

A New Challenge in the Academic World: Earning Real Money and Eminence by Paper Publishing

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Nowadays, the academic world is faced with different challenges such as hijacked journals (Jalalian, 2014; Jalalian and Mahboobi, 2014; Dadkhah *et al.*, 2015), bogus impact factors (Jalalian and Mahboobi, 2013), social engineering (Dadkhah and Quliyeva, 2014; Krombholz, 2014), and fake conferences. There are other tricks and non-academic behaviors that we will introduce in this letter to familiarize editors and researchers with them. Although the academic world has many advantages it is an area for jobber people to make money; many people exploit researchers and trick them to earn money. On the other hand, some researchers ignore academic principles and act, in contrast, with these principles. In the following few pages, we will introduce some of the new challenges in the academic world.

1. Plagiarism

Although there are powerful software packages that are being used for detecting plagiarism, still these programs cannot detect conceptual plagiarism. Some people create a new article by re-phrasing an entire article, and then publish it under their own names. In this case, the content of the article is not changed, what is actually changed is its wording. To demonstrate the authenticity of the idea above, we performed an easy experiment. First, we analyzed an article published previously by the "Viper Software," plagiarism detecting software (<http://www.scanmyessay.com>). The software detected the published article and reported the plagiarism rate, which was 85%. Then we used the "Article Rewrite Worker" software (<http://www.articlerewriteworker.com>) to re-phrase the previous article, and performed the test again and the plagiarism rate was reported as 13%. Therefore, in this state, the detection of conceptual plagiarism is very difficult. Unless the journal is familiar with the original version of this article, such type of plagiarism is not easy to detect. Another type of this conceptual trickery is publishing different versions of the

same article about a certain subject in different journals; all such versions express the same scientific findings, without presenting any new different ones.

2. Article Sale

Nowadays many jobber people sell articles. They sell these articles to other researchers who seek promotion and enhancement in their academic career. These people obtain new articles through conceptual plagiarism or by tricking researchers, and begin to sell these articles. Nowadays, forgers of valid journals, set up free fake journals and, after receiving articles from researchers, upload abstracts and titles of those articles on their website, and sell the original articles to people who want them. Therefore, by publishing only the abstract and title of the article on their own website, the plagiarism detection software cannot detect the original article. The concept of "Ghostwriter" - that is, writing speeches, articles and books for other persons, is unfortunately very widespread in the scientific community. The career of graduate students and young scientists depends, in most cases, on the goodwill and the support of the supervisor or the director of the institute, and a showdown is undesirable. Therefore, upon receiving a request, the young "indentured Intellect" has to write to the authorities in silence, while remaining invisible to readers. The concept of "Ghostwriter" develops new opportunities on the web; one can sell a scientific publication "for cash" or add a "co-author" (Bagdassarian, 2014).

3. Forced Joint Authorship

The best hidden and almost impossible to be proven, and the most common theft in academia is imposed authorship ("forced joint authorship") or "author-spirit" ("Ghostwriter") (Tzankova, 2008; Zdravkova, 2011; Bagdassarian, 2014). While "co-author," or "joint author," is an author who creates an article with (an) other

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author/authors, the co-intrusive ("forced joint authorship") is a person whose name is added to the list of authors due to his higher administrative position. This person is not usually part of the process of creation, but his name is added with the knowledge of the actual participants. Agreement of the other members of the team is not always compulsory. This act looks completely natural, and "the head," sitting behind his desk, seems as if he actually took part in the creative process. Often, such type of "leaders" squeezes ideas from his subordinates and present them as his own, then "manage" the creative process as "legal." This type of managers often collect the fruit of the labor of other teams whose work is manipulated by this administrative leader, who, in turn, shows "productivity" through the dozens of scientific publications (often in various areas) he publishes per year. These people cannot be "caught up" with their scientific acting career by even the most intense working scientists who present only their own labor or research. Similar to plagiarism, forced joint authorship is in fact "usurping" another person's or group of people's work. The difference is that forced joint authorship is conducted with the knowledge and consent of the whole authorship team. This agreement is usually the result of the abuse of power on the part of the forcedly added "co-author."

4. Conversion of a Journal in to a Print Machine

Some journals, and after receiving a new valid index (specifically the Thomson Reuters indexing), publish a lot of articles with the sole goal of making money in mind. These journals or publishers are known as "predatory publishers." The term "predatory open access" was coined by University of Colorado Denver librarian and researcher Jeffrey Beall (Carl, 2012). These journals also publish articles that are not related to the scope of the journal, and publish articles with different subjects by creating special issues of the journal that do not follow a certain subject. Figure 1 shows the number of published articles in four journals that have published a large number of articles. According to a published article (Bohannon, 2013), most of these journals do not have a Peer Review process.

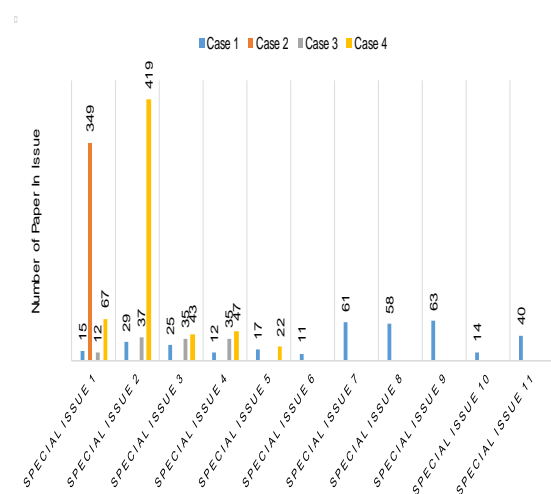


Figure 1. Number of papers in special issues in some journals. Case 1 has 11 special issues, case 2 has 1 special issue, case 3 has 4 special issues and case 4 has 4 special issues.

5. Invalid Conferences

Nowadays, a lot of invalid conferences are designed. These conferences perform the act of validating the articles by machines and, then, the "organizing committee" publishes these articles after receiving the payment (cost of publication). Such conferences claim holding virtual conferences, while in reality such conferences are never held. In addition, some conferences hand in scientific workshop participation certificates to researchers who had never attended any real workshops. In other cases, the "organizing committee," responsible for these fake conferences, publishes articles in hijacked journals; they do that by requesting and receiving payments from the researchers.

6. Concluding Remarks

In this short letter, we presented some of challenges that the academic world is facing nowadays to inform researchers and redactors of journals about such challenges. Although there are a number of jobber people in the academic world, we should not ignore the fact that the basic reasons of such problems do not belong to the jobber people only, the non-academic behaviors made by some of researchers are also involved and can be effective in creating such problems too.

In the World Wide Web, a wide range of scientific journals has been created. Some of them are designated as predatory. There should be lists aimed at revealing the reality and essence of such journals. Still, many journals try to organize critical reviews for the articles submitted to them. The editors of these journals offer editing services; they ask scientists from around the world to get assistance from them to revise and edit their articles. Needless to say, such services are paid. Most manuscript evaluation is voluntary and many scientists abandon it. We, personally, do not ever reject an article, unless it is not within our area of expertise. We consider it our duty, and, in fact, peer reviewing is the duty of all scientists worldwide. It is our belief that this is the only way we can block all the chances of jobber publishers from becoming predators and that through these way only manuscripts with a high scientific value will be published. The quality of scientific publications is at the hands of the scientists themselves. Peer Review is a voluntary act that guarantees good quality. Everyone should be responsible for this process. After peer reviewing (which should become mandatory), the adjustments and modifications made by the reviewers should also be assessed next. Otherwise, the peer review process is pointless and senseless.

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