



HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Title	アカデミアにおける「ハゲタカ問題」について
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“Predatory problem” in Academia

Faculty of Media and Communication FD Training

Thursday, December 12, 2024

Research Support Division, Hokkaido University Library

Maiko Muraki

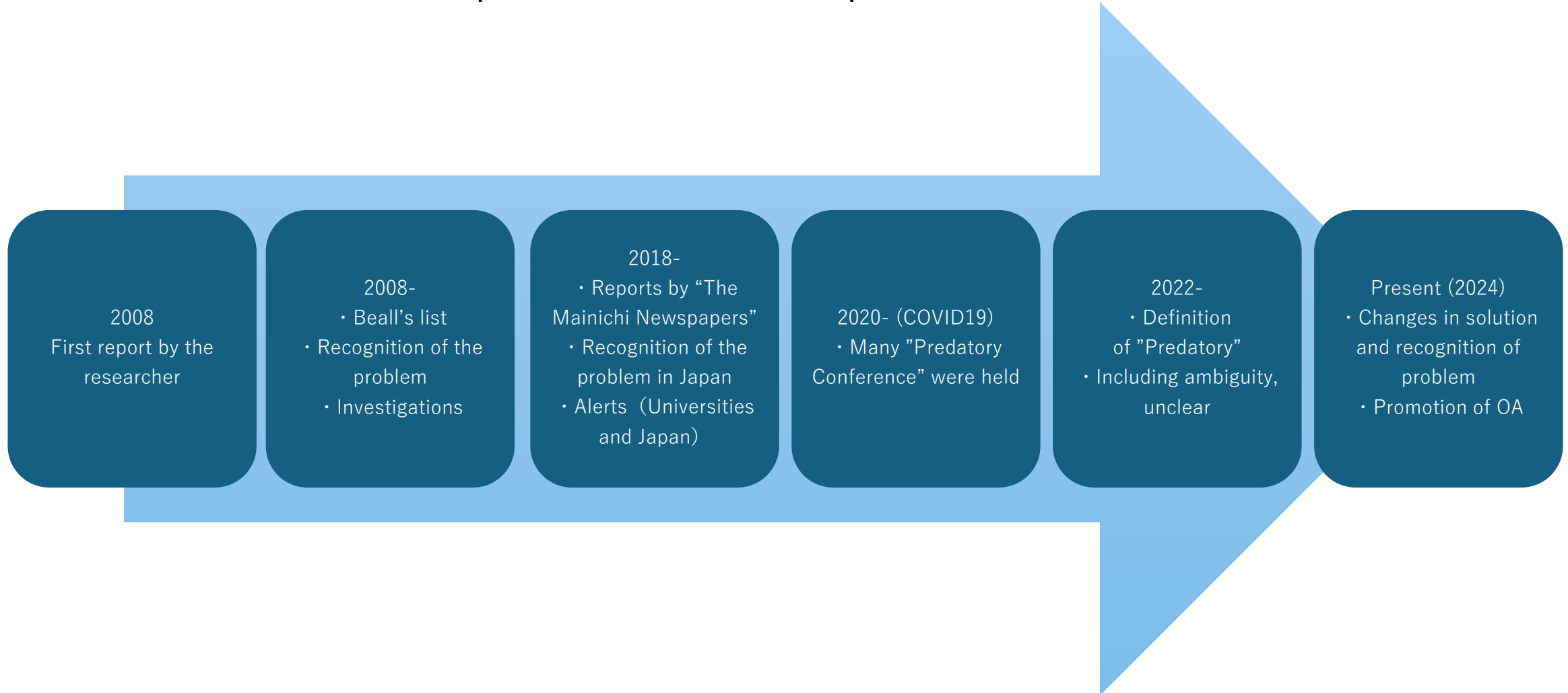


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What is the “Predatory problem”?

From first report to the present



What is the “Predatory problem”?

The so-called “Predatory”

- “Predatory” translates to “Hagetaka” (vulture) in Japanese
- All common names
“Predatory” journals/conferences/publishers,
“hijacked” journals/conferences/publishers, etc.
- Typical characteristics
Frequent solicitation emails, poor quality sites, extremely fast or inappropriate peer review, Impact Factor-like numbers, logos and names similar to well-known journals
- The purpose is the publication fee / entry fee

What is the “Predatory problem”?

What is the Open Access?

- Anyone can freely use papers that are the results of research
- Papers are available free of charge
- Orange unlocked icon 
- Appeared with the soaring cost of journal subscriptions
- Increasing and gradually becoming more common
- Promoted internationally, and in Japan *
- There are several ways depending on covering the cost of publication : Self-archiving (Green OA), Gold OA

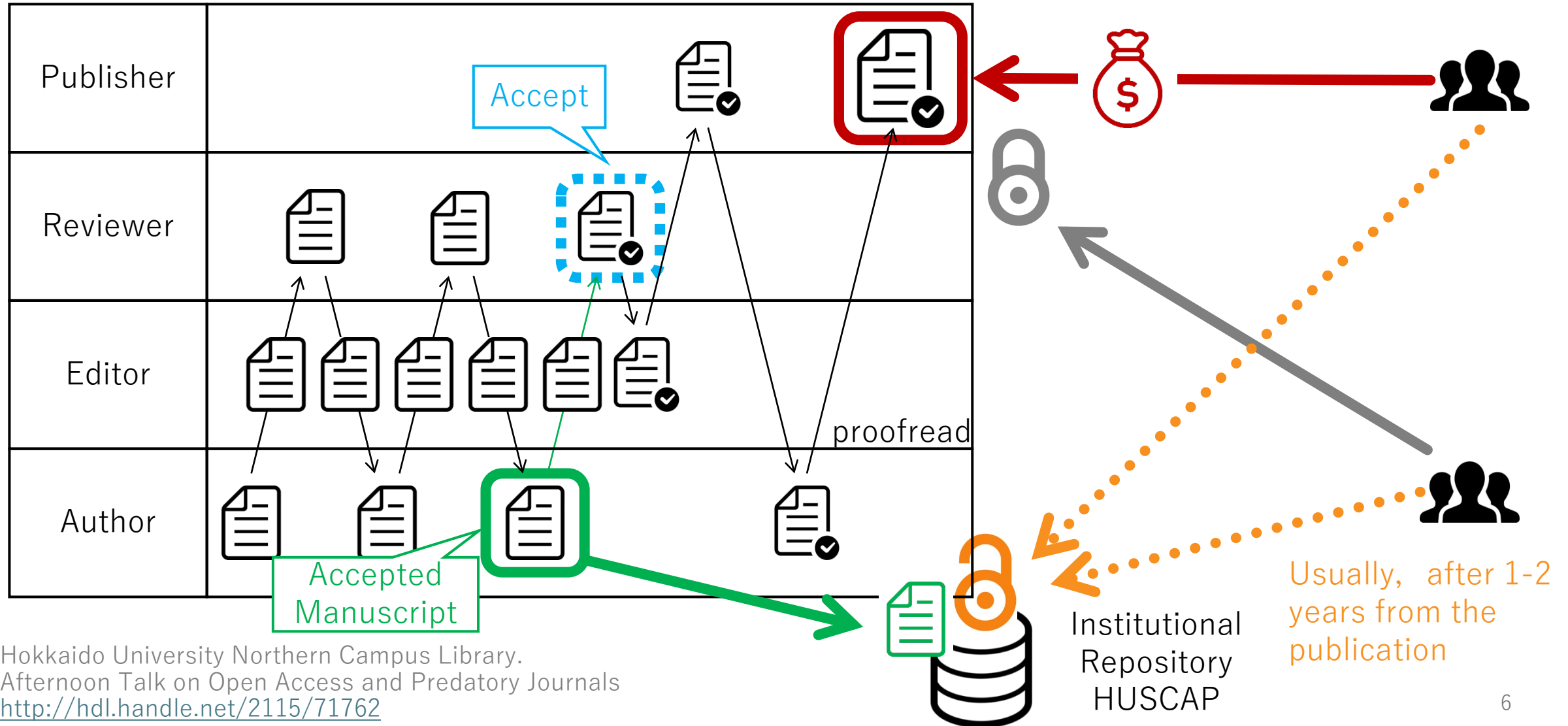
English titles of Japanese documents (without English titles) are based on machine translation.

*Secretariat for Science, Technology and Innovation, Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. Open Access Policy for Academic Papers in Japan (2024.4.25, 26) (in Japanese)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_houshin_setsume.pdf

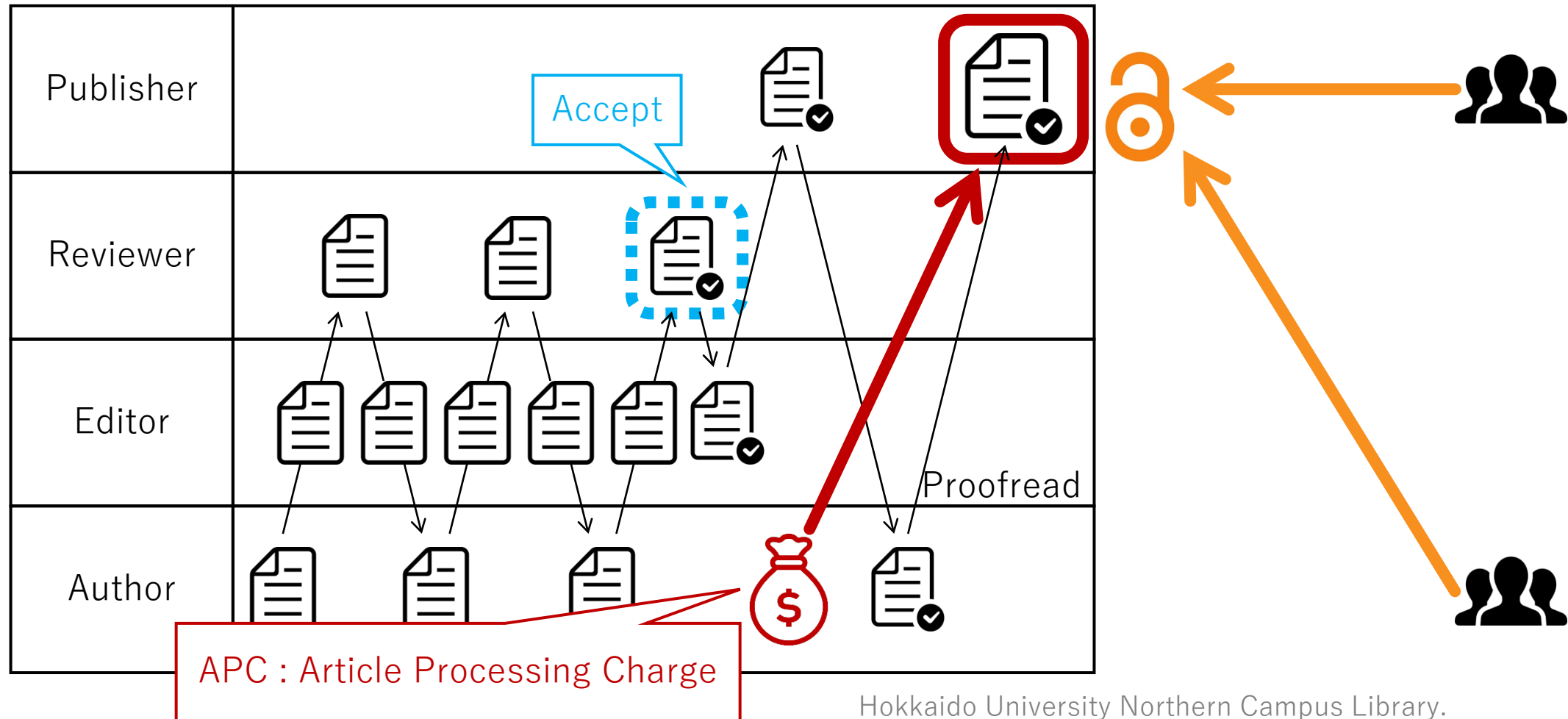
What is the “Predatory problem”?

Open Access : Self-archiving



What is the “Predatory problem”?

Open Access : Gold OA



What is the “Predatory problem”?

Expensive APC payments

- Article Processing Charge (APC): publication fee paid by authors
- APC average : Approximately \$2,000 (2020) *
- Papers on “Predatory journals” are available for free
⇒ The quality check that comes with the subscription doesn't work
- Complete with the author's APC payment, “Predatory journals” purpose achieved

*Yoshiro Hirata, About survey on Publication of Research Papers of Japan Alliance of University Library Consortia for E-Resources (JUSTICE) , SPARC Japan Seminar 2022
https://www.nii.ac.jp/sparc/event/2022/pdf/20230217_8.pdf (in Japanese)

Encounters

Isn't it a “Predatory”...?

- I've never heard of a journal before?
- The journal planning to submit has too short review period and seems to have been accepted for the most of submissions?
- Isn't the papers on the doctoral dissertation application suspicious?
- Consultee: Researcher, doctoral student's supervisor, academic affairs office, administrative office
- Timing of consultation
Possibility of problems after submission (after acceptance, before APC payment, when applying for a doctoral dissertation)

Encounters

I've fallen for “Predatory”

- Case 1: Supervisor consults to check the paper that a PhD student has submitted before APC payment...
- Case 2: A journal with an IF that supervisor recommended a PhD student to submit to, actually...
- Case 3: The publisher was at an unknown address, they demanded me a fine, they made threats...
- Case 4: A claim from a fake publisher was made during the payment process for the proper journal

I didn't notice anything suspicious at first.
There may be other things that I didn't notice.

Encounters

Without permission...

- One's own paper was reprinted with a different author name and title *1
- A generative AI fabrication paper was published under one's own name *2
- Hijacked Journal, Clone Journal *3

I was involved without realizing it.

There may be others that you are not aware of.

Newspaper articles can be viewed from the database (limited to Hokkaido University On - Campus)

<https://www.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/databases/#shinbun>

*1 Plagiarism of papers: US Predatory journal plagiarizes full text, author and title changed, Japan researchers also suffered」 The Mainichi Newspapers, 2021.12.27 (in Japanese)

*2 Generative AI is used to fabricate papers by Japan researchers or published on overseas sites "Predatory Journal" for income purposes, The Yomiuri Shimbun, 2024.11.20 (in Japanese)

<https://www.yomiuri.co.jp/national/20241120-OYT1T50136/>

*3 【Alert】 About fake sites claiming to be Sapporo Medical Journals (in Japanese)

<https://infonavi.sapmed.ac.jp/jpn/news/news-library/5093/>

Encounters

I got involved even though I had doubts

- Submit to increase research output *1
- Participate in conferences to increase research achievements *2
- Fast publication of papers was required for doctoral degree *3
- Student needed papers published for employment *4
- I couldn't refuse the co-author's request *5

I didn't know it at the time, I had no choice but to use it.

*1 Science Forest: Measures against Predatory journals, universities are struggling, researchers easily use it to acquire achievements, The Mainichi Newspapers, 2021.7.8 (in Japanese)

*2 "Predatory" International Conference: 30 people from different fields, presented in the same room at the "Conference" in Paris, participating lecturer "Convenient", The Mainichi Newspapers, 2019.1.19 (in Japanese)

*3 Inferior journals: Submissions, professors under pressure Associate professor testimony National University, earning achievements, The Mainichi Newspapers, 2018.9.15 (in Japanese)

*4 Inferior academic journal: Kyushu University takes measures for the first time in Japan, calls attention to submission, The Mainichi Newspapers, 2018.9.3 (in Japanese)

*5 InterAcademy Partnership, Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences (Summary Report in English), InterAcademy Partnership, 2022 <https://www.interacademies.org/project/predatorypublishing>

Encounters Unclear...

- Consultation: I've never heard of a journal before?
- Solicitation e-mails to researchers, publication fees apply
- It is not listed in lists. It does not meet the judgment criteria.
- There are consultation cases at several universities
- Mentioned in press releases at several universities
- Some researchers have determined that it is a "Predatory"

Researchers have made different decisions,
and we still don't know

Encounters

Investigation of “Predatory” publications

- Survey on the use of “Predatory” in doctoral dissertations (2017 medical): 8 out of 106 (7.5%) *1
- Case Study of Universities in Japan: The Mainichi Newspapers Survey (2018) *2
⇒ This was an opportunity to raise awareness at each university

*1 Sho Sato. Some Japanese Ph.D students use Predatory publishing – 7.5% of randomized samples in medicines, The Journal of Information Science and Technology Association, Vol.74 Issue 10, p.511-512 (2018) (in Japanese)

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/jkg/68/10/68_511/_article/-char/ja/

*2 Inferior journals: 5,000 papers from Japan University of Tokyo and Osaka University Paper submissions, achievements inflated, The Mainichi Newspapers, 2018.9.3 (in Japanese)

What's the problem?

Problems for individual researchers as contributors

- The publication fee is not returned, or a cancellation fee is incurred
- The publisher does not respond to the withdrawal of the submission or the publication of the article
- Inability to submit to other journals due to fear of double submission
- Can research related to "Predatory journal" be made into an achievement?

What's the problem?

Issues not only individual researchers

- Citation of papers $\Rightarrow$ influence of research itself *
- Reviews, citations in press releases $\Rightarrow$ impact on the public
- Degree review, performance evaluation, personnel evaluation
- Care must also be taken when using papers
- Time and money spent on academic results with no guarantee of value

*Sho Sato. About 40% of articles published in Predatory OA journals have been cited at least one time, The Journal of Information Science and Technology Association, Volume 69 Issue4, 171-172 (2019) (in Japanese) https://doi.org/10.18919/jkg.69.4_171

What's the problem?

Evaluation of the papers published in “Predatory journal”

- Is the quality of the paper proportional to the quality of the publication? Is it different?
- Case of submissions to “Predatory journal” withdrawn and on the verge of being finished peer-reviewed by appropriate journals *
- It is necessary to look at the individual papers themselves and the individual situations

* Inferior academic journal: Refuses to delete papers, submissions by metropolitan hospitals, even charges fees, The Mainichi Newspapers, 2018.10.15 (in Japanese)

Solution: Response? Prevention?

What to do after you get involved

- Can you get back the publication fee and the paper, and cut off the relationship?
- Withdrawal of submission and withdrawal of publication
⇒ In most cases, maybe, you don't get a reply, you don't get a response, you are charged a cancellation fee, your paper continues to be published
- Case study (copyright transfer agreement is the key point) *
- Consultation at Hokkaido University: Administrative work of the department to which you belong
- Legal advice...? There are no court cases in Japan

It's important not to get involved in bad journals

* 「Withdrawal of accepted manuscript from a predatory journal」 Advice from COPE Members (2016)

<https://publicationethics.org/case/withdrawal-accepted-manuscript-predatory-journal>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

Provision of prevention information

- Universities: Provision of prevention information
CAUTION: Be aware of “Predatory Journals” (Hokkaido Univ.)
https://www.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/en/support/predatory_journals/
- Japan: Concerns, recommendations
Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology
“Questionnaire on Response to Cases of Concern in the
Distribution of Academic Information” (2021.10.26) (in Japanese)
https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20211028-mxt_jyohoka01-000018641_07.pdf
- The Science Council of Japan: Reconsidering Research
Misconduct
“Deliberations on Peer Review of Papers” (2023.9.25) (in Japanese)
<https://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-25-k353.pdf>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

On prevention: list method

- Watchlist:
 - list of questionable journals
 - Beall's List
 - Predatory Reports (Cabell's) : for profit
- Safelist:
 - databases that are considered to be highly reliable
 - DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals)
 - COPE (Committee on Publication Ethics)
 - OASPA (Open Access Scholarly Publisher's Association)
 - Web of Science : Master Journal List

Solution: Response? Prevention?

On prevention: checklist

! THINK ✓ CHECK ➤ SUBMIT

🏠 Books & Chapters Journals Resources News

Identify trusted publishers for your research

Through a range of **tools and practical resources**, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to **educate researchers, promote integrity**, and **build trust in credible research and publications**.

Books & Chapters ➤

Journals ➤



Think, check, submit

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

(Multilingual support)

PDF (in Japanese)

<https://doi.org/10.18910/93181>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

On prevention : Checklist Perspectives

! THINK ✓ CHECK > SUBMIT

🏠 Books & Chapters Journals

Reference this list for your chosen journal to check if it is trusted.

Do you or your colleagues know the journal?

- ☐ Have you read any articles in the journal before?
- ☐ Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- ☐ Name of the journal: the name is unique; it is not the same or easily confused with another journal.
- ☐ Can you cross check with information about the journal in the [ISSN portal](#)?

Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?

- ☐ Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website?
- ☐ Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post?

Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?

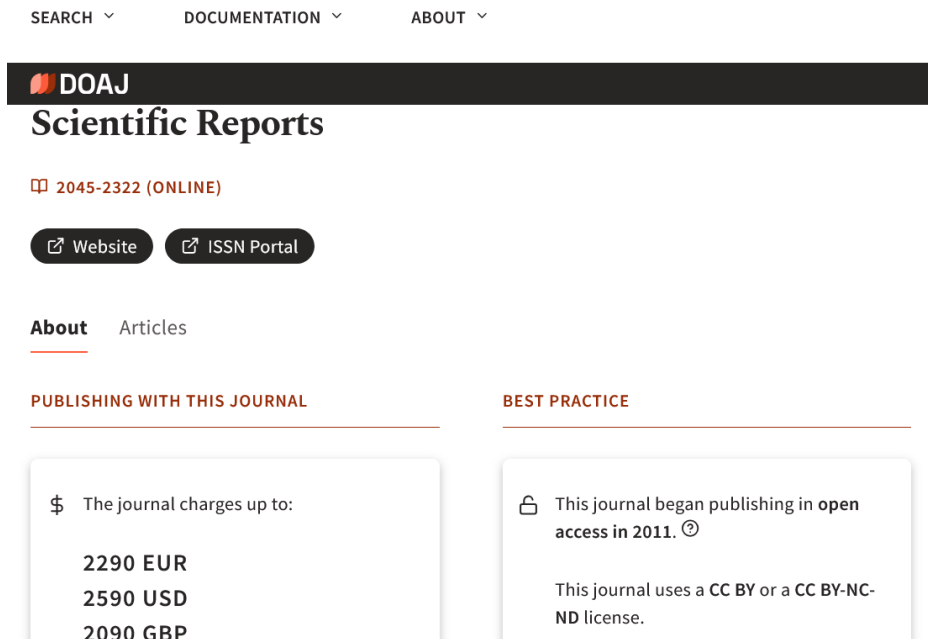
- ☐ Does the website mention whether the process involves independent/

- Do you or your colleagues know the journal?
- Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?
- Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?
- Are articles indexed and/or archived in dedicated services?
- Is it clear what fees will be charged?
- Are guidelines provided for authors on the publisher website?
- Is the publisher a current member of a recognized industry initiative?

Solution: Response? Prevention?

On prevention: Safelist Perspective

- DOAJ : list of Open Access Journals
<https://doaj.org/>
- The characteristics of the journal can be listed
- Strict screening criteria for inclusion ⇒ to be referenced



SEARCH ▾ DOCUMENTATION ▾ ABOUT ▾

DOAJ
Scientific Reports

📄 2045-2322 (ONLINE)

🌐 Website 🌐 ISSN Portal

About Articles

PUBLISHING WITH THIS JOURNAL

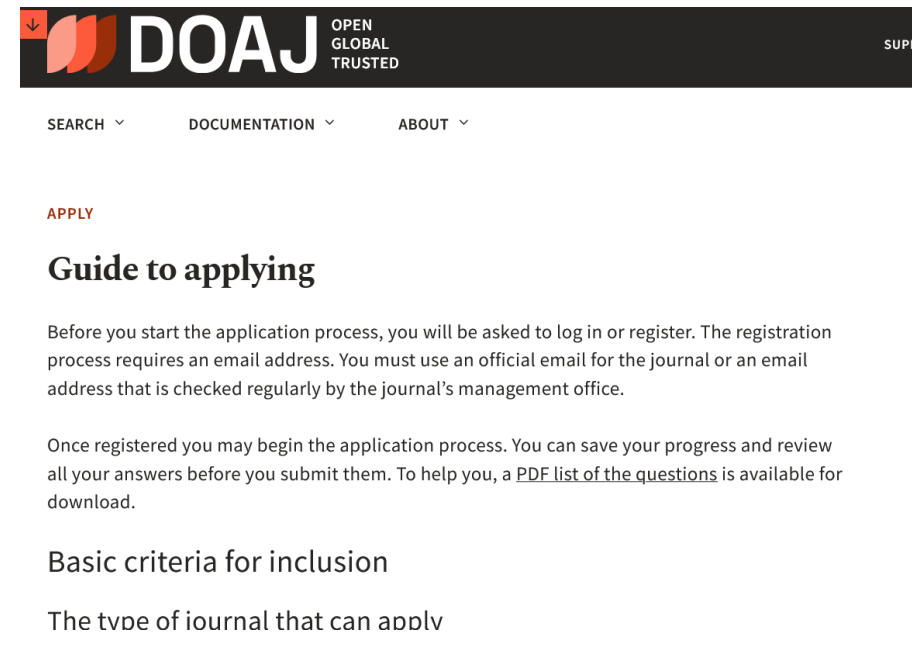
💰 The journal charges up to:

2290 EUR
2590 USD
2090 GBP

BEST PRACTICE

📅 This journal began publishing in **open access** in 2011. ©

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APPLY

Guide to applying

Before you start the application process, you will be asked to log in or register. The registration process requires an email address. You must use an official email for the journal or an email address that is checked regularly by the journal's management office.

Once registered you may begin the application process. You can save your progress and review all your answers before you submit them. To help you, a [PDF list of the questions](#) is available for download.

Basic criteria for inclusion

The type of journal that can apply

Solution: Response? Prevention?

On prevention: fluctuations in the list

- Watchlists may be arbitrary in their criteria
- Journals may disappear from the safelist
- On both watchlists and safelists
- List has no information on journals that have just been published
- Fact-finding Survey of Predatory Journal Judgment List *
Reasons for judging “Predatory” and difficulties in evaluating and judging
Lack of commercial watchlist, difficulty in quality confirmation

*Kazuki Ide, Kazuhiro Hayashi, Hitoshi Koshiba. Fact-finding Survey of Predatory Journal Judgment List, NISTEP RESEARCH MATERIAL. 2023: No.326 (in Japanese)
<https://doi.org/10.15108/rm326>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

What is “Predatory” again? The quality of journals is dynamic

- Peer-reviewed “Predatory journal” ?
- A journal that has changed its reputation as a “Predatory”
- Training low-quality journals/societies/publishers
- What “Predatory” word refers to differs from person to person
- The problem with the word “Predatory” : containing the judgment of “bad”

Sho Sato, Trends in Publication in the Open Science Era, Vol.2 : Definition and gradation of “Predatory journal” Turnitin blog 2022.6.1 (in Japanese)
<https://www.turnitin.jp/blog/the-definition-and-spectrum-of-predatory-journals>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

Definition of “Predatory” : in Nature

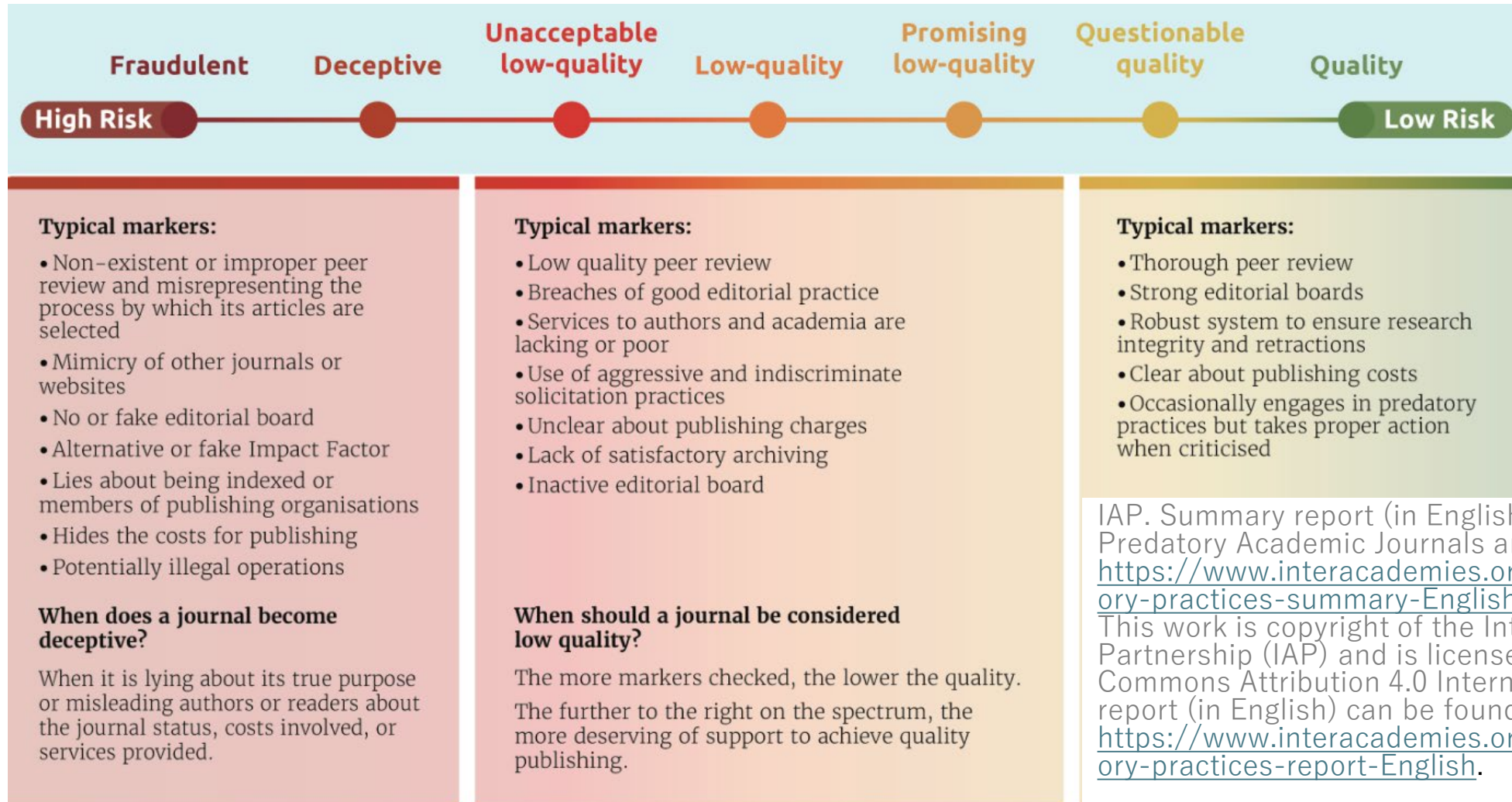
- Predatory journals are driven by self-interest, usually financial, at the expense of scholarship
- Characteristics
 - False or misleading information
 - Deviation from best editorial and publication practices
 - Lack of transparency
 - Aggressive, indiscriminate solicitation
- The definition keeps the word “Predatory” while noting its limitations

Agnes Grudniewicz et al. Predatory journals: no definition, no defence, Nature 576, 210-212 (2019) <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-019-03759-y>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

Definition of “Predadory” : in IAP

A spectrum of predatory behaviours for journals

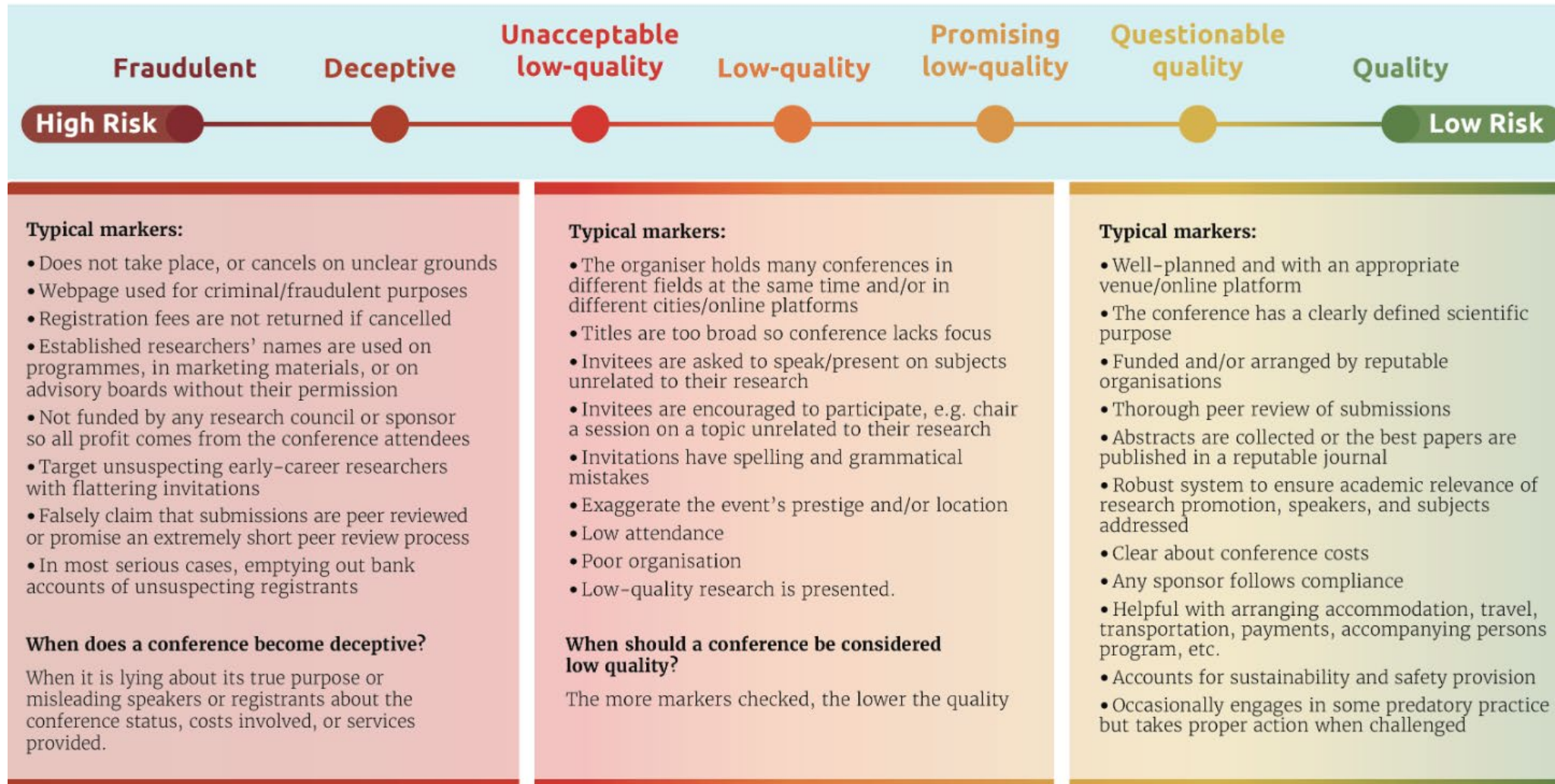


IAP. Summary report (in English). Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences
<https://www.interacademies.org/publication/predatory-practices-summary-English>
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<https://www.interacademies.org/publication/predatory-practices-report-English>.

Solution: Response? Prevention?

Definition of “Predatory” : in IAP

A spectrum of predatory behaviours for conferences



IAP. Summary report (in English). Combatting Predatory Academic Journals and Conferences

<https://www.interacademies.org/publication/predatory-practices-summary-English>

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Solution: Response? Prevention?

Definition of “Predatory” : A spectrum of predatory behaviours for journals/conferences

- You can't judge whether it's good or bad
- Capture risk in a spectrum (“gradation” in Japanese)

↓ Material (in Japanese) designed and created based on “To prevent the spread of inferior academic journals and academic conferences (expanded version)” <https://doi.org/10.18910/91457>

Kazuki Ide, Takeo Nakayama “Is that academic journal okay?” (in Japanese)
<https://doi.org/10.18910/94925>

Solution: Response? Prevention?

Change the way you think about solution

- No solution is 100% effective
- Don't believe in solicitation emails, make independent decisions
- Use the list to refer to the criteria, not the results of the decision
- Verbalize the judgment process of each journal, conference, or publisher and what kind of problems there are
- Communicate with researchers and stakeholders
- Especially PhD students: choose journal to submit in consultation with supervisor
- Invisibility of problems due to “Predatory”

The fundamental problem of the “Predatory problem” Situation Surrounding Researchers

- Too busy
- Fixed-term employment
- Doctoral Dissertation Requirements
- Excessive pressure and urgency to present results in a limited amount of time
- Publish or Perish: acceleration in the modern era

The fundamental problem of the “Predatory problem”

Problems of Academic Publication and Research Evaluation

- Overly commercialized academic journals
High subscription and publication fees
- Fluctuations in trust in peer review
Is peer review working? Necessary?
- Overly numerical evaluation of research
Number of papers, presentations, citations
- Problems one after another
Paper Mill *1, Peer Review Mill *2

*1 The fight against fake-paper factories that churn out sham science, Nature 591, p516-519 (2021)

<https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-021-00733-5>

*2 ShoSato. A New Threat "Review Mill" JPCOAR Web Magazine, 2024.9.24 (in Japanese)

<https://www.magazine.jpcoar.org/news/80ba13b1-ab85-4917-9040-00a47fab330>

The fundamental problem of the “Predatory problem” Solution

- Presentation and distribution of academic achievement
Open Peer Review, Preprint, Sharing research data,
Diamond Open Access...
- Reforming the research assessment framework
Signature to “San Francisco Declaration on Research
Assessment” (DORA)
<https://sfdora.org/>

The situation of academic results presentation and research
assessment is moving

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- Hokkaido University's Open Access support
 - Self-archiving in HUSCAP
- <https://eprints.lib.hokudai.ac.jp/dspace/index.jsp?&lang=en&locale=en>

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