

# WHERE NOT TO PUBLISH: Analysis and relation of potential scam health journals<sup>1</sup>

OBJECTIVE .....	1
METHODS .....	1
1-. GETTING A HEALTH JOURNALS LIST .....	2
2-. SELECTING QUALITY SOURCES FOR THE ANALYSE .....	2
3-. CHECKING JOURNALS .....	3
WAY TO PRESENT THE DATA: <i>Airtable</i> .....	4
HOW TO USE THE TOOL ON AIRTABLE .....	4
REFERENCES .....	8

## OBJECTIVE

The goal of this work is offer a specific tool for identify scams on academic health journals, through the analysis of their accomplishment 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 different articles<sup>2</sup>, 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:

---

<sup>2</sup> See these reference at the final reference list

1. **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. [Ulrichweb](#)
- e. [DOAJ](#)

2. **Editors recommendations:** we have selected four different 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. [JournalGuide](#)
- b. [JournalTOC](#)
- 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, [Airtable](#), 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:

<input type="checkbox"/>		Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	EISSN	Pu
1		Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne...	Pediatrics	EEUU	2474-7521		Ju
2		Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn...	Bosnia y Her...	1840-2976	1840-3700	Dr
3		Acta Medica International	Medical Scie...	India	2349-0578	2349-0896	Te
4		Advanced Journal of Emergency Me...	Medical Scie...	República Isl...	2588-400X		Te
5		Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol...	Pathology		7853-1292		Ad
6		Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm...	Pharmacy an...	Hong Kong (...)	2313-7479		Ba
7		African Journal of Traditional, Compl...	Medical Scie...	Nigeria	0189-6016		D f
8		Aging	Obstetrics a...	EEUU	1945-4589		Im
9		Aging and neurodegeneration	Neurology	EEUU	2331-2432	2331-2424	Re
10		Al Ameen Journal of Medical Sciences	Medical Scie...	India	0974-1143		Sci
11		American Journal of Advanced Drug...	Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2321-547X		Ins
12		American Journal of Advances in Me...	Medical Scie...	India	2347-2766		Ing
13		American Journal of Clinical Neurolo...	Neurology	EEUU	2471-7231	2471-724X	Pu
14		American Journal of Dermatology a...	Dermatology	EEUU	2332-8487	2332-8479	Sci
501 records							
							View larger version



Airtable

Fraus editorials. Biblioteca Ciències d...

Grid view

Title	Subject	Country	Start Year	ISSN	EISSN	Publisher	URL	Journal Citation...	WOS Clar...	Medline	Scopus	MIAR	DOAJ	Ulrich
Academic Jour...	Pediatrics	EEUU	2015-	2474-7321		Juniper Publish...	<a href="https://juniper.org">https://juniper.org</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn...	Bosnia y Her...	2007-	1840-2976	1840-2700	Drustvo Pedago...	<a href="http://www.as...">http://www.as...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Acta Medica Inte...	Medical Scie...	India	2014-	2340-0570	2340-0896	Teerthankar Ma...	<a href="https://www.as...">https://www.as...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Acta Scientiae et...	Multidiscipli...	Azerbaijan	2015-	2410-9738	2519-1896	Nehchala Unive...	<a href="http://www.as...">http://www.as...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Acta Vellit	Pharmacy an...	India	2014-		2394-2092	SAE Publications	<a href="https://saeu...">https://saeu...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Advance Researc...	Multidiscipli...	India	2016-		2456-1943	International Jo...	<a href="http://www.iq...">http://www.iq...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Advanced Jour...	Medical Scie...	República Isl...	2017-	2588-400X		Tehran Universit...	<a href="http://ajem.tu...">http://ajem.tu...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Advanced Jour...	Pathology			7852-1292		Advanced Schol...	<a href="https://advan...">https://advan...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Advances in Bio...	Pharmacy an...	China	2014-	2319-7479		Bairen Int'l Ente...	<a href="http://theacle...">http://theacle...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
African Journal e...	Medical Scie...	Nigeria	2004-	0189-6016		D R P U, Faculty ...	<a href="https://journ...">https://journ...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Aging	Obstetrics a...	EEUU	2009-	1945-4569		Impact Journals ...	<a href="https://www.i...">https://www.i...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Aging and neur...	Neurology	EEUU	2013-2014	2331-2452	2331-2424	Research Public...	<a href="http://resear...">http://resear...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ahead Internatio...	Multidiscipli...	India	2016-		2456-205X	SLAA Publications	<a href="http://www.sla...">http://www.sla...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Al Ameen Jour...	Medical Scie...	India	2009-	0974-1143		Scientific and R...	<a href="http://ajmsaia...">http://ajmsaia...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
American Intern...	Multidiscipli...	EEUU	2011-	2162-190X	2162-142X	Centre for Prom...	<a href="http://www.cj...">http://www.cj...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
American Journa...	Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2013-	2321-547X		Insight Medical ...	<a href="https://www.in...">https://www.in...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
American Journa...	Medical Scie...	India	2013-	2347-2766		Ingenious Know...	<a href="http://www.ar...">http://www.ar...</a>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

121 records

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

Airtable

Grid view

Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	Journal Citation...	Scopus	MIAR	DOAJ	Ulrich
Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne...	Pediatrics	EEUU	2474-7321	No	No	No	No	No
Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn...	Bosnia y Her...	1840-2976	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Acta Medica International	Medical Scie...	India	2340-0570	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Advanced Journal of Emergency Me...	Medical Scie...	República Isl...	2588-400X	No	No	No	Yes	No
Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol...	Pathology		7852-1292	No	No	No	No	No
Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm...	Pharmacy an...	Hong Kong (...)	2319-7479	No	No	No	No	No
African Journal of Traditional, Compl...	Medical Scie...	Nigeria	0189-6016	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
Aging	Obstetrics a...	EEUU	1945-4569	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Aging and neurodegeneration	Neurology	EEUU	2331-2452	No	No	No	No	No
Al Ameen Journal of Medical Sciences	Medical Scie...	India	0974-1143	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Advanced Drug...	Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2321-547X	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Advances in Me...	Medical Scie...	India	2347-2766	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Clinical Neurolo...	Neurology	EEUU	2471-2452	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Dermatology a...	Dermatology	EEUU	2332-142X	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Neurodegenera...	Neurology	EEUU	2165-190X	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Neuroscience	Neurology	Emiratos Ara...	1948-2452	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Pharmacy and ...	Pharmacy an...	India	2321-547X	No	No	No	No	No
American Journal of Phytomedicine ...	Medical Scie...	EEUU	2321-547X	No	No	No	No	No

301 records

American Journal of Advances in Medical Science

CSE

No

WAME

No

ISMTA

No

ICMIE

No

REFERENCE I

<https://beatlist.weebly.com/>

REFERENCE II

<http://scien.org/openaccess.php?id=2>

REFERENCE III

Source from which 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:

A screenshot of an Airtable grid view showing a list of journals. The interface includes a top bar with 'Grid view' and a 'Sign up' button. Below the header, there are columns for Title, Subject, Country, ISSN, EISSN, Publisher, URL, Medline, Climate, Journal, Citation, Scopus, and Aging. The 'Aging' and 'Aging and neurodegeneration' rows are highlighted in yellow. The 'Citation' and 'Scopus' columns are also highlighted with a red circle. A red circle also highlights the 'Aging' and 'Aging and neurodegeneration' rows.

	Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	EISSN	Publisher	URL	Medline	Climate	Journal	Citation	Scopus	Aging
1	Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne...	Pediatrics	EEUU	2474-7521		Juniper Publish...	https://juniper...	No	No	No	No	No	No
2	Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn...	Bosnia y Her...	1840-2976	1840-3700	Drustvo Pedago...	http://www.as...	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No
3	Acta Medica International	Medical Scie...	India	2349-0578	2349-0896	Teerthanka Ma...	http://www.as...	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
4	Advanced Journal of Emergency Me...	Medical Scie...	República Isl...	2588-400X		Tehran Universit...	http://ajem.ty...	No	No	No	No	No	Yes
5	Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol...	Pathology		7853-1292		Advanced Schol...	http://advanc...	No	No	No	No	No	No
6	Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm...	Pharmacy an...	Hong Kong (...)	2313-7479		Bairen Intl Ente...	http://thebse...	No	No	No	No	No	No
7	African Journal of Traditional, Compl...	Medical Scie...	Nigeria	0189-6016		D R P U Faculty ...	https://jurnal...	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
8	Aging	Obstetrics a...	EEUU	1945-4589		Impact Journals ...	https://www.a...	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
9	Aging and neurodegeneration	Neurology	EEUU	2331-2432	2331-2424	Research Public...	http://research...	No	No	No	No	No	No
10	American Journal of Advanced Drug...	Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2321-547X		Scientific and R...	http://www.sci...	No	No	No	No	No	No
11	American Journal of Advanced Drug...	Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2321-547X		Insight Medical ...	http://www.im...	No	No	No	No	No	No
12	American Journal of Advances in Me...	Medical Scie...	India	2347-2766		Ingenious Know...	http://www.kn...	No	No	No	No	No	No
13	American Journal of Clinical Neuro...	Neurology	EEUU	2471-7231	2471-724X	Public Science P...	http://www.ai...	No	No	No	No	No	No
14	American Journal of Dermatology a...	Dermatology	EEUU	2332-8487	2332-8479	Scientific and A...	http://www.sci...	No	No	No	No	No	No
15	American Journal of Neurodegenera...	Neurology	EEUU	2165-591X		e-Century Public...	http://eindus...	No	No	No	No	No	No
16	American Journal of Neuroscience	Neurology	Emirates Ara...	1948-9900		Science Publicat...	http://www.sci...	No	No	No	No	No	No
17	American Journal of Pharmacy and ...	Pharmacy an...	India	2321-3647		Jitendra S. Patel	www.aajpharm...	No	No	No	No	No	No
18	American Journal of Phytomedicine ...	Medical Scie...	EEUU	2321-2748		Insight Medical ...	http://www.im...	No	No	No	No	No	No

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

A screenshot of an Airtable record view showing details for the 'Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathology' journal. The interface includes a top bar with 'Grid view' and a 'Sign up' button. Below the header, there are columns for Title, Subject, Country, ISSN, EISSN, and Publisher. The 'Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathology' row is highlighted in yellow. A red arrow points down from the 'Expand record (space)' button.

	Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	EISSN	Publisher
1	Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne...	Pediatrics	EEUU	2474-7521		Juniper
2	Acta Kinesiologica	Physical Fitn...	Bosnia y Her...	1840-2976	1840-3700	Drustvo
3	Acta Medica International	Medical Scie...	India	2349-0578	2349-0896	Teertha
4	Advanced Journal of Emergency Me...	Medical Scie...	República Isl...	2588-400X		Tehran
5	Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol...	Pathology		7853-1292		Advanc
6	Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm...	Pharmacy an...	Hong Kong (...)	2313-7479		Bairen I
7	African Journal of Traditional, Compl...	Medical Scie...	Nigeria	0189-6016		D R P L
8	Aging	Obstetrics a...	EEUU	1945-4589		Impact
9	Aging and neurodegeneration	Neurology	EEUU	2331-2432	2331-2424	Research



Grid view

ISSN	Journal Cita...
2474	No
1840	Yes
2349	No
2508	No
7853	No
2313	No
0189	No
1945	Yes
2331	No
0974	No
2321	No
2347	No
2471	No
2332	No
2165	No
1948	No
2321	No
2321	No

Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathology

TITLE  
Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathology

SUBJECT  
Pathology

COUNTRY  
...

ISSN  
7853-1292

EISSN  
...

PUBLISHER  
Advanced Scholars Journals

URL  
<http://advancedscholarsjournals.org/journal/ajsp>

MEDLINE ID

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

Airtable

Hide fields

Filter

Group

Sort

	Title	Subject	Country	ISSN	EISSN	Publisher	
1	Academic Journal of Pediatrics & Ne...	Sort A → Z		2474-75...		Juniper Publish...	
2	Acta Kinesiologica	Sort Z → A		1840-2976	1840-2...	Društvo Pedago...	
3	Acta Medica International	Add filter		2349-0578	2349-0896	Teerthankar Ma...	
4	Advanced Journal of Emergency Me...	Group by this field		2588-400X		Shrihan Universit...	
5	Advanced Journal of Surgical Pathol...	Hide field		7853-1292		Advanced Schol...	
6	Advances in Biomedicine and Pharm...		Hong Kong (...)	2313-7479		Bairen Int'l Ente...	
7	African Journal of Traditional, Compl...		Nigeria	0180-0016		D R P U, Faculty ...	
8	Aging		Obstetrics &...	EEUU	1945-4589	Impact Journals ...	
9	Aging and neurodegeneration		Neurology	EEUU	2331-2432	2331-2424	Research Publis...
10	Al Ameen Journal of Medical Sciences		Medical Scie...	India	0974-1143		Scientific and R...
11	American Journal of Advanced Drug...		Pharmacy an...	EEUU	2321-547X		Insight Medical ...
12	American Journal of Advances in Me...		Medical Scie...	India	2347-2766		Ingenious Know...
13	American Journal of Clinical Neurolo...		Neurology	EEUU	2471-7231	2471-724X	Public Science P...
14	American Journal of Dermatology a...		Dermatology	EEUU	2332-8487	2332-8479	Scientific and A...
15	American Journal of Neurodegenera...		Neurology	EEUU	2165-591X		e-Century Publi...
16	American Journal of Neuroscience		Neurology	Emiratos Àra...	1948-9900		Science Publicat...
17	American Journal of Pharmacy and ...		Pharmacy an...	India	2321-3647		Jitendra S. Patel
18	American Journal of Phytomedicine ...		Medical Scie...	EEUU	2321-2748		Insight Medical ...

## REFERENCES

References including a list of predatory journals in specific medical disciplines:

- Maddy AJ, Tosti A. Predatory journals in dermatology. *Br J Dermatol*. 2017;177(1):307–9.
- Singer A, Murphy L, Hansoti B, Langdorf M. Not All Young Journals Are Predatory. *West J Emerg Med* [Internet]. 2017 Feb 1;18(2):318–23. Available from: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/15x152zp>
- Hansoti B, Langdorf M, Murphy L. Discriminating Between Legitimate and Predatory Open Access Journals: Report from the International Federation for Emergency Medicine Research Committee. *West J Emerg Med* [Internet]. 2016 Sep 1;17(5):497–507. Available from: <http://escholarship.org/uc/item/64f3v9fj>
- Türp JC. Once around the world ... Unsolicited congress invitations via e-mail. *DZZ Int* [Internet]. 2020;2:56–61. Available from: <https://www.online-dzz.com/archive/issue/article/dzzint-3-2020/5541-103238-dzz-int20200056-0061-once-around-the-world-unsolicited-congress-invitationsvia/>
- Cress PE. Are Predatory Conferences the Dark Side of the Open Access Movement? *Aesthetic Surg J* [Internet]. 2017 Jun 1;37(6):734–8. Available from: <https://academic.oup.com/asj/article/37/6/734/2966192>
- Manca A, Martinez G, Cugusi L, Dragone D, Dvir Z, Deriu F. The surge of predatory open-access in neurosciences and neurology. *Neuroscience* [Internet]. 2017 Jun;353:166–73. Available from: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0306452217302634>
- Atiso K, Kammer J, Bossaller J. Predatory publishing and the Ghana experience: A call to action for information professionals. *IFLA J* [Internet]. 2019;45(4):277–88. Available from: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0340035219868816>
- Umlauf MG. Predatory open access journals: Avoiding profiteers, wasted effort and fraud. *Int J Nurs Pract* [Internet]. 2016 Apr;22(Table 2):3–4. Available from: <http://doi.wiley.com/10.1111/ijn.12433>
- Kearney MH, Thorne S, Chinn PL, Nicoll LH, Pickler R, D'Antonio P, et al. Predatory publishing: What authors need to know. *Res Nurs Heal* [Internet]. 2015;38(1):1–3. Available from: <https://airtable.com/shriqveaKHtS9xku8/tbINXTxmTr18CC1lf?blocks=hide>
- Yan JR, Baldawi H, Lex JR, Simchovich G, Baisi L-P, Bozzo A, et al. Predatory Publishing in Orthopaedic Research. *J Bone Jt Surg* [Internet]. 2018 Nov;100(21):e138. Available from: <http://insights.ovid.com/crossref?an=00004623-201811070-00011>
- AlAhmad YM, Abdelhafez I, Cyprian FS, Skenderi F, Akhtar S, Vranic S. A Critical Appraisal of Predatory Journals in Pathology. *BioRxiv* [Internet]. 2018; Available from: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/482174v1.full>
- Greenblatt DJ, Bertino JS. Opportunistic Journals in the Clinical Pharmacology Space. *J Clin Pharmacol* [Internet]. 2018 May 20;58(5):567–71. Available from: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jcph.1130>
- Manca A, Martinez G, Cugusi L, Dragone D, Mercurio G, Deriu F. Predatory Open Access in Rehabilitation. *Arch Phys Med Rehabil* [Internet]. 2017 May;98(5):1051–6. Available from: <https://linkinghub.elsevier.com/retrieve/pii/S0003999317300114>



- Woo H. Predatory journals: outwit with a safe list. Nature [Internet]. 2017 May 24;545(7655):412–412. Available from: <http://www.nature.com/doifinder/10.1038/545412d>
- Laccourreye O, Rubin F, Maisonneuve H. “Predatory” journals threatening the scientific medical press. Eur Ann Otorhinolaryngol Head Neck Dis [Internet]. 2018 Feb;135(1):37–9. Available from: <https://urologygreenlist.wordpress.com/>
- Di Lena M, Nickel JC. Publish and/or perish: A urological perspective on predatory publications. Can Urol Assoc J [Internet]. 2018 Mar 26;12(8). Available from: <https://urologygreenlist.wordpress.com/>