



## The Challenges of Academic Publishing in the Age of Predatory Journals: An Analytical Perspective

*The threat predatory journals pose to the quality of academic research and scholarly promotion, with a call to establish rigorous institutional standards that balance the encouragement of publication with guarantees of originality, quality, and scientific impact.*

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**T**he academic landscape in Kuwait and the broader Arab world is witnessing a growing challenge in the form of predatory scientific journals — a phenomenon that has come to threaten the quality of scholarly research and the credibility of academic institutions alike. This issue takes on particular urgency given that higher education institutions rely on academic publication as a primary criterion for scholarly promotion.

The danger posed by predatory journals lies in their exploitation of researchers' pressing need for rapid publication. These outlets make unrealistic promises of swift turnaround times

while disregarding the foundational standards of rigorous peer review. They are further distinguished by a range of suspect practices: imposing undisclosed fees, listing the names of eminent scholars on their editorial boards without those scholars' knowledge, and maintaining websites that fall conspicuously short of professional standards.

This reality compels us to raise fundamental questions about the very concept of scientific originality and how it may be assessed objectively. Authentic research must offer a genuinely new contribution to its field — whether through a scientific discovery, the

development of an existing theory, or the innovative treatment of a research problem.

To meet these challenges, we propose a framework of practical solutions, including the establishment of institutional databases of accredited scientific journals, the development of quantitative and qualitative criteria for evaluating journal quality, and a sustained focus on training researchers and building their capacity to assess academic journals and identify predatory outlets.

We also call for a fundamental reconsideration of the concept of “research productivity” itself. We must ask: does the measure lie in the

number of papers published, or in their scientific and societal impact? We affirm the necessity of striking a careful balance between encouraging academic publication and guaranteeing its quality, while preserving a system flexible enough to adapt to an evolving landscape.

We conclude with the assertion that the ultimate objective is to elevate the standard of scientific research and strengthen its role – an objective that demands promotion criteria which reward creativity and scholarly originality, and which protect researchers from the hazards of illusory publication in predatory journals.

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# predatory journals · academic publishing · research quality · higher education · Kuwait · academic promotion · scientific integrity