



Start Here

Is the journal listed in common lists, such as [DOAJ](#), [Scopus](#), [WoS](#), [ABDC](#), [AJG](#), and/or [SJR](#)?

Yes

Likely safe journal, proceed to next step.

No

Possibly predatory, proceed to next step.

Is the journal a member of COPE ([Committee on Publication Ethics](#))?

No

Possibly predatory, proceed to next step.

No

But it is in a common list

Journal is most likely safe because of the membership requirements of COPE DOAJ, and other common lists. Still be cautious of red flags.

Yes

Most likely predatory.

Yes

Does the journal meet any of the following characteristics?

- **Lack of transparency**
  - Lack of information on the contact details of the publisher or on article processing charges
- **Inaccurate Information**
  - Consider checking where the journal reports to be indexed and verifying this is accurate information
- **False information**
  - May promote a fake impact factor on its website or false indexing
- **Invited via Suspicious E-mail**
  - Grammar/spelling mistakes, received multiple times, unclear sender

May be safe → investigate further

No

Journals that are new, or that are published in low-income economies with fewer resources may meet some criteria listed above, however, it is important not to confuse new or under-resourced journals with predatory journals.