

## AVOIDING PSEUDO INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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### ABSTRACT

In this paper, the simple technique of avoiding pseudo international journal, selecting the real international journal, and the role of lecturer as academic advisor are described. Some recommendations on the importance of Indonesian repository and lecturer's role in creating research culture to promote publication ethics are offered. It is also recommended for lecturer to play a role as students' advisor in the reference tracking in accordance with research topic, data collection and data analysis.

**KEYWORDS:** Pseudo, predatory, journal

### 1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the outstanding issue of the pseudo journal. Academic world shocked by publishing articles in African Journal of Agricultural Research, Volume 7, issue 28, July 2012 in which the second and third authors are two Indonesian celebrities. The first author was untraceable aliases false identity. Author kicks this horrendous article lists "Institute of Dangdut" as research institutions and "Jalan Tersepat, No.100, Jakarta 10000 Indonesia" as its address (Utomo, 2012). The academic world was astonished, of course with a variety of responses. A well known research librarian in the United States responded by writing an article about the predatory journal entitle title: "Predatory Publishers are Corrupting Open Access " which was published in the outstanding journal, Nature, Volume 489, issue 179, September 2012 (Beall, 2012).

This is one of the weaknesses of online journal although it is clearly mentioned on the journal website that all submitted article will be sent to reviewers and assessed by the editorial boards. The common statements that have attracted interest of authors in pseudo journal are "This journal indexed in Scopus, ProQuest, EBSCO, ISI web of knowledge, etc." However, the pseudo journal can be also indexed on these indexes. Nevertheless, these indexes will refuse to continue the index if it is proved as pseudo journal. Thus, we sometimes find some journals are discontinued to be indexed in well known index.

Pseudo journal become a lucrative business opportunity for the publications mafia, but doom for prospective professors. For publication mafia, it is enough to rent web space to instantly make hundreds of online journals. They detect the email published on the Internet and then send a message by offering rapid publication plus a very simple process. Unfortunately, this pseudo journal is disastrous for the Doctors who have an urgent need to be a Professor. They become casualties because the research results published in the pseudo journal is not rated by the Directorate of Higher Education Indonesia as a condition of compliance promotion to be an Associate Professor and Professor.

This condition is triggered by the intense competition publication in the reputable journal. Publications in renowned scientific journals that have a good reputation take time between 4 to 6 month review processes, and then officially published in the next 3 to 6 months. However, the journal is up at this stage only few numbers of thousands of other articles that are queued that makes many authors disappointed. In the first week of paper submission, many authors get responses that their papers are rejected for publication. The journal editor cannot continue to the next step, review process due to intense competition with other articles that queue.



For writers who panic due to their article rejected in renowned journals, they finally choose another alternative that is much easier to get published. Articles that have been rejected in the renowned journal are eventually sent to the online pseudo journal. In the next few weeks, there is a new email in the inbox that the article will be published after paying the publication fee. Oddly, the author of this article is asked to send money to another country, not to the address of the website. Even more ridiculous, as these writers get stuck, they were asked to be a reviewer. No half-hearted, this reviewer doctoral degree, even many of the Professor. They do not realize that the inclusion of their name is subjected to lips service. Another example is truly extraordinary is the article submitted in the morning and immediately accepted in the afternoon that the article will be published soon after the publication fee received by the journal contact person.

Articles in scientific journals not merely contain original sentence and paragraph, but also they must have a novelty that contributes significantly to the development of science. Of course, other elements, such as the use of references in the literature review, research methods, research design, the data collection and data analysis is not a manipulation. Moreover, many journals manipulate the biographical data of the published article.

## **2 DETECTING PSEUDO INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Pseudo journal issue horrendous and appalling academic life throughout the world, encourage a Jeffrey Bealls, a senior librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver, USA who conduct research on predatory publisher. Jeffrey Bealls is an expert in the field of metadata, full-text searching, and information retrieval. Jeffrey Bealls has written more than 70 titles of since 2001. His work can be accessed in Google Scholar.

Black-list journal of Jeffrey Bealls version is a lasting debatable for predatory publisher. This black list becomes a hard slap and a shock therapy for the rogue publishers. Scientists do not just claim as a smart person, but choose to get published in journals which have been doing business on duping intellectuals massively.

Detecting pseudo journal is very easy to do in today's most popular search engines, Google, simply by typing "predatory open access publishers". By default, the list of publishers and pseudo journals compiled by Jeffrey Bealls appear on the first page. This list is a reference for Research Institutes and universities to decide promoting teachers, lecturers, researchers to the get a higher level or position. It is undeniable that many teachers, lecturers, and researchers who do not know anything about the black list so they are stuck in the pseudo journal. Although their article is written based on the results of research, his work remained even become a stumbling block in achieving the world's highest academic awards due to wrong way choosing the journal to get published.

Not all blacklist journals are listed in predatory journals of Jeffrey Beall's version. Another way to detect pseudo journal is to detect the journal link. Paying attention to Editorial Board, many pseudo journals do not list even a single name in Editorial Board. There are also some experts whose name listed in Editorial Board without approval. Another pseudo journal editor remain anonymous but merely names and titles, it is not clear what her/his skills, her/his academic degrees, educational institutions, and a number of other irregularities.

## **3 SELECTING THE REAL INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL**

Before sending the article to the journal, first determine whether your expectation is sending the article to the first or second class journal. Journal preference will determine journal review deadlines and level of reviewer criticality. Articles submitted to reputable journals will be processed by the admin then selected early by the Managing Editor. After that, the next process followed by a review by Controlling Editor. After the approval of the Controlling Editor (expert), Editor in Chief then sends the two anonymous blind reviewers the article for the sake of review objectivity. This procedure became the standard for well-known journals. As a result, sending article to the well known journal requires extra patience because after waiting for a long time, the article is returned to the author for revision.



Furthermore, the authors then send a revised article to the editor. The result of these revisions then reviewed again, lucky author will be notified that her/his article will be published. Starting from the time of sending the article until publication usually takes about 1 year. Compare with pseudo journal, it takes only within a week during the process.

The simplest way to determine the quality of the journal is choosing journal under established publishers, such as Elsevier, JSTOR, Sage, Taylor & Francis Group, Emerald, Springer, Cambridge Journal, Oxford Journal and other publishers under Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE, 1997). Journal published by these publishers can be classified based on their impact factor by Thomson Reuters that evaluates the average frequency in a journal article cited in other articles in reputable journals. The higher the Impact Factor assumed the higher the quality of the journal. This prompted the emergence of a conspiracy to boost the Impact Factor to make each syndicate quote. Like a soccer league conspiracy to get tickets to play in the Champions League.

#### **4 THE ROLE OF LECTURER AS AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR**

Ironic, lecturers should play a role as a filter to prevent the student from sending article to pseudo journal, but the reality proves that many lecturers get published in that journal. However, lecturers are required more intensive than students in accessing information. Students' supervisor acts as a students' mentor in the preference of the research topic, data collection, and data analysis. Thus, the supervisor is entitled to be responsible as the second author in a research article written by a student under lecturer's supervision, which will be published in national or international journal. Supervisor is required not indifferent in carrying responsibilities. Supervisor must demonstrate its seriousness when guiding the process of writing scientific papers of students under her/his supervision.

Minister of Education of the Republic of Indonesia on several occasions explained that the obligation of scientific publications for students is an effort to build responsible character. Of course, supervisor as second author on a scientific article will guide students choosing the suitable journal. This is vitally important to avoid sending article to pseudo journal that can corrupt students and lecturers career.

#### **5 MAXIMIZING THE INDONESIAN ACADEMIC DATABASE**

Indonesian academician expects both Indonesian Citation Index (ICI) and the Indonesian Publication Index (IPI) as a national database can continue to work together to promote a culture of research and fix the quality issue of Indonesian Journal. ICI is a joint project of the Directorate General of Higher Education Indonesia (DIKTI) with Institute Teknologi Bandung (ITB) and IPI is a project of the DIKTI with the University of Ahmad Dahlan (Institute of Advanced Engineering and Science, 2013; LPPM Institut Teknologi Bandung, 2007). Supervisor, of course is expected to instill the importance of ethics in publications to students in order to create Indonesian scholars who have academic integrity. In addition, lecturer can introduce "Mendeley" as a new worldwide academic database that covers all discipline (Patak and Akib, 2012; Zaugg et al. 2011).

#### **6 CONCLUSION**

Pseudo journal become a lucrative business opportunity for the publications mafia, but doom for prospective professors. For publication mafia, they are enough to rent web space and can instantly make hundreds of online journal. Issue of the pseudo journal have been horrendous and appalling academic life throughout the world encourage Jeffrey Bealls, a senior librarian at the University of Colorado, Denver to make a list of predatory publishers and individual journal. Even more important is the role of the supervisor must demonstrate her/his seriousness when guiding the process of writing scientific papers of students. Government should hand in hand with Indonesian scientists who still have the academic integrity to respond the pseudo journal temptation with real action.



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