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Comparing VABB-SHW (version VIII) with Cabells Journal Blacklist and Directory of Open Access Journals

Report to the Authoritative Panel

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1 Introduction

Open access scholarly publishing continues to remain a matter of debate among scholars, librarians and policy makers. On the one hand, open access scholarly publishing promises to expand the reach of research findings and close the gap of 'information inequality' across nations. It has, for instance, been argued that academic initiatives that involve open access publishing could harness 'multiple perspectives on solving durable and pressing problems around sustainability' in a sense that more students of these problems are able to join the debate (Lincoln 2012, 1453). On the other hand, much attention has also been paid to the controversial matter of open access publishers whose standards and ethics can be questioned. The periodicals that fall under this claim have been called *predatory open access journals* (henceforth POA journals). For the sake of simplicity, we will use the same terminology but note that it has been criticized (Eriksson & Helgesson, 2018).

As a consequence of the latter, some *blacklists* of such journals and publishers have been created in the past.¹ Blacklists typically contain names of publishers and titles of journals that ought to be avoided because of questionable standards. This practice, however, faces a lot of criticism (see for example Bloudoff-Indelicato 2015). As a consequence, differing practices also exist. The Directory of Open Access Journals (henceforth DOAJ), for example, takes a more 'positive' stance and aims to cover all the world's open access journals maintaining the best scholarly publishing practices. This practice is referred to as *whitelisting*.

The key issue in this controversy remains the contrasting view on which conclusions can (and will) be drawn when facing seemingly low publishing standards (or other questionable practices linked to scholarly publishing). To give one example, the adequate use of good academic English is typically seen as an inevitable part of current internationally oriented scholarly publishing. Yet, what ought to be regarded as *good* academic English? This is not always a matter of black- or whitelisting. Journals (or journal websites) that contain language errors do not necessarily have fraudulent intentions. To put it differently, if one encounters low language standards, this does not always mean that a journal can singlehandedly be considered as a POA journal.

Some argue that such a demand is biased towards scholarly publishers from developed countries (Berger and Cirasella 2015). In contrast, when a journal claims to carry out peer review but in reality no peer review takes place, then it seems to be relatively easy to blacklist the journal where such a practice occurs. As we will see, the range on which scholarly journal publishing can be judged is broad (e.g., Beall 2015). Our example of the language quality shows that the distinction between low(er)-quality journals and POA journals is not entirely straightforward. Decisions on whether a journal is POA is often a matter of mutually reinforcing characteristics. If a journal's website exhibits low language standards, there is no way to contact the journal (or it only has a web form), and it uses a virtual or other proxy office, it can be more confidently regarded as a fraudulent outlet.

Of interest for this report is to what extent malpractices within open-access scholarly publishing is a matter of concern for Flemish academia. To address this question, we study to what extent scholarly communication of social science and humanities (SSH) scholars within Flanders resides in outlets of questionable quality. Since 2013 ECOOM-UAntwerp has organised comparisons of the annual lists of journals submitted to VABB-SHW with Beall's list(s) of the corresponding year, and, as of 2015, also

¹ Beall's lists probably being one of the most widely known and used, at least before its disappearance last year (see further, p. 2).

with DOAJ (Rahman, Dexters, and Engels 2014; Rahman and Engels 2015; Rahman, Guns, and Engels 2015; Sile, Guns, and Engels 2017).

This report results from a comparison of the list of journals submitted to the Authoritative Panel (abbreviated here as AP²) of the VABB-SHW³ (Vlaams Academisch Bibliografisch Bestand voor de Sociale en Humane Wetenschappen). ECOOM-Antwerp submitted this list of journals to the AP in July 2017 (publications from years 2007-2016) and compared it with, firstly, Cabells Journal Blacklist and, secondly, the list of journals indexed in DOAJ.

2 Data sources

2.1 Cabells Journal Blacklist (CJB)

To identify publications in predatory open access journals, the previous investigations by ECOOM-UAntwerp made use of the publisher and journal lists maintained by Jeffrey Beall (cf. Rahman *et al.* 2014 2015a 2015b; Sile *et al.* 2017). As of January 2017, however, Beall's list was removed from the web 'due to legal reasons'. In an opinion paper published by Jeffrey Beall shortly after the event, he reveals the reasons why he decided to remove the list (Beall 2017). The incident led to a vacuum on the publishing market, as many questions considering predatory publishers were left unanswered (Mimouni *et al.* 2017). Since the disappearance of Beall's list, Cabells Journal Blacklist (henceforth CJB), has become the 'most anticipated and long-awaited product on the academic publications market' to aid researchers and administrators in their decision-making considering journal selection and evaluation (Strielkowski 2017, in press). Whereas Beall's list was publicly available, however, CJB is a commercial service provided by Cabells Scholarly Analytics⁴.

Another difference with Beall's list is that the review board working on CJB makes use of an extensive list of pre-specified criteria which are used to identify deceptive, fraudulent, and/or predatory journals. In comparison with the somewhat arbitrary decision making process which was the case with the compilation of the Beall's list, and the evaluation of criteria carried out by Jeffrey Beall himself (cf. Sile *et al.* 2017, 3), this is an obvious advantage. We agree with Misra *et al.* (2017) that the use of such criteria – by a team of professionals (and an additional 'violations report' when the journal is consulted) – allows for 'lesser bias in selecting the journals'. The list of criteria can be found in Appendix A.

The 65 criteria⁵ are grouped in 8 categories. We present a list of the categories, with the number of criteria they consist of, and a short description of what they are about.

- A. **Integrity (12 criteria):** Relates to the journal's ethics. Does the publisher abide to standard publishing or research ethics?
- B. **Peer review (10 criteria):** Does the journal have adequate procedures for editorial control and peer review?
- C. **Website (6 criteria):** Relates to the information displayed on the website. Is it deceptive, wrong or unclear?

² Also known as GP, from 'Gezaghebbend Panel' in Dutch.

³ VABB-SHW is the Flemish Academic Bibliographic database of the Social Sciences and Humanities. For an overview of the design of this database, see Verleysen *et al.* (2014).

⁴ Cabells Scholarly Analytics offers an additional resource as well, namely the Journal Whitelist. The whitelist 'provides complete contact and publication information, multiple quality metrics, submission experience data, and peer review indicators for over 11,000 verified journals across 18 academic disciplines'. (Cabells Scholarly Analytics, 2017).

⁵ The website lists only 64 criteria, but the violation reports showed an additional one (defined as H9).

- D. **Publication practices (15 criteria):** Closely relates to research and publishing ethics, but focuses on the actual process of publishing, the techniques to attract authors, and statements about the management of the journal and its content.
- E. **Indexing and metrics (2 criteria):** Is the journal using misleading or wrong metrics?
- F. **Fees (6 criteria):** Does the publisher focus on payments and/or not communicate about them clearly prior to manuscript submission?
- G. **Access and copyright (5 criteria):** Does the journal (or its publisher) communicate clearly on the access granted and the copyright policy that is being carried out?
- H. **Business practices (9 criteria):** Relates to the marketing techniques used by the publisher or the journal's editorial team.

The criteria grouped under each category could be characterized with behavioural ethics ranging from completely fraudulent to vague or questionable practice. To give an example, under integrity we find criterion A9 (insufficient resources are spent on preventing and eliminating author misconduct) which is quite subjective – what is enough? Two other criteria of the integrity category apply to hijacked journals or journals that have a fake ISSN (A2 and A8 respectively). These two are completely fraudulent and point to the deceptive marketing techniques used by predatory publishers. As we will see, when making use of the violation reports of CJB for evaluation purposes, it is best to look at the co-occurrences of the criteria per journal or, additionally, group them by publisher.

2.2 The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

In 2003 DOAJ was set up 'to increase the visibility and ease of use of open access scientific and scholarly journals, thereby promoting their increased usage and impact' ('About DOAJ', 2016). This directory aims to provide full coverage of open access scholarly journals that can warrant the quality of the content. If a journal is listed in DOAJ, it meets a certain threshold of quality. For a journal to be included in DOAJ it has to correspond to the 'Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing' (2015). This set of 16 principles is the result of collaboration between DOAJ, COPE, the Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association, and the World Association of Medical Editors. Similarly to Beall's criteria, these principles also refer to various aspects of publishing (peer-review process, publishing schedule, etc.).

DOAJ as well has received critical remarks regarding its inclusion criteria (Bohannon 2013). This critique by John Bohannon ('Bohannon's sting') was based on an experiment where the author created and submitted 304 variations of an article of obviously low quality. Submissions were done with an invented name and affiliation. The results of this experiment showed that the acceptance rate for those journals that were listed in DOAJ at the time, and who completed the article review process, was surprisingly high (45%). However, following these findings, DOAJ introduced more selective inclusion criteria for journals (Van Noorden 2014). Moreover, all journals that were previously included in DOAJ had to reapply for inclusion under stricter criteria. Over 40% of journals were rejected or failed to reapply; these are no longer included in DOAJ.

The analysis reported here is based on the DOAJ list of journals from 17 December 2017. At that point DOAJ contained 10,646 journals.

3 Work procedure

Comparing VABB-SHW (version VIII) with CJB and DOAJ was done by listing all ISSNs of the journals (n = 13,340) submitted by ECOOM-UAntwerp to the AP in July 2017. These are the journals in which scholars affiliated to an SSH unit at a Flemish university have published during the time period 2007–2016. Within this list, 9,977 journals have been previously identified by the AP as peer-reviewed and/or

indexed in the WoS. 2,857 journals have been classified by the AP as non-peer-reviewed. Finally, 506 journals appeared in the list for the first time, and therefore their status of peer-review is yet to be decided.

The comparison of the journal list was conducted in December 2017. This work could only start after a license for CJB had been obtained. The procedure consisted of four steps. First, a list of all journals that are in VABB-SHW was double checked with the ISSN directory⁶. If more than one ISSN was recorded in VABB-SHW for a given journal, each ISSN was verified. During the second and third step, using all ISSNs in that list, the journal set was matched with CJB and DOAJ respectively. Only those journals whose ISSN matched with the ISSN of a journal on CJB were considered as potentially POA. Due to the limited time that was available for gathering the data, and because the inclusion of WoS-indexed journals in VABB-SHW does not affect the BOF-key funding system, our analysis focuses on journals that are not included in WoS, with the exception of journals indexed in the Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI). Since journals in the ESCI do not count for the WoS publications parameter in the BOF-key, these journals have been checked. In total, 7,268 journals were compared to CJB.

Subsequently, for the cases in which a match was found, we consulted the violation report provided by Cabells and listed the journal's violations in the CJB. As previously mentioned, the evaluation of the journals has been carried out by in-house specialists of Cabells Scholarly Analytics. This can be considered as an obvious advantage. Nevertheless, it should be noted that some of these criteria are still rather arbitrary, and deserve careful exploration. For instance, if only a criterion like geographical diversity among editorial board members is not met, this does not necessarily indicate unethical behaviour. We provide a detailed summary in the appendix which contains an overview of the journals that came out of the analysis as POA, and mentions the respective criteria that were listed in their violation reports.

4 Findings

The results of our analysis are presented in four parts. First, we will take a look at the number of journals (and their publishers) that are found in VABB-SHW (version VIII) and occurred on CJB (4.1). In the second part, DOAJ is added to this comparison (4.2). Third, we will present a comparison of our findings with last year's results (4.3). Finally, we will take a look at the violation reports provided by CJB (4.4).

4.1 A comparison of VABB-SHW with Cabells Journal Blacklist

The comparison of VABB-SHW VIII with CJB yielded a set of 65 journals (Table 1). The total number of publications in these journals is 91, which accounts for only 0.1% of the number of journal publications submitted to this version of VABB-SHW. In comparison to previous reports, these results indicate a strong decrease. We will discuss this further in section 4.3. Only 9 out of 65 journals are considered as peer-reviewed in VABB-SHW. They contain 14 out of 91 publications (15.4%). Two of the journals that are considered peer-reviewed in VABB-SHW and were retrieved from CJB also appear in the ESCI.

50 journals are considered non peer-reviewed, and the remaining 6 have not yet been classified by the AP. The list of the 65 journals that were present in CJB can be found in appendix B. The list includes the following characteristics: title, VABB-SHW status, ISSN, EISSN, DOAJ status, the number of publications in VABB-SHW, the name of its publisher, and the violations that were reported.

⁶ <http://www.issn.org>

Table 1 Number of VABB-SHW VIII journals identified in Cabells Journal Blacklist

VABB-SHW Status	Number of journals for VIII	Match with CJB 2017	Match with CJB 2017 and in ESCI
Peer-reviewed	9,977	9	2
Non peer-reviewed	2,857	50	0
Peer-review status undecided	506	6	0
Total	13,340	65	2

23 different publishers make up the list of 65 journals that were found, with some of them accounting for 6 up to 12 journals. It should be noted in advance that journals published by the same publisher very often exhibit the same violations (cf. Table 1 in appendix B). Fourteen publishers, however, only appear with one periodical.

Table 2 List of publishers and number of their journals in VABB-SHW

Publisher	Number of Journals
OMICS International	12
Canadian Center of Science and Education	10
Academic journals	6
David Publishing Company	6
Sciedu Press	6
Macrothink Institute	3
Center for Promoting Ideas	2
Serials Publications	2
World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society	2
American research institute for policy development	1
Asian Economic and Social Society (AESS)	1
Better Advances Press	1
Business Perspectives	1
CIRWORLD	1
Fundamental Journals	1
Global Advanced Research Journals	1
Global Journals, Inc.	1
Humanities, Management	1
International Academy Publishing	1
OAE Publishing, Inc.	1
Redfame Publishing	1
Scholarly Journals and Academic Conferences	1
Scientia Socialis	1
Total	65

4.2 Comparison of VABB-SHW with Cabells Journal Blacklist and DOAJ

With regard to crossmatches between CJB and DOAJ only 1 journal was found (see Table 2). This periodical (*Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation*) is published by OAE Publishing. When we look at the VABB-SHW status of the journal, it has been classified as non-peer-reviewed (cf. appendix B, no. 40). For VABB-SHW VIII, only 1 article has been published in this journal.

Table 3 Number of VABB-SHW journals identified in DOAJ and Cabells Journal Blacklist

VABB-SHW Status	Match with CJB lists and DOAJ 2017	Match with CJB 2017
Peer-reviewed	0	9
Non peer-reviewed	1	50
Peer-review status undecided	0	6
Total	1	65

4.3 Comparison with Beall's list

Table 4 provides an overview of the distribution of publications identified as POA over the 10-year time window of VABB-SHW VIII. To summarize, we find 65 potentially predatory journals in VABB-SHW VIII, which account for 91 publications.

Table 4 Number of publications in VABB-SHW VIII that have appeared in a journal indexed in CJB across years

Year	Peer-reviewed	Non peer-reviewed	Undecided
2007	0	0	0
2008	0	1	0
2009	2	3	0
2010	4	3	0
2011	0	10	0
2012	0	18	0
2013	1	8	0
2014	1	15	0
2015	2	11	2
2016	0	0	10
Total	10	69	12

In contrast, for VABB-SHW VII 185⁷ journals were flagged as potentially predatory, with 499 publications in them (cf. Sile *et al.*, 2017, 5). This substantial difference is related to several factors. First, we are using a different and new database. The CJB has been launched only a year ago, which might mean that a number of POA journals have not yet been indexed by their service. Another explanation could be that Cabells applies a set of criteria that match with fewer journals or publishers than the ones used by Beall. In this context, it is noteworthy that no journals published by Frontiers – one of the most controversial additions to Beall's list – appear on the CJB. In the previous report (Sile *et al.* 2017), Frontiers alone represented 260 publications in 24 journals (all indexed in DOAJ and many indexed in Web of Science as well). Finally, we recall that WoS journals were not checked for the current report (29 journals in the previous report). Leaving out WoS-indexed journals and Frontiers journals, the previous report reported on 149 journals.

⁷ For our comparison in Table 1 WoS-indexed journals were excluded. This makes the total counts different.

We found only one journal that appeared both in DOAJ and CJB, compared to 42 last year. This result may be due to the fact that, overall, CJB flags less journals as potentially POA than Beall’s lists did, but also to the new (re-) application policy of DOAJ.

4.4 Zooming in on the violation reports

When we take a closer look at the violations reports filed by Cabells Scholarly Analytics, and the number of violations that have been reported, a couple of important observations can be made. First, although the distribution of violations over the journals is quite normal, the total number of violations found per journal varies strongly (from 2 to 10). The average journal checks on approximately 5 violations.

A total number of 43 different violations were retrieved from the violations reports of the 65 journals. The top 5 violations account for half of the total number of violations that were reported. Table 5 shows that 43 out of 65 journals that were identified as POA by Cabells display prominent statements on unusual quick peer review (criterion D7), 40 journals have no policies for digital preservation, etc.

Table 5 Top 5 violations found

Code	Description	N	Percentage
D7	The publisher displays prominent statements that promise rapid publication and/or unusually quick peer review (less than 4 weeks).	43	13.4%
G3	No policies for digital preservation.	40	11.7%
C2	The journal or publisher uses a virtual office or other proxy business as its physical address.	34	9.9%
A5	The publisher hides or obscures relationships with for-profit partner companies.	30	8.8%
H2	Multiple emails received from a journal in a short amount of time.	22	6.4%

Some of these ‘top 5’ violations (and the remainder of the list as well) are more worrisome than others. With this in mind, we refer the reader to Table 1 in Appendix B, where for each journal all violations are listed.

5 Limitations

With regard to the data and our analysis, two limitations should be highlighted. As stated in previous reports, journal lists are not static and often evolve rather quickly (Sīle *et al.* 2017). Journals may cease to exist, they can be withdrawn from (or added to) the DOAJ, the Web of Science, and so on. This urges the reader to pay close attention when interpreting the results. The comparison presented in this report only applies to the actual timeframe.

The second limitation relates to the data gathered from CJB. CJB provides detailed violation reports, and these can be considered as very valuable and helpful when it comes to decision making. The threshold applied by the in-house experts, however, is not clear. Some of the violations can be considered as less threatening than others, or allow for the reader’s own (subjective) interpretation. Criterion C5, for example, relates to the spelling and grammar on the website. As noted in the introduction, this also remains a matter of debate, and can be interpreted differently from different angles. Similarly, what is being defined as obvious pseudo-science (cf. D1)?

6 Conclusion

Our analysis shows that SSH scholars in Flanders continue to publish in journals that are listed as predatory open access. The total number, however, is relatively small compared to previous years. Whereas we saw a continuing rise over the past decade (cf. Sile *et al.*, 2017), the comparison with CJB marks a steep decline from 185 journals in 2016 to 65 journals in 2017. Most likely, this decrease is mainly due to the change of data source rather than an actual change in publication practices. Indeed, recently published results (Sorokowski *et al.* 2017) suggest that POA journals are far from gone from the academic landscape.

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Appendix A. Full list of blacklist criteria

This list of blacklist criteria is taken from <http://www.cabells.com/blacklist-criteria>.

A. Integrity	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The same article appears in more than one journal.2. Hijacked journal (defined as a fraudulent website created to look like a legitimate academic journal for the purpose of offering academics the opportunity to rapidly publish their research for a fee).3. Information received from the journal does not match the journal's website.4. The journal or publisher claims to be a non-profit when it is actually a for-profit company.5. The publisher hides or obscures relationships with for-profit partner companies.6. The owner/Editor of the journal or publisher falsely claims academic positions or qualifications.7. The journal is associated with a conference that has been identified as predatory.8. The journal gives a fake ISSN.9. Insufficient resources are spent on preventing and eliminating author misconduct (that may result in repeated cases of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, image manipulation, etc.).10. The name of the journal references a country or demographic that does not relate to the content or origin of the journal.11. The journal uses language that suggests that it is industry leading, but is in fact a new journal.12. The title of the journal is copied or so similar to that of a legitimate journal that it could cause confusion between the two.
B. Peer Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. No editor or editorial board listed on the journal's website at all.2. Editors do not actually exist or are deceased.3. The journal includes scholars on an editorial board without their knowledge or permission.4. The founder of the publishing company is the editor of all of the journals published by said company.5. Evident data showing that the editor/review board members do not possess academic expertise to reasonably qualify them to be publication gatekeepers in the journal's field.6. Have board members who are prominent researchers but exempt them from any contribution to the journal except the use of their names and/or photographs.7. Gender bias in the editorial board.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Little geographical diversity of board members and claim to be international. 9. Inadequate peer review (i.e., a single reader reviews submissions; peer reviewers read papers outside their field of study; etc.). 10. The journal's website does not have a clearly stated peer review policy.
<p>C. Website</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The website does not identify a physical address for the publisher or gives a fake address. 2. The journal or publisher uses a virtual office or other proxy business as its physical address. 3. The website does not identify a physical editorial address for the journal. 4. Dead links. 5. Poor grammar and/or spelling. 6. No way to contact the journal/only has web-form.
<p>D. Publication practices</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The journal publishes papers that are not academic at all, e.g. essays by laypeople or obvious pseudo-science. 2. No articles are published or the archives are missing issues and/or articles. 3. Falsely claims indexing in well-known databases (especially SCOPUS, DOAJ, JCR, and Cabell's). 4. Falsely claims universities or other organizations as partners or sponsors. 5. Machine-generated or other "sting" abstracts or papers are accepted. 6. No copyediting. 7. The publisher displays prominent statements that promise rapid publication and/or unusually quick peer review (less than 4 weeks). 8. Little geographical diversity of authors and the journal claims to be International. 9. Similarly titled articles published by same author in more than one journal. 10. The Editor publishes research in his own journal. 11. Authors are published several times in the same journal and/or issue. 12. The journal purposefully publishes controversial articles in the interest of boosting citation count. 13. The journal publishes papers presented at conferences without additional peer review. 14. The name of the publisher suggests that it is a society, academy, etc. when it is only a publisher and offers no real benefits to members. 15. The name of the publisher suggests that it is a society, academy, etc. when it is only a solitary proprietary

	operation and does not meet the definition of the term used or implied non-profit mission.
E. Indexing & Metrics	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The journal uses misleading metrics (i.e., metrics with the words “impact factor” that are not the Thomson Reuters Impact Factor). 2. The publisher or its journals are not listed in standard periodical directories or are not widely catalogued in library databases.
F. Fees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The publisher or journal's website seems too focused on the payment of fees. 2. The journal offers options for researchers to prepay APCs for future articles. 3. The journal states there is an APC or other fee but does not give information on the amount. 4. The journal or publisher offers membership to receive discounts on APCs but does not give information on how to become a member and/or on the membership fees. 5. The author must pay APC or publication fee before submitting the article (specifically calls the fee a publication fee, not a submission fee). 6. The journal does not indicate that there are any fees associated with publication, review, submission, etc. but the author is charged a fee after submitting a manuscript.
G. Access & Copyright	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. States the journal is completely open access but not all articles are openly available. 2. No way to access articles (no information on open access or how to subscribe). 3. No policies for digital preservation. 4. The journal has a poorly written copyright policy and/or transfer form that does not actually transfer copyright. 5. The journal publishes not in accordance with their copyright or does not operate under a copyright license.
H. Business Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Emails from journals received by researchers who are clearly not in the field the journal covers. 2. Multiple emails received from a journal in a short amount of time. 3. Emails received from a journal do not include the option to unsubscribe to future emails. 4. The journal has been asked to quit sending emails and has not stopped. 5. No subscribers / nobody uses the journal. 6. The journal or publisher operates in a Western country chiefly for the purpose of functioning as a vanity press for scholars in a developing country.

7. The journal's website does not allow web crawlers.
8. The journal copyproofs and locks PDFs.
9. The journal or publisher gives a business address in a Western country but the majority of authors are based in developing countries.

Appendix B. List of journals found on Cabells Journal Blacklist and violations reports

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
1	African Journal of Biochemistry Research	1996-0778	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	B1 No editor/editorial board listed C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D3 False claims indexing in databases G3 No policies digital preservation					
2	International Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences	2006-9723	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	B1 No editor/editorial board listed C1 No/fake physical address of publisher D2 No articles are published missing issues G3 No policies digital preservation					
3	Journal of Medical Laboratory and Diagnosis	2141-2618	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	B1 No editor/editorial board listed C1 No/fake physical address of publisher D2 No articles are published missing issues G3 No policies digital preservation					
4	International Journal of Sociology and Anthropology	2006-988X	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D8 Little geographical diversity of authors claims Internationality G3 No policies digital preservation					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
5	Journal of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development	2141-2170	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	B1 No editor/editorial board listed B5 Editors/reviewers possess no expertise C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D11 Authors published several times G3 No policies digital preservation					
6	Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology	2141-2316	No	Academic Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	B1 No editor/editorial board listed C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
7	Journal of Power, Politics & Governance	2372-4919	2372-4927	American Research Institute for Policy Development	NO	0	1
	Violations	A4 Falsely claims to be a non-profit A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C3 No editorial address C6 No way to contact/only web-form D3 False claims indexing in databases D14 Name pub. suggests society/academy/etc. is only a pub D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E2 Not in standard directories/not widely catalogued G3 No policies digital preservation					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
8	Asian Economic and Financial Review	2222-6737	2222-6737	Asian Economic and Social Society (AESS)	NO	0	1
	Violations	D3 False claims indexing in databases E1 Misleading metrics G3 No policies digital preservation					
9	Review of Economics & Finance	1923-7529	1923-8401	Better Advances Press	NO	0	1
	Violations	A3 Mismatch Information received/journal's website B1 No editor/editorial board listed C1 No/fake physical address of publisher D3 False claims indexing in databases D4 False claims partners or sponsors D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation G4 Poorly written policy/transfer form not transfer copyright					
10	Investment Management and Financial Innovations	1810-4967	1812-9358	Business Perspectives	NO	0	1
	Violations	D3 False claims indexing in databases D11 Authors published several times E1 Misleading metrics					
11	Environment and Natural Resources Research	1927-0488	1927-0496	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
12	Higher Education Studies	1925-4741	1925-475X	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	3
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					
13	International Journal of Psychological Studies	1918-7211	1918-722X	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					
14	International Journal of Statistics and Probability	1927-7032	1927-7040	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
15	Journal of Food Research	1927-0887	1927-0895	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	2
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					
16	Journal of Sustainable Development	1913-9063	1913-9071	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	2
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					
17	Global Journal of Health Science	1916-9736	1916-9744	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	2
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries					
18	International Journal of Economics and Finance	1916-971X	1916-9728	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
				H9 business address Western country authors developing countries			
19	Journal of Politics and Law (in ESCI)	1913-9047	1913-9055	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	1	2
	Violations			A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries			
20	Journal of Agricultural Science	1916-9752	1916-9760	Canadian Center of Science and Education	NO	0	1
	Violations			A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time H9 business address Western country authors developing countries			
21	International Journal of Business and Social Science	2219-1933	2219-6021	Center for Promoting Ideas	NO	0	1
	Violations			A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit B2 Editors not exist/deceased B3 Scholars on editorial board without permission C1 No/fake physical address of publisher C3 No editorial address D3 False claims indexing in databases D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D14 Name pub. suggests society/academy/etc. is only a pub G3 No policies digital preservation			

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
22	International Journal of Humanities and Social Science	2220-8488	2221-0989	Center for Promoting Ideas	NO	0	4
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit B2 Editors not exist/deceased B3 Scholars on editorial board without permission C1 No/fake physical address of publisher C3 No editorial address D3 False claims indexing in databases D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D14 Name pub. suggests society/academy/etc. is only a pub G3 No policies digital preservation H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered					
23	International Journal of Computers & Technology	2277-3061	No	CIRWORLD	NO	0	1
	Violations	C5 Poor grammar/spelling E1 Misleading metrics H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H3 Emails no option to unsubscribe					
24	Computer Technology and Application	1934-7332	1934-7340	David Publishing Company	NO	0	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
25	Journal of Civil Engineering and Architecture	1934-7359	1934-7367	David Publishing Company	NO	0	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
26	Journal of life sciences	1934-7391	1934-7405	David Publishing Company	NO	0	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
27	Journalism and Mass Communication	2160-6579	No	David Publishing Company	NO	0	2
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
28	Sociology Study	2159-5526	2159-5534	David Publishing Company	NO	0	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
29	US-China Foreign Language	1539-8080	1935-9667	David Publishing Company	NO	1	1
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					
30	US-China Law Review	1548-6605	1930-2061	David Publishing Company	NO	1	2
	Violations	C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
31	Psychology Research Violations	2159-5542	2159-5550	David Publishing Company	NO	0	1
							C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D2 No articles are published missing issues D3 False claims indexing in databases D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks G3 No policies digital preservation
32	International Geoinformatics Research and Development Journal (IGRDJ) Violations	0976-1241	No	Fundamental Journals	NO	n.a.	1
							C4 Dead links E1 Misleading metrics G3 No policies digital preservation
33	Global Advanced Research Journal of Medicine and Medical Sciences (GARJMMS) Violations	2315-5159	No	Global Advanced Research Journals	NO	0	1
							B6 Have prominent researchers in board only use names C1 No/fake physical address of publisher C3 No editorial address D3 False claims indexing in databases D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D11 Authors published several times G3 No policies digital preservation
34	Global Journal of Human-Social Science Violations	0975-587X	2249-460X	Global Journals, Inc.	NO	0	1
							A1 Article more > one journal A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A11 Suggests industry leading is new journal, but is a new journal B4 Founder of publishing company is editor of all its journals C1 No/fake physical address of publisher C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
40	Neuroimmunology and Neuroinflammation	2347-8659	No	OAE Publishing, Inc. (OAE) (OAE)	YES	0	1
	Violations	C1 No/fake physical address of publisher D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D10 Editor publishes research in journal D11 Authors published several times					
41	Anatomy & Physiology: Current Research	2161-0940	No	OMICS International	NO	n.a.	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
42	Journal of Blood Disorders & Transfusion	2155-9864	No	OMICS International	NO	1	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
43	Journal of anesthesia & clinical research	2155-6148	No	OMICS International	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
44	Journal of Clinical Trials	2167-0870	No	OMICS International	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
45	Journal of Diabetes & Metabolism (in ESCI)	2155-6156	No	OMICS International	NO	1	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
46	Clinics in Mother and Child Health	2090-7214	No	OMICS Journals	NO	n.a.	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
47	Journal of Food Processing & Technology	2157-7110	No	OMICS Journals	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit A7 Associated predatory conference B2 Editors not exist/deceased D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees H1 Emails from journals clearly not in the field covered H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
48	Journal of Biometrics & Biostatistics Open Access	2155-6180	No	OMICS International	NO	0	3
	Violations	D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D11 Authors published several times E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
49	Journal of Mass Communication & Journalism Open Access	2165-7912	No	OMICS International	NO	0	1
	Violations	A1 Article more > one journal A9 Insufficient resources preventing author misconduct D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D11 Authors published several times E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
50	Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs Open Access	2332-0761	No	OMICS International	NO	0	1
	Violations	B6 Have prominent researchers in board only use names D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks E1 Misleading metrics F6 Surprise fees G3 No policies digital preservation H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
51	Clinical Investigation	2041-6792	No	Open Access Journals (OMICS International)	NO	1	2
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit B10 Website no clear review policy C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address					
52	Journal of Global Research in Computer Science	2229-371X	No	Research & Reviews (OMICS International)	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit B10 Website no clear review policy C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address					
53	Applied Economics and Finance	2332-7294	2332-7308	Redfame Publishing	NO	n.a.	1
	Violations	A3 Mismatch Information received/journal's website A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit B10 Website no clear review policy D7 Promises rapid publication/quick peer review < 4 weeks D11 Authors published several times					
54	The Business Review, Cambridge	1553-5827	No	Scholarly Journals and Academic Conferences	NO	0	1
	Violations	A10 Mismatch name of the journal/content or origin B4 Founder of publishing company is editor of all its journals C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address D3 False claims indexing in databases					
55	International Journal of Financial Research	1923-4023	1923-4031	Sciedu Press	NO	0	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address					
56	International Journal of Healthcare	2377-7338	2377-7346	Sciedu Press	NO	n.a.	1
	Violations	A5 Pub. hides/obscures relationships with for-profit C2 Virtual office proxy business as physical address					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB-SHW VIII
62	International Journal of Economic Issues	0974-603X	No	Serials Publications	NO	1	3
	Violations	A1 Article more > one journal B10 Website no clear review policy D8 Little geographical diversity of authors claims Internationality G1 Claims open access not all articles open G3 No policies digital preservation G4 Poorly written policy/transfer form not transfer copyright H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
63	International Journal of Technology Modeling and Management	0975-7171	No	Serials Publications	NO	1	1
	Violations	B10 Website no clear review policy C5 Poor grammar/spelling D2 No articles are published missing issues G1 Claims open access not all articles open G3 No policies digital preservation G4 Poorly written policy/transfer form not transfer copyright H2 Multiple emails in short amount of time					
64	WSEAS Transactions on Applied and Theoretical Mechanics	1991-8747	2224-3429	World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society	NO	0	2
	Violations	A4 Falsely claims to be a non-profit A7 Associated predatory conference D15 Name pub. suggests society/academy/etc. no non-profit mission G3 No policies digital preservation					
65	WSEAS Transactions on Environment and Development	1790-5079	2224-3496	World Scientific and Engineering Academy and Society	NO	0	3
	Violations	A4 Falsely claims to be a non-profit A7 Associated predatory conference D9 Similarly titled articles in > 1 journal					

No.	Journal title	ISSN (print)	EISSN (Electronic)	Publisher	Indexed in DOAJ	VABB-SHW status	N publications to VABB- SHW VIII
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D15 Name pub. suggests society/academy/etc. no non-profit mission

G3 No policies digital preservation