AJCU Business Deans

Resolution Regarding Predatory Journals

The Business Deans of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU) endorse academic freedom and encourage scholarly inquiry of the highest caliber. We recognize the legitimacy of both print and online formats for the publication of professional research, and acknowledge that academic and practitioner-oriented studies, both peer-reviewed and non-refereed, can make valuable contributions to the theory, teaching, and practice of business.

At the same time, we oppose the practice now commonly known as predatory publishing. Journals—whether physical or electronic—that purport to be outlets for scholarly research while accepting manuscripts with little or no serious peer-review and charging submission and/or publication fees to authors, demonstrate a clear disregard for time-honored intellectual and ethical standards of scholarship in their pursuit of profit. We object to unscrupulous practices that lure researchers into submitting papers with the promise of rapid acceptance and publication in exchange for financial payments. Such practices prey especially on the needs of junior faculty members to meet tenure requirements through publication, and in so doing, encourage a dilution of quality and the wasting of intellectual resources. Inasmuch as many predatory journals are now only available in a virtual format and have no physical repository in libraries, there is an additional risk that articles appearing in such an outlet will simply disappear from circulation if and when the journal shuts its website.

We therefore encourage all scholars to avoid publishing their research in, and citing articles that appear in, predatory journals. To that end, we recommend that authors carefully scrutinize target journals before citing or submitting papers to them, utilizing all available information on publication standards, including the provision of referee reports to authors and the data annually offered by Beall’s List of Predatory Publishers as a guide. While no single evaluative source can be regarded as infallible or keep up with the proliferation of these journals, we note that other industry leaders, such as Cabell’s Directory of Publishing Opportunities, have adopted Beall’s List as a credible database for identifying suspect journals and publishers, at least within the open-access realm.

Markets operate by equilibrating supply and demand. In the conventional marketplace for scholarly work, readers (and libraries as their agents) seek to consume useful research, which scholars produce and journal publishers distribute. In the world of predatory publishing, by contrast, authors purchase publication space supplied by journals, typically without regard to readership; that is to say, authors are better described as consumers than as producers in that market. The latter model would become unsustainable if scholars would collectively refuse to participate in predatory publishing schemes.
As stewards of a premier educational tradition that dates back to the 16th century, the AJCU Business Deans seek to safeguard the process by which intellectual contributions are admitted to the corpus of knowledge in business. While welcoming the innovations afforded by technological advances, we remain committed to supporting the highest ethical standards for that process.

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