

Identifying questionable journals

- ▶ The list is based on the article by Shameer and Moher in Times Higher Education on 27 March 2017
- ▶ Most journals fulfil at least one of the following rules, beware of journals that get multiple "hits"
 1. The scope of the journal includes subjects that have little in common, or the scope is extremely wide
 - ▶ e.g. European Journal of Scientific Research
 2. The website contains spelling and grammar errors
 3. Images are distorted/fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not, or are unauthorised
 4. The home page language targets authors

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5. The Index Copernicus Value is promoted on the website
 - ▶ no respectable journal uses this but rather Thompson-Reuters Impact Factor or Scopus Journal Impact
6. Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking
7. Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email
8. Rapid publication is promised
 - ▶ especially short peer-review time is suspicious
9. There is no retraction policy
10. Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent
11. The article processing charge is very low (e.g., < 150 €)
 - ▶ real article cost is > 800 €, typically 1 350 – 2 000 €
12. Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright
13. The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (eg, @gmail.com or @yahoo.com)

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