FAKE JOURNALS



HOW TO IDENTIFY A FAKE JOURNAL?

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SUMMARY

There are a lot of fake journals that have a seemingly reliable website and claim themselves to have a high impact factor journals.

Fake journals are difficult to identify in most cases.

In order to help researchers to find fake journals, this article gives some common identifications and required verification before submitting your valuable research findings to a journal.

INTRODUCTION

Some Common Indicators of Fake Journals

Using the following common indications a <u>Fake journal</u> can be easily identified.

- •No address: Some journals do not reveal their address or contact information on their website other than an email address listed.
- •No proper review information: These journals mostly hide their review process and editorial board details of their journal publications.
- Publication: These journals promise rapid publication.
- Topics: These publications simply include wide-ranging unrelated fields of study.
- •Age of the website: There are many tools available to find the age of the journal's website. Most of the fake journals claim themselves more year impact factor than their actual age on the internet.
- •Peer review process: There is no mention of a peer review process on the website or basic submission requirements.
- •Fees: Some predatory journals ask for extremely high processing fees for publication.
- •Ethics: Fake journals do not consider research ethics.

USE THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO IDENTIFY A FAKE JOURNAL

1.Publisher

The first step, check the publisher of the journals? A publishing company, a professional association, a scholarship association, or a university. Reputable publishers will never publish fake journals.

2.Verify Editor or Reviewer
Verifying the editor-in-chief,
senior editors, and the
reviewers of the journals is the
best way to identify the fake
journal.

Reputable journals always list their editorial board members. Each of the editorial members can be easily tracked to their home university. If you cannot track who are the editorial members, it is likely that the journal is fake.

3. Number of Volumes Published

A good volume of publications with <u>highly impactful researched issues</u> ensures the journal is not fake.

4. Review Process

Fake journals often guarantee someone's work to be published soon with a quick review process.

In most cases, quick review processed journals are either fake or highly paid journals. They usually publish without any revision. It will lead to retraction of the whole journal from indexing in the future.

Good journals must have adequate review processes. The processes may take time at least 4 to 6 months. Premier journals may even take a longer time.

Verify Indexing

Finally, verify whether the journal is on Scopus indexed, Web of Science, or Scimago database. Most of the reputed and mainstream journals indexed in any of these databases.

Following are the top abstract indexing agencies:

<u>Thomson Reuters</u> (Clarivate)

Pubmed

ISI Web of Knowledge or science

Scopus

Researchgate

Academia.edu

Google Scholar

Directory of Science

SIS (Scientific indexing services)

ISSN

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What is an ISSN?

An ISSN is an 8-digit code used to identify newspapers, journals, magazines and periodicals of all kinds and on all media-print and electronic.

Which publications are concerned by an ISSN?

What form does an ISSN take?

What is its role?

Where is it displayed?

Which publications are concerned by an ISSN?

An ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) identifies all continuing resources, irrespective of their medium (print or electronic):



- newspapers,
- annual publications (reports, directories, lists, etc.),
- •journals,
- magazines,
- collections,
- websites,
- databases,
- •blogs,etc.

A record of news, people's opinions, photos, and videos about a particular subject

In many countries, an ISSN is mandatory for all publications subject to the legal deposit.

What form does an ISSN take?

The ISSN takes the form of the acronym ISSN followed by two groups of four digits, separated by a hyphen. The eighth digit is a check digit calculated according to a modulus 11 algorithm on the basis of the 7 preceding digits; this eighth control digit may be an "X" if the result of the computing is equal to "10", in order to avoid any ambiguity.

e. g.:

- •ISSN 0317-8471
- •ISSN 1050-124X

What is its role?

The ISSN role is to identify a publication.

It is a digital code without any intrinsic meaning:

- •it does not include any information about the origin or contents of the publication,
- •it does not guarantee the quality or validity of the contents.

The ISSN is associated with the title of the publication. If the publication is modified significantly, a new ISSN must be assigned.

Where is it displayed?

For a **print publication**, the ISSN should be shown:

- •preferably, in the upper right corner of the cover,
- •failing that, on the pages where editorial information is shown (publisher, frequency, colophon, etc.).

For a **publication in electronic media**, the ISSN should be shown:

- •on the homepage or on the main menu, if it is an online publication,
- •on any part visible to the naked eye (microfiche header, CD-Rom or DVD label, box, case, etc.), if the publication is on a physical medium.

If a publication is identified by ISSN and ISBN, both of these identifiers should be mentioned.

PROGRAMS USED FOR REDUCE PLAGIARISM



PLAGIARISM

<u>Plagiarism</u> means using someone's else words or ideas without giving them credit. You cannot present quotations as your own ideas. You cannot use one's work or statement as yours, even if that person gave you his consent.



