

Fake Peer Review & Fake Journals: Prevent Dr. Fraud from Publishing

Zannatul Ferdous Shammi, Md. Mahadi Hasan, Md. Thuhid Noor

Abstract—The purpose of the paper is to create awareness among young and prominent researchers especially newcomers. In this paper, we try to provide an overview of fake peer review and its associated facts so that everyone can look into this and justify the authenticity. We also recommend the researchers to have the clear understanding of authentic journals. Based on the recommendations, a researcher can clearly make a decision to an extent regarding any journal whether they are fake or not.

Index Terms— Fake, peer review, impact factor.

1 INTRODUCTION

Fake peer review means falsify and fabricate the peer review process. In simple words, Peer review is the process before publishing any scholarly works that tends to subject an author's scholarly work, research or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are expert in the same field. Before choosing a particular journal to publish scholarly work, authors always search for a good journal which has considerably high impact factors. In scientific publications, An Impact factor of a journal refers to the measure of the frequency with which the average article in a journal has been cited in a particular year. Sometimes a remarkable number of authors gets trapped in the fake journal because these counterfeit online journals dupe authors with their false impact factors.

It is not that easy to publish a paper in a peer-reviewed journal. Sometimes it is too costly and matter of time to find a potential reviewer to review any specific types of paper. Sometimes fraud author often got caught up reviewing their own paper. When Henry Fountain wrote a splendid report, Science Journal Pulls 60 papers in peer review fraud. [The New York Times] Thus, it might have encouraged some authors to publish research paper regarding that scam to raise

awareness among editors and authors. Furguston, Marcus, and Oransky (2014) told on their paper that the peer review fraud was encountered by the editor of the Journal of Enzyme Inhibitor, Because of the short turnaround of peer reviewing process. Fanelle (2009), found a way to know the number of scientists who fabricate and falsify research. Hung (2015), Told on his paper, the publisher Springer retracted 64 articles from 10 different subscription journals “after editorial cheeks spotted fake email addresses and subsequent internal investigations uncovered”. Teixeira da silva (2017) gave some recommendation to detect the peer review fraud. But the recommended approaches weren't enough scientific and realistic. In this paper, we are going through in a scientific and data-based approach to detect the peer review fraud.

2.1 IDENTIFICATION OF FRAUD EDITOR

- The owner of the journal is the sole editor of the journal.
- The editor has no expertise in any particular research field.
- Editor concealed his/her educational background and proper affiliation.
- No formal editorial board or co-editor board.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF FAKE PEER REVIEWER

Fake peer reviewers could be fully curtailed if sufficient checks and balances are in place even before peer review be-

- Zannatul Ferdous Shammi has just completed her bachelors degree program in economics from Southeast University, Bangladesh, PH-+8801622820189. E-mail: zannatul_shammi@yahoo.com
- Md. Mahadi Hasan is currently pursuing bachelors degree program in economics in Southeast University, Bangladesh, PH-+8801791969357. E-mail: hkmahadihasan@gmail.com
- Md Thuhid Noor, Lecturer, Southeast University, Bangladesh, ph-+8801738386422, E-mail: thuhidnoor@gmail.com

gins:

(I) Check that the name and corresponding email of a peer reviewer is valid, so if a famous scientist who has a universityname.edu email account is suddenly presented with a Gmail or Yahoo account, then be suspicious and immediately reject that choice.

(II) Make sure that peers are truly peers and that they know their rights and their responsibilities.

(III) Ensure that the peer reviewers do not have any COIs with the authors, or with the editors.

(IV) Conduct double-blind peer review but consider making the peer review reports open access (i.e., open peer review) to maximize accountability of authors and peer reviewers at the post-publication peer review (PPPR) stage.

(V) Do not allow strings, hoaxes to be published, or authors with fake or pseudonymous or anonymous identities.

(VI) Be prepared to accommodate PPPR into the publishing model but be careful of possible COIs and hidden agendas of the science watchdogs, including an anti-science stance.

2.3 IDENTIFICATION OF FAKE JOURNALS

Fake journals could be identified with the following symptoms:

- a) Journals accept papers instantly.
- b) Usages of non-institutional emails.
- c) Showing false impact factor.
- d) Illogical indexing.
- e) Wrong and fake affiliations.
- f) Short turnover of peer review process.
- g) A considerable number of volume and issues but lack of any influential paper on any field.
- h) Accepts paper with language problem such as grammatical errors, lack of proper punctuation remarks and so on and so forth.
- i) Journal has a higher ratio of self-citations.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RESEARCHERS'

Researchers should be aware of publishing papers. The notable recommendations given below will be useful.

Authors and others often want to obtain quantitative measures of journals' quality and to know how different journals compare in these measures. Two common databases that track systematically citation data of journals and compute measures of quality based on these data are Journal Citation Reports in ISI Web of Knowledge (JCR), and SCImago Journal & Country Rank (SCImago), which is based on the Scopus database. Each of the two databases includes many journals in economics and the overlap between the two databases is very large. The correlation between impact factors in SCImago and JCR is very large (about 0.99 in a sample I took of 64 economics journals).

World class journals have reputation regarding publications. For example, the following journals always follow standard procedure for publications. Those are a) American Economic Association b) Emerald c) Taylor & Franchise d) Elsevier e) Willy Publications and so on.

Three indexes are used widely: a) Thompson Reuters Index b) Scopus Index c) ABDC Index.

Moreover, a researcher should consider the score of impact factor and affiliations while selecting any journal. Our firm conviction is that a researcher should consider giving recommendations before publishing any paper.

4 CONCLUSION

If any researcher sends his or her paper to classified journals, they put certain conditions for quality assurance. Thus, it takes time and young researchers are very impatient for publications. This impatience increases the chances of publishing any paper in fake journals. These fake journals have fake review

systems and they do not have such reviewers. They only use the names of the reviewers. One devastation thing we discovered that few reviewers are even no longer in the universe listed as reviewers. Last but not least we should be very careful about publishing any research work.

REFERENCES

- [1] *Silva. J. A. T. d., ken. K. Fake peer reviews, fake identities, fake accounts, fake data: beware!*
- [2] *journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-socio-economics/news/editorial-the-impact-factor-and-ranking*
- [3] *nytimes.com/2014/07/11/science/science-journal-pulls-60-papers-in-peer-review-fraud.html*
- [4] *nature.com/news/publishing-the-peer-review-scam-1.16400*
- [5] *Fanelli. D. How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data*
- [6] *Haug. C. J. Peer-Review Fraud – Hacking the Scientific Publication Process*

IJSER