

Advisory Points on Due Diligence with Regard to Predatory Journals

Approved

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Promotion and Tenure Committees have always looked at the quality of journals in which faculty publish.

1. Promotion and Tenure Committees have traditionally welcomed publications in any journal that has a serious scholarly or research organization behind it and a serious review process for accepting articles.
2. A problem is the recent proliferation of what are called Predatory Journals. These are internet publications not connected to scholarly or research organizations.
3. The red flags of such journals are that they often require payment to publish, they solicit submissions, they have questionable editorial boards, they often have unrealistically rapid turn-around time, and they provide little or no editorial feedback.
4. This is not about page costs or on-line publications. These are quite acceptable so long as there is a credible academic or research organization behind them.
5. It is the responsibility of the faculty to perform due diligence in deciding whether or not to publish in such a journal. In past years, faculty may have been innocent victims of predatory journals. Now that awareness of predatory journals has grown, faculty, when uncertain, should consult the librarians and/or their mentor for advice on whether or not a journal is credible. They should also consult the list of known or suspected predatory journals, which the librarians can help them locate.
6. In their promotion and tenure guidelines, all colleges at UM-Dearborn already emphasize the importance of publishing in peer-reviewed, scholarly journals. In annual reviews, the use of predatory journals may be noted.