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## Criteria for Determining Predatory Open-Access Publishers

For more information on predatory publishers, including lists of publishers and standalone journals that meet these criteria, please visit <http://scholarlyoa.com>

By Jeffrey Beall  
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The criteria below are intended to provide a framework for analyzing scholarly open-access publishers and journals. The criteria recognize two documents published by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#):

[Code of Conduct for Journal Publishers](#)  
[Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing](#)

Evaluating scholarly open-access publishers is a process that includes closely, cautiously, thoroughly, and at times skeptically examining the publisher's content, practices, and websites: contacting the publisher if necessary, reading statements from the publisher's authors about their experiences with the publisher, and determining whether the publisher commits any of the following practices (below) that are known to be committed by predatory publishers, examining any additional credible evidence about the publisher, compiling very important "back-channel" feedback from scholarly authors, and taking into account counter-feedback from the publishers themselves.

Some journals of course are "single titles." They publish independently of any multi-title publisher. In most cases, however, we evaluate journals that are part of a publisher's multi-title platform. This is very often described as a "fleet," a term meant to clarify that even a new publisher suddenly launches a large number of new journals, ranging from several dozen to hundreds of