



Response to letter to the editor from Fahmi Kakamad, Abdulwahid Salih, and Hiwa Omer Baba Re: Citations of articles in predatory nursing journals

Thank you for your letter about our study on citations to predatory nursing journals (Oermann, et al., 2019). Many valid criticisms have been raised about Beall's list and similar lists, and authors need to be careful when using them, as we have been in our studies. While these lists can provide a beginning point to identify publishers and journals with deceptive practices and low-quality journals, authors need to assess journals themselves before submitting a manuscript. These lists are not a substitute for an author's obligation to participate in journal "due diligence" (Nicoll & Chinn, 2015).

Our citation analysis study builds on earlier work we did to better understand predatory journals in nursing. In our original study, we used Beall's list to identify publishers (not journals) and then searched each publisher's website to identify journal titles that included the term "nursing." We identified 140 nursing journals and then reviewed each of those journals using a form we developed based on editorial and publishing standards. For example, we evaluated the peer review process, editor and editorial board characteristics, indexing, and the transparency of the article processing charge, among others (Oermann, et al., 2016). Beall's list was a starting point that allowed us to screen the publishers, but we assessed the characteristics of each of the nursing journals to determine if it was a predatory journal. In our second study, we evaluated the quality of articles in those journals based on eight quality indicators (Oermann, et al., 2018).

The seven journals in our current study had been evaluated in our prior work as reflecting characteristics of a predatory journal. Recently, Cobey et al. (2018) conducted a scoping review to define characteristics of predatory journals, and Memon (2019) suggested criteria for deceptive vs. low-quality vs. high-quality open access journals. The seven journals in our citation analysis study reflect the characteristics and criteria of predatory, or deceptive, journals.

Drs. Kakamad, Salih, and Baba have recommended Kscien's lists for identifying predatory publishers and journals; other lists are also available. Nurse authors need to investigate the journals themselves before they submit a manuscript. Some potential nursing journals for submission may not meet the criteria of a predatory journal, but may be of low quality. As we continue to shift to open access, we also do not want nurses assuming that every journal that is open access is a predatory journal. Nurses need to be cautious about the journals they rely on for evidence as well as those to which they submit their manuscripts. Our ultimate goal is to educate nurses so they can make informed decisions.

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Available online 24 August 2019

0029-6554/\$ – see front matter

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2019.07.006>