

Predatory Publishing

What is it, why should you care, and
what can we do?

Larger Context

- Serials Crisis

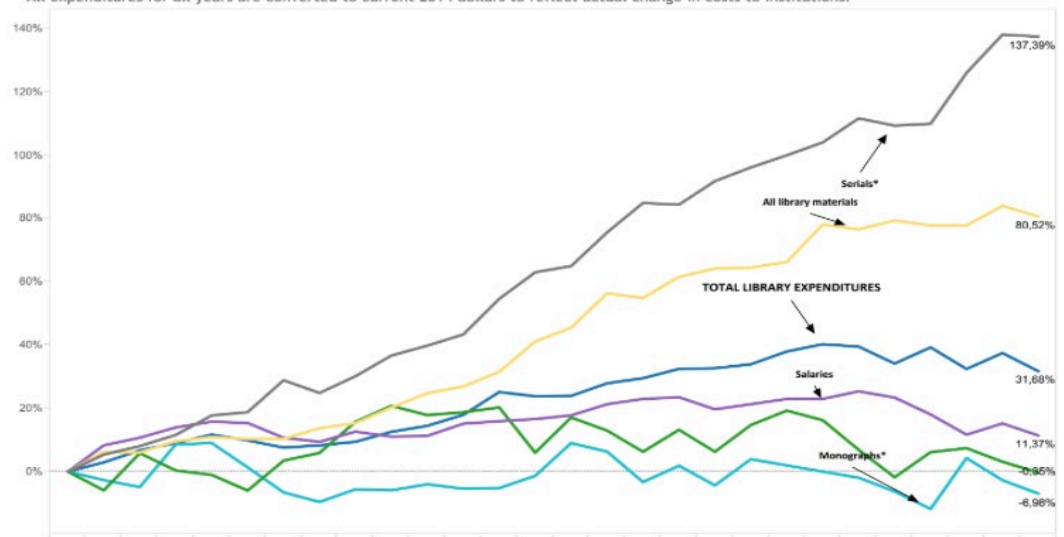
ARL Inflation-Adjusted Expenditure Data

Materials & salary expenditures of Association of Research Libraries member libraries in inflation-adjusted, 2014 dollars.

Median library expenditures among ARL members, 1963-...	Percentage change in expenditures, 1987-2014	Inflation-adjusted expenditures for individual ARL librari...
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Change in median expenditures among all ARL institutions, 1987-2014

All expenditures for all years are converted to current 2014 dollars to reflect actual change in costs to institutions.



* Serial Expenditures measure in ARL data collection changed to new measure "Ongoing Resource Expenditures", and Monograph Expenditures changed to "One-Time Resource Expenditures", beginning with 2012 data. For an example of how the pre-2012 data was extended in trend lines with these new measures in ARL-authored reports see <http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/expenditure-trends.pdf>. The same substitution has been made for these graphs for the 2012-2014 data.

Measure Names	Description
■	% Difference in Median Expenditures for Serials in current 2014 dollars from the First along Table (Across)
■	% Difference in Median Total expenditures for library materials in current 2014 dollars from the First along Table (Across)
■	% Difference in Median Expenditures on all library salaries in current 2014 dollars from the First along Table (Across)
■	% Difference in Median Operating expenditures in 2014 dollars from the First along Table (Across)
■	% Difference in Median Expenditures for Monographs in current 2014 dollars from the First along Table (Across)
■	% Difference in Median Total Expenditures in Inflation-Adjusted Dollars from the First along Table (Across)

Larger Context

- Serials Crisis
- Emergence of open access solutions (including APC model)
 - APCs create a conflict of interest
 - COI is managed effectively and honestly by legitimate publishers, and exploited by predatory ones

What do we mean by “predatory publishers”?

Predatory publishers are those who **lie about their publishing practices in order to attract publishing payments from unwary or unscrupulous authors.**

Predatory publishing is about selling fake certification

- To this end, predatory publishers lie about:
 - Peer review
 - Impact factor
 - Editorial board membership
 - Affiliation with prestigious organizations
 - Affiliation with nonexistent organizations
 - Inclusion in prestigious indexes
 - Presence/amount of APCs (which are often hidden from author until after acceptance, or even publication)

The term “predatory” is itself problematic

- Other candidates:
 - Scam
 - Deceptive
 - Fraudulent
 - Illegitimate

Signs of a predator

- Amateurish website
- Articles on topics unrelated to journal discipline
- Overly vague journal title
- Same editor (and/or board) for multiple journals
- Promises of extreme speed to publication
- Bragging language
- Hidden APCs

Who falls for this?

- Authors (sometimes)
- Editorial board invitees (if they aren't careful or don't care)
- Colleagues of authors (more often)

The real dangers are the contaminated CV, and the contamination of public discourse

“Contamination of public discourse” – seriously?

- Yup:

Pass the Easter Egg! New study reveals that eating chocolate doesn't affect your Body Mass Index ... and can even help you LOSE weight!

- New research from Roy Morgan reveals there's no proof that chocolate consumption affects BMI
- Currently two thirds of Australians eat chocolate at least once a month
- A study from German researchers has also found there's a connection between cocoa diets and increased weight loss
- Chocolate also found to benefit brain, heart and stress levels

By SAM BAILEY FOR DAILY MAIL AUSTRALIA

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From the endless chocolate blocks passed around the office, to the glaring supermarket aisles and the family relatives who miraculously appear with baskets of eggs, Easter can be a minefield to navigate if you're trying to watch your waistline.

But according to new research, there's no need to go easy on the eggs this week, with a Roy Morgan study revealing there is no direct connection between chocolate consumption and an increasing Body Mass Index (BMI).

This should come as sweet relief for chocoholics when according to Roy Morgan, two thirds of Australians admit to munching on chocolate at least once a month.

Scroll down for video



Predatory publishers vs. science

- “Chocolate makes you thin” sting
- “Star Wars” sting
- “Dr. Fraud” sting

What can you do?

- Spread the word; predation thrives in darkness
- Don't hire faculty without checking their citations
- Talk openly about predatory publishing with your faculty
- Reduce temptation by making it clear that colleagues and administrators will be vigilant

Cautionary notes

- This is not about **journal quality**; it's about **deceptive business practices**
- For some reason, many predatory publishing operations are based in the global south, especially India and Pakistan. Under-resourced journals can look like predators, so we need to be careful.
- The Cautionary Tale of Jeffrey Beall

Recommended readings

Xia, Jingfeng. "Predatory Journals and Their Article Publishing Charges." *Learned Publishing* 28, no. 1 (2015): 69-74. doi/10.1087/20150111

Oermann, Marilyn, et al. "Quality of Articles Published in Predatory Nursing Journals." *Nursing Outlook* (2017): ePub ahead of print. doi/10.1016/j.outlook.2017.05.005

Shen, Cenyu, and Bo-Christer Björk. "'Predatory' Open Access: A Longitudinal Study of Article Volumes and Market Characteristics." *BMC Medicine* 13, no. 1 (2015): 230. doi/10.1186/s12916-015-0469-2

Nwagwu, W. E. "Open Access in the Developing Regions: Situating the Altercations About Predatory Publishing." *Canadian Journal Of Information And Library Science-Revue Canadienne Des Sc* 40, no. 1 (2016): 58-80. muse.jhu.edu/article/611577

We're here to help

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