

## **An informal note *on* bad journals to avoid!**

**Md. Atiqur Rahman Ahad**

It is an informal note on - how to find a crap journal, and how to select where to submit. It is a dilemma to decide indeed. Need more search to find more options and decide.

Few random points on crap/bad journals to avoid: 😊

1. See the editorial board / committee. If it is with good people, then you can trust. But some of journals add people who are not even aware of it. Some journals mention 'email of editor', etc. Click to email - if the email is directed to non-personal address, then this is a key that it may be a crap journal.
2. See formatting of already published papers, images, & quality of the works.
3. See the duration of acceptance of a paper - if too short - then, usually not good. Good/medium journals take few months ~ year to review. Yes, some good publishers do quick review but very few.
4. See the no. of papers - if too many accepted papers per year, then, think twice as usually, new journals get less papers.
5. See the age of the publishing group or the journal, and whether they are publishing too many different journals from the same group within a short period of time.
6. Make sure that the publisher is well-known and at least - some of their journals are already indexed in SCOPUS or Web of Science [having Impact factor from genuine - Thompson Reuters]
7. If you find IF [impact factor] or other scoring names in that journal site that are not from genuine Thompson Reuters [who provides this IF] - then you know!
8. If the publisher is a university [of course, a good university, having good publication track] or a national/international Govt.-approved Society - then, at least, it is not a bad source.

Note that journals can be top-rated, good, medium, poor, or rubbish. You can select the ranks of journals based on the 'rank'/quality of your work. If it is a good work and have original idea with better/comparable results, then try with top-rated journals to get some feedback. If it is a poor work, try with a poor journal but make sure that it has authenticity. E.g., *DU Journal of Science* has been publishing for several decades and publishing 2 issues per year - from the Science Faculty of DU. Now, it has no rank, no indexing, let alone IF. Still it is from an authentic source and if your work is not good, you can try here. Similarly, you can find and decide.

If your work is medium/good - try in new/recently-started journals from IEEE/ Springer/ Elsevier/ Taylor&Francis/ Sage ... and so on.

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Anyway, cut your coat, as per the cloths. *Select your level of journal, as per the quality of your work.* But **be courageous – submit to good a journal.** If it is not *desk-rejected*, then it will be reviewed by related experts usually, and most of the cases, you will get some good feedback, shortcomings of your works, new dimension or thought-provoking points, etc. – from where you can build your work to improve in future.

Some journal publishers make the publisher names or journal names - almost similar to a well-known good one - so that some may be confused. Note that online-only is a not a bad thing now - even *nature, IEEE, OSA, Elsevier*, etc. have now online-only journals (e.g., *Scientific Reports* by nature publishing group, *IEEE Access* by IEEE). At the same time, if a journal has printed version from a 'bad' publisher or BUSINESS group, it should be avoided.

**Note that one good publication is much better than 100 crap journals.**

I wish I publish in top journals regularly. Myself & my students must work hard. Am I dreaming & trying really hard? What about you?! 😊 Let's try more... 😊

*Best regards,*

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## Plan to submit & attend: 8<sup>th</sup> ICIEV & 3<sup>rd</sup> IVPR 2019

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