of academic journals or, specially, on academic health journals (16 sources). The work ends checking the journals of our list with all these sources, to verify if they are indexed on, or meet the quality criteria, and so, getting a clearer picture of the scams journals on academic health literature.

¹ Last update: 2022/July



1-. GETTING A HEALTH JOURNALS LIST

• Journals coming from black lists:

There are many black lists of potentially scam publications. One of the premises of our work was we had to work with open black lists:

- Beall List
- Stop Predatory Journals
- Kscien List
- No DOAJ

All these sources are multidisciplinary, not focused on health sciences. In order to obtain a health journals list, the next step was to detect and select them, using the keywords of the MeSH Thesaurus and reviewing the titles.

Results: 476 health journals coming from blacklist are incorporated to the analysis.

Journals coming from specific health works:

There is a large (and growing) academic literature focused on the scam journals at specific medical disciplines. A lot of articles offer a detailed list of scam journals in their fields, helping researchers of that field in the difficult task of selecting a journal.

Those journals, many of them health journals, coming from lists on differents articles², are also incorporated to the list.

Results: 419 health journals coming from lists on specific health works.

The result of this first selection work is a final list with **895 (476 + 419) journals**. All of them health or related with health journals, and potentially predatory.

2-. SELECTING QUALITY SOURCES FOR THE ANALYSE

Once we have the final journal list, we need to select the quality sources to check journals reliability. There are a lot of quality indicators to measure how confidence a health journal is. We have selected the following ones:

² See these reference at the final reference list



- Databases: the inclusion of a journal in these databases is a quality indicator, because the source has strict quality criteria in their selection, or just because they are comprehensive databases, that collect *all* the academic journals (or all the academic *open* journals), meaning sources with title and ISSN, published by academic organisations:
 - a. Web of Science
 - b. Medline
 - c. Scopus
 - d. <u>Ulrichweb</u>
 - e. DOAJ
- 2. **Editors recommendations**: we have selected four differents editors association, with strict criteria of quality for academic journals, and specially, health academic journals:
 - a. ICMJE
 - b. WAME
 - c. COPE
 - d. ISMTE
- 3. **Other sources:** according on our objective, we have selected any other quality sources, all of them focused on academic journal. These sources are databases, actually, and present a list of checked journals according their quality criteria:
 - a. <u>JournalGuid</u>e
 - b. <u>JournalTOC</u>
 - c. Retraction Watch

3-. CHECKING JOURNALS

On one hand, we have a health journal list, potentially scams, to analyze their reliability. On the other hand, a selection of quality sources to check the journals and have more information about what they are and what their aim is.

Checking the journals with all those quality criteria allows us have more information about the journal reliability, and offer more information to health researchers in order to select a journal to publish.



WAY TO PRESENT THE DATA: Airtable

The tool is presented on a free software, <u>Airtable</u>, which works similar to Excell but with more features: present data in the cloud, share them with users, allows users interactivity, and finally, is possible to embed it on WordPress.

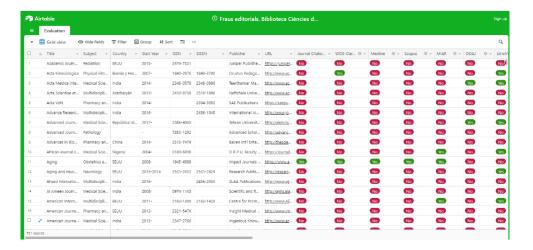
HOW TO USE THE TOOL ON AIRTABLE

Users can access to the tool on the UV Library web service: "On no publicar"

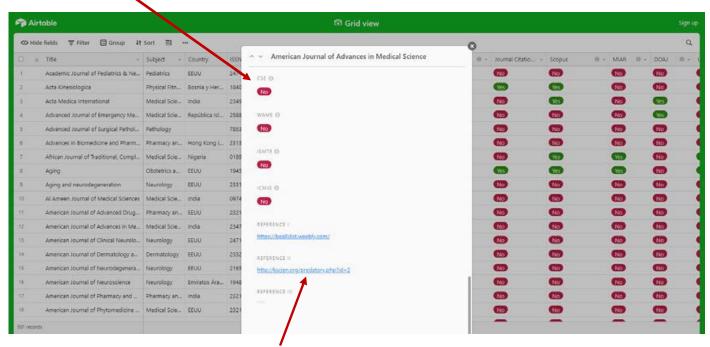
1-. First, click on "View larger version", to expand it:

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501 re	cords						
14		American Journal of Dermatology a	Dermatology	EEUU	2332-8487	2332-8479	S
13		American Journal of Clinical Neurolo	Neurology	EEUU	2471-7231	2471-724X	Р
12		American Journal of Advances in Me	Medical Scie	India	2347-2766		li
11		American Journal of Advanced Drug	Pharmacy an	EEUU	2321-547X		1
10		Al Ameen Journal of Medical Sciences	Medical Scie	India	0974-1143		5
9		Aging and neurodegeneration	Neurology	EEUU	2331-2432	2331-2424	F
8		Aging	Obstetrics a	EEUU	1945-4589		ı
7		African Journal of Traditional, Compl	Medical Scie	Nigeria	0189-6016		ı
6		Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm	Pharmacy an	Hong Kong (2313-7479		ı
5		Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol	Pathology		7853-1292		,
4		Advanced Journal of Emergency Me	Medical Scie	República Isl	2588-400X		1
3		Acta Medica International	Medical Scie	India	2349-0578	2349-0896	1
2		Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn	Bosnia y Her	1840-2976	1840-3700	[
1		Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne	Pediatrics	EEUU	2474-7521		J
		Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	EISSN	1





Quality criteria: users can check if the journal is indexed or meet the quality criteria of a source (YES/NO)

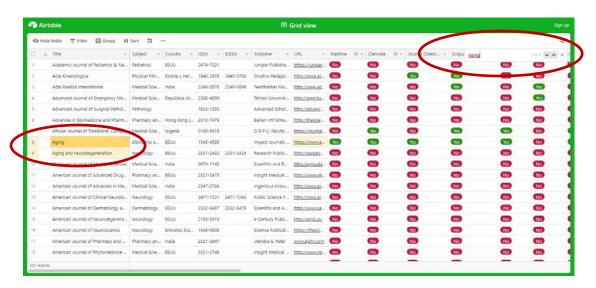


Source from wich the journal comes

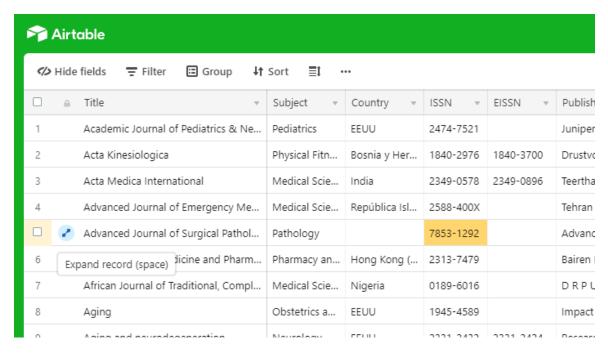
2-. **Searching for a specific journal:** the tool allows searching by title, ISSN or another data (country, publisher etc.). Pay attention because more of these journals are scams: meaning, there are fake ISSN, even no ISSN at all.

The search box is right, on the top:



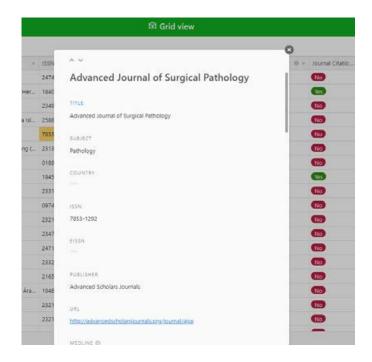


3-. Obtaining information about a journal: once we have select a journal, then "Expand record (space)" and we'll get a window with all the information about the journal

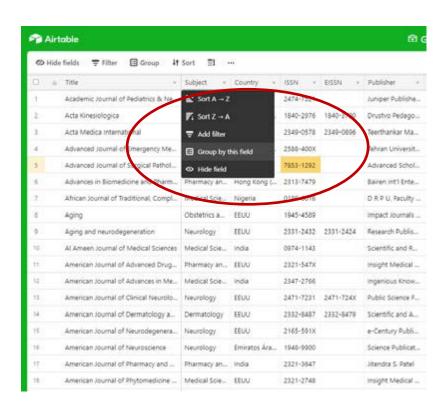




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4-. **Searching by subject:** users can search journals by subject, through the use of filters or grouping by field, on "Subject" field





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