



PLAGIARISM AND HIJACKED JOURNALS: A CASE REVIEW

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Abstract:

Conventional research on plagiarism and hijacked journals reviews notions of predatory practices questioning ease of publication, inadequate peer review, publication cost, inappropriate web page, language quality, Open Access and other publication characteristics, intended to expose unethical publishing traps. Nevertheless, lawless publishers proliferate. One objective of this case review is to separate the commonly identifiable low quality and lack of ethical behavior of some journal management versus what is or appears to be an illegitimate trend: the redistribution of plagiarized papers by hijacked sites for profit. There is a clear distinction between the careless work of students who may be unskilled in recognizing plagiarism and authors who become prey to reckless, predatory rogue publishers who republish, replace and edit authors' names and rights as a business of deception. Such illegitimate activity is further complicated by cross-border legal controversies. A student's mistake or misrepresentation is corrected by a negative mark or expulsion from an institution. Whereas some predatory journals may institute marginal practices to attract authors with obscure and negligent traps that do not constitute criminality. Therefore, misjudgment may unfold into a legal gray area, giving way to marginalizing some articles, authors and publishers, presumably for the wrong reasons.

Keywords: fraudulent publishers, hijacked sites, illicit associated networks, predatory journals

Resumen:

La investigación convencional relativa al plagio y revistas secuestradas analiza las prácticas depredadoras, cuestionando la facilidad de publicación, la revisión inadecuada por pares, el costo de publicación, las inapropiadas páginas web, la calidad del lenguaje, el acceso abierto y otras características de publicación, con el fin de exponer algunas trampas de publicaciones poco ética. Sin embargo, proliferan las editoriales que actúan al margen de la ley. Uno de los objetivos de este análisis de un caso es diferenciar la baja

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calidad y la falta de ética comúnmente identificadas en la gestión de algunas revistas de lo que es, o parece ser, una tendencia ilegítima: la redistribución de artículos plagiados por sitios web secuestrados con fines de lucro. Existe una clara distinción entre el trabajo descuidado de estudiantes que pueden carecer de la habilidad para reconocer el plagio y los autores que se convierten en víctimas de editoriales deshonestas y depredadoras que republican, reemplazan y editan los nombres y derechos de los autores como parte de un negocio de engaño. Esta actividad ilegítima se complica aún más por las controversias legales transfronterizas. Un error o una declaración falsa por parte de un estudiante se corrige con una calificación negativa o la expulsión de la institución. Si bien algunas revistas depredadoras pueden recurrir a prácticas marginales para atraer autores mediante trampas oscuras y negligentes, eso no constituye un crimen. Por lo tanto, un error de juicio puede originarse en una zona gris legal dando lugar a una marginación de ciertos artículos, autores y editores, presumiblemente por motivos injustificados.

Palabras clave: editores fraudulentos, sitios web pirateados, redes asociadas ilícitas, revistas depredadoras

1. Introduction

Students and authors are targeted by fraudulent or hijacked sites, rogue publishers and predatory journals that cross legal and ethical boundaries for profit. To avoid such traps and deceptions, information tools are essential for students and researchers as a first step to identify illegitimate and unethical publications. Considering that journals worldwide exceed 46,736, (Curcic, 2023), it is mathematically possible that predatory practices, plagiarism and other related cybercrimes are business as usual for thousands of competing illegitimate journals worldwide. There seems to be an ethical void and a regulatory gap to focus on fraudulent sites, predatory journals and rogue publishers as they continue to operate and grow within organized illicit networks. Guidelines such as the Bealls List and the Predatory Journals List (1/2026), which reports 2,780 predatory journals and 1,363 predatory publishers, benefit students and researchers in identifying some predatory journals. Nonetheless, to prevent falling into a publishers' trap, predatory characteristics should be studied, and other online tools should be considered and consulted, such as Compass to Publish, DOAJ, MIAR, Stop Predatory Journals, Think. Check. Submit and others.

2. Background on personal plagiarism cases

Ned Kock (1999) refers to a personal case involving plagiarism of his published article. Kock refers to Plag as the author who plagiarized his article: a segment of an email by Plag reads: *"I am extremely sorry for my mistake. I sincerely apologize for this grave mistake"*. (Kock, 1999, p. 101). Eventually, Plag's tenure ended, and Ned Kock wrote: *"Perhaps the best way to prevent cases like Plag's from being more common than they are is to publicize and discuss them as widely as possible"* (p.102). The Ned Kock case, by today's standards, would

be, if at all, considered a simple case of mistaken plagiarism or close paraphrasing. Fast track to 2026, and this case review follows Koch's footsteps in discussing as much as possible. What today is referred to as networks of rogue publishers has evolved from plagiarism, close paraphrasing and predatory journals into a complex industry of racketeering. Alternatively, the numerical growth of journals supposes a need for competitive publishers where legitimate, low-cost and quality academic journals are of interest and benefit to authors.

3. A single plagiarized case led to predatory criminal networks

A predatory publisher who republishes, altering title and authorship, commits a serious offense where corrections are a challenge to amend at a national and international level. The shared redistribution of unauthorized others' work by rogue publishers and collaborating journals becomes an associated or illicit network in a for-profit racketeering enterprise. The cost, quality and impact of publishing an article are separate academic non-criminal circumstances. This review emerges from a specific case and how one illicit activity was endorsed in plain sight, while a slight shift in focus led from a rogue publisher to hijacked networks. In Jeffrie Bealle (2017, p. 277), *"The once-proud scholarly publishing industry is in a state of rapid decline"*. Whereas the statement is debatable, there is an element of truth. This review examines plagiarism, predatory practices, fraudulent journals, hijacked journals and rogue publishers' whose unethical objective is to maximize profit outside legal and ethical parameters. In the past two decades, science and communication technologies have grown exponentially 2018-2022, 22.78% (Curcic, 2023), and so has cybercrime, as plagiarism continues to economically benefit rogue publishers. Accordingly, rogue publishers today have entered into a more complex stage of market competitiveness, with a diverse online presence overreaching ethical boundaries while exploiting the same academic tools and technologies available to students, researchers and institutions. In our review of rogue publishers, the entire papers have been plagiarized verbatim, republished or duplicated, and, given the needs and conditions, are shared among associated journals. Keep in mind that these published papers examined are not preprint versions, thus providing a specific area of research.

4. How a single plagiarized verbatim case is republished

A single case rapidly escalated into interconnected cases, revealing numerous collaborative illicit networks sharing publications. This inquiry began in late 2025 as this author read the title and content of an article which cited his own work. To his surprise, it was a plagiarized verbatim copy of one of his articles. Intrigued by the fact that the new authors were chemists, when the original author is a Cultural Heritage Historian, the publisher was contacted. Ionel Liu, the chief editor of the plagiarizing publication, was contacted on two occasions, December 26, 2025 and January 13, 2026, with no response to date. Such a direct initial contact is now considered a mistake, so only one other interconnected journal in this study has been contacted. Why a mistake? It was noticed

within days that the plagiarized published article by “*Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering, AASE*” (a hijacked site) had been removed from the AASE online presence; only traces remain online. Consequently, AASE is a participant in all the cases reviewed, sharing a systemic path within cooperating and associated journals. At the time of contact, the AASE had an archive dating from over 120 months with over 500 articles. That archive is likely already redistributed to associated networks as our research traces how such distribution takes place.

5. Characteristics of rogue publishers and fraudulent sites: what they do and how

- Unclear home and/or geographical location,
- Fraudulent use of legal name and/or ISSN of legitimate organizations,
- Fraudulent use of the legal name of institutions and universities,
- Complex copyright transfers to publishers leading to redistribution and illicit sales,
- The chief editor is a name, not a person (is a fake),
- Editors listed may be unaware of a publisher's operations (or fake),
- The publisher is an assumed make-believe user of a public or private trade name (a fraud),
- Advertises as a high-quality specialist but will publish anything for a fee,
- Advertises a high impact factor,
- Advertises peer review but undertakes none,
- Empty archives and/or unavailable issues,
- Replaces authors and titles of published articles at will and republishes,
- Duplicate articles within the same archive and/or ushered into associated journal archives,
- Openly distributes plagiarized works within operating networks,
- Plagiarized works may also form part of organized networks sharing archives,
- At-will retraction and online site removal tools.

6. Theoretical research fundamentals

- The motivation behind this review arises from verbatim plagiarism of one article, leading to other related operational patterns and features of rogue publishers' criminal activities. It became clear that the violation(s) were more than a simple case of plagiarism. The damage to authors and general liability progressed from a fraudulent publisher and their unethical publication activities into a complex trend of illicit tactics within networks.
- A primary objective of this case review is to provide a clearer awareness of the interactive business of plagiarism within international cybercrime network specialists. This objective is achieved by pinpointing operational features with clear examples, to identify characteristics and traps commonly used by fraudulent and associated sites. In doing so, students and authors may effortlessly identify

rogue publishers and the dangers of plagiarism as a learning experience. On the other hand, if your article is picked up by an illicit network, your options change. At such a crossroad, the author, the original publisher and the host would need to follow legal and administrative options.

- The methodology implemented in this case review is a basic sample and illustrative exhibit. The review studies associated cases while examining the international business of criminal distribution of plagiarized verbatim works, its reach, adaptation and mobility across borders. A basic research framework builds upon understanding the elements of illicit trends and operational strategies of fraudulent sites and rogue publishers. The sample and illustrative features present a clear recognizable trend. The basic sample and illustrative study limit the depth and reach that would otherwise lead to a more sizable finding of fraudulent publishers and journals.

The interconnected cases simplify the understanding and levels of association between rogue publishers, fraudulent sites, and hijackers possessing operational tools and network resilience to rename, retitle, republish and redistribute articles at will on multiple platforms worldwide. Note that the first case was identified over two years after the plagiarized publication by AASE (hijacked name) was available online. Time favors these networks that distribute outside copyright law, prompting long-term exploitation while profiting. Damages are inflicted on institutions, universities, professors, researchers, authors, students and anyone who is remotely connected to these journal publishers and their criminal associates. Since only full textual plagiarized works were considered, the scope limitations benefit our study. If ideas, paragraphs and so on were considered, the mathematical proportional increase of plagiarism and related illegitimate applications would be considerable. The basic sample and exhibit feature provide a learning objective to help prevent the traps of predatory journals.

7. Plagiarized verbatim case review

The first case (1) is the author's original research publication available from Google Scholar, Zenodo, ResearchGate and other platforms. And, (2) the plagiarized article republished by *Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering*, AASE.

- 1) Randle Sloan-Toraño. (2019): Caribbean History and Heritage Crisis Resulting from Generic Standardization and Substitution of the Native Borinqueños, Boriquans or Boricuas of Puerto Rico Subsequent to Suspicious Taino Research. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2578261>
- 2) Johnson¹, E., & Smith², R. (2023): The Cultural Erosion of Borinqueños: Heritage Crisis in Puerto Rico Following Questionable Taíno Research. *Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering*, AASE.

The rearranged title and author(s) of the total plagiarized verbatim article by AASE publication (Volume 14, No 6, 2023) were attributed to:

Emily Johnson¹, & Robert Smith².

¹Department of Chemistry, University of Sydney, Australia

²Department of Chemistry, University of California, Los Angeles, USA

A Google Search accessed on (2/23/2026): *The 2023 paper by Emily Johnson and Robert Smith, titled "The Cultural Erosion of Borinqueños: Heritage Crisis in Puerto Rico Following Questionable Taíno Research," published in Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering (AASE), argues that the standardization of the term "Taíno" has led to a crisis in understanding and preserving the authentic indigenous heritage of Puerto Rico.* ^A Academia.edu +1

It became clear that the UCLA and Sydney universities and the authors had no direct responsibility for the AASE plagiarized publication. An inquiry into the Department of Chemistry at the University of California, Los Angeles, yielded Dr. Robert A. Smith, who died in 2018. Whereas there are other R. Smiths at the university, none are at the Chemistry Department. The question of how criminal networks choose articles to deceive authors, universities and other institutions to fit their own activities requires further research. Just as significant is that students are at risk and may even fall prey to the likes of AASE and associated networks for lack of information. UCLA and the University of Sydney will be notified as soon as this article is published, so they may pursue their own inquiry. Perhaps some institutional mechanisms are in place to track this level of plagiarism and racketeering diversity in order to safeguard all stakeholders.

8. Implications from an author's perspective

As authors pursue publishing their research, they place trust in publishers. For example, self-funded authors face cost savings and quality issues single-handedly in an endless world of journal options within a highly competitive academic and publishing world. In such a scenario, authors may become vulnerable before and after they have already invested substantial time, resources and realized choices to ultimately submit an article to a legitimate publisher. An author values his/hers work and aims to add knowledge following ethical publishing and academic guidelines; no one expects to fall prey to rogue publishers.

9. What is a long-term profitable venture

In many countries around the world, \$300.00 a month is a good personal salary. A journal that publishes 10 articles a month at a \$100 APC in one such country can afford one or two experienced technologists to maintain publishing software systems. If the APC is incrementally higher per accepted submission, the potentially higher profit will support a higher salary for engaged employees facilitating a publishing and online distribution network. Therefore, geographically distant associated networks can share publications and archives directly through office management. By managing plagiarized publications at will, rogue publishers develop archives to fit specific models in order to trap and attract authors.

10. What about publishers' size

In Nishikawa-Pacher (2022), the author summarises data on the largest 100 journal publishers worldwide. One important aspect is that the Nishikawa-Pacher (2022) list identifies predatory practices in 28% of the publishers. The top 5 publishers are said to publish around 12,248 journals, which equates to around 22% of the world's journals, standing at around 46,736, (Curcic, 2023). A further inquiry into the scientific ecosystem of the 28% predatory practices within the top 100 journals may provide a clearer understanding and guidelines. Once again, the mathematical implications in plain sight are enormous in a group with a higher APC norm.

11. Publication choices, ethical values, location and criminal activity

Naturally, there is nothing wrong with a low APC or distant geographical publishing options if quality, legal and ethical values are met. As research advances, it may gain advantages from choices, features and values of new and evolving technologies under normal conditions. A pathway via AI or IT benefiting from Open Science, Open Data, Open Access and other technical advancements may provide advantages — yet not without challenges. This review is not about discussing the advantages or disadvantages of new technologies and enterprise fit. For example, AI poses a high risk for the future of publications in more than one front, but it is not our current subject. In turn, we discuss the disadvantages to authors from identifiable features of rogue publishers. Rogue publishers use interoffice technologies and office management to share publications and archives with associated networks. Nonetheless, a publisher who replaces or alters authors' names, dates and titles, to handle reproduction and redistribution of articles, is involved in a criminal activity. Whereas financial gain is generally identified by large quantifiable money transfers in some countries with low per capita income, that is not the case. In Nishikawa-Pacher (2022), 28% of the top publishers are involved in some form of predatory practice, yet they charge a higher APC for publishing. A continuous targeted revenue of small amounts of money is profitable by accumulation in the short and long term in some countries. Additionally, undetected plagiarized research benefits predatory rogue publishers and journals to gain authors' submissions while adding to the archives of established redistribution networks' original works. Thus, original and unpublished papers end up mixed within the archives of criminal, fraudulent and predatory journals whose operational limits bypass copyright laws and legal parameters. In other words, regardless of quality and high APC by some top publishers and universities, all published articles are fair prey to rogue publishers and hijacked sites.

12. Ethical choices and end result

A historian understands that a library without books is hardly a library. In (Bornmann, & Daniel, 2007): *In other words, it pays for researchers to publish more than one paper per study.*

However, not all forms of multiple publication practices are held to be ethically acceptable". (p. 1105). There is an understandable standard and ethical obligation between authors and legitimate publishers. The republication practice without the knowledge or consent of the author is illegitimate; the deplorable practice of replacing authors' names within fraudulent networks is a criminal act. The aggressive advancement of illegitimate networks seems to find victims as choices by authors fail to identify rogue publishers' traps.

13. Business models and incentives

Publishers attract authors with low-cost APC or publication fees, falsely high impact factor, peer review and quality standards. While at the same time, as a bonus, they provide high visibility exposure by AcademiaEdu, DOAJ, CrossRef, EBSCO, Google Scholar, ResearchGate, SCOPUS, Zenodo and other legitimate platforms. In all fairness, accessible or low APC is not synonymous with predatory journals, rogue publishers or representatives of a quality deficiency. That is true of Ecuador, India, Iraq, Iran, the Philippines, Turkey and many other countries around the world with high quality research and academic standards. It is understandable that legitimate high standard journal publications with low or no APC provide services hand in hand in geographical areas where unknown numbers of unidentified, unethical and criminal predatory networks operate for a profit.

14. Plagiarised republication and shared articles

The second case arises from a closer look at the AASE archive and one article: *Advanced TIC Techniques for Optimizing Energy Storage in Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems*. An article search produced a total of 6 publishers of the same article exhibiting title modifications and/or author(s) changes, followed by a plagiarized verbatim paper endorsed by Open Access and Creative Commons licensing. Examining the three authors in Google Scholar, John Doe, Maximillian Bauer & Elena Petrovna produced two results. The two results linked the 6 publishers to AASE, in turn giving way to the third upcoming case. The interactivity among these journals and the shared systemic operational structures provides an insight into the reach of rogue publishers. Once again, we limited this segment to the 6 publishers; others were excluded. If more in-depth research had been undertaken, results would be much more extensive, identifying a higher number of fraudulent, predatory journals and networks.

1. John Doe, Maximillian Bauer & Elena Petrovna, (2023). Advanced TIC Techniques for Optimizing Energy Storage in Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems. *Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering* ISSN: 1674-8190, (AASE, Volume 14, No 6). A copy has been saved.
2. John Doe, Maximillian Bauer & Elena Petrovna (2025). Advanced TIC Techniques for Optimizing Energy Storage in Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems. *Advances in*

Aeronautical Science and Engineering ISSN: 1674-8190 (AASE, Volume 16, No 9). A copy has been saved.

3. John Doe, Maximillian Bauer & Elena Petrovna (2025). Advanced TIC Techniques for Optimizing Energy Storage in Hybrid Renewable Energy Systems. *Granja Journal* ISSN: 1390-8596, (Page No:- 12 – 22, Vol, 8, issue 8, aug 2025). (a hijacked journal) A copy has been saved.
4. Ranjan, R. (2024). TIC-Driven Optimization of Energy Storage for Enhanced Hybrid Renewable Energy Performance. *Acervo*, 6(05), 2024. (Not in their archive). Was available from Google Scholar co-publication by, *Acervo - e-ahuri*. A copy has been saved.
5. Ranjan, R. (2025). TIC-Driven Optimization of Energy Storage for Enhanced Hybrid Renewable Energy Performance. *AHURI archive* (Volume 18 Issue 4, 2025 | Page No: 1) (DOI: 10.87349/ahuri/180401). A copy has been saved.
6. Rajeev Ranjan, (2025). TIC-Driven Optimization of Energy Storage for Enhanced Hybrid Renewable Energy Performance. *AHURI Final Report Journal* | ISSN: 1834-7223. A copy has been saved.
7. Ranjan, R. (2024). TIC-Driven Optimization of Energy Storage for Enhanced Hybrid Renewable Energy Performance. *Acervo*, 6(05), 2024. (linked to #7 and #8, below).
8. Another associated journal in Google Scholar: The (PDF) from Acervo name englettj.com opens into; *Engineering Letters* || ISSN 1816-0948 || VOL_16 ISSUE_09 2025 (indexed in Scopus, WoS). A copy has been saved.
9. Another associated journal in Google Scholar: The (PDF) from Acervo opens into, *Haut* | ISSN: 0938 - 2216 | Vol. 23, Issue 6 | 2025. A copy has been saved.

There are three R Ranjan authors within the same scientific field with over 65 thousand citations among them. It appears that their names may have been fraudulently used. In this second case, journals share one plagiarized verbatim article, with author, title and date changes. Some articles exhibit two journal names.

15. Second case list of associated journals

- 1) AAEE (fraudulent site),
- 2) Acervo Journal,
- 3) AHURI final report (fraudulent site),
- 4) Engineering Letters,
- 5) Granja Journal (fraudulent site),
- 6) Haut (Promotes years covered by Scopus, yet archives between 2003 and 2022 are empty).

16. How it all comes together; fraudulent sites or hijacked names used by criminal networks

- 1) Original Journal; *Advances in Aeronautical Engineering* is also known by the following name, in DOAJ; Hangkong gongcheng jinzhan, *Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering (AASE)*. It is an academic journal supervised by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China and jointly sponsored by Northwestern Polytechnical University and the Chinese Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Domestic #CN 61-1479/V, and its international standard serial publication number is ISSN 1674-8190
- 2) Fraudulent site; *Advances in Aeronautical Science and Engineering (AASE, ISSN: 1674-8190)*. This site does not recognize the domestic #CN 61-1479/V.
- 3) Original Journal; *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI)*, doi:10.18408/ahuri-8107301 Publisher web/DOI <https://doi.org/10.18408/ahuri5328401>. AHURI is a national independent research network with an expert not-for-profit research management company, AHURI Limited, at its center. This is the only organisation in Australia dedicated exclusively to housing, homelessness, (...). Address; Level 12, 460 Bourke Street Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia, information@ahuri.edu.au. As advertised on one of their web pages.
- 4) Fraudulent site; *AHURI final report (e.issn, 1834-7223)*. Advertises as their publisher the; *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute*. It has recently vanished after being reported to the research program of AHURI as per line item #3.
- 5) Original Journal; *La Granja Universidad Politécnica Salesiana* of Ecuador is a real journal whose name and identity have been hijacked.
- 6) Fraudulent site, *Granja Journal*: Is a fraudulent network operating out of Ecuador and perhaps other geographical areas under a false identity.

17. Reviewing one journal randomly leads to other findings

The third case emerges from a random examination of journals already associated with the AASE and/or the AHURI final report to identify any unusual characteristics. For example, Acervo was already associated with the AASE and/or the AHURI final report. Since Acervo published "*TIC-Driven Optimization of Energy Storage for Enhanced Hybrid Renewable Energy Performance*," in 2024, that publication led to a closer look at the Acervo 2024 archive. The 12 months of 2024 were reviewed, and one article stood out as listed below:

Vishnu Venugopal, Vishnu R, Vishnu S S, Shinto George (2024). *Analysis of Wingtip Vortex and Mitigation by Using Winglets*. *Acervo*, (Vol 9, Issue 12, 2024). Authors @ Parul University.

A Google web search quickly revealed 9 journal publications of the same plagiarized verbatim article with multiple publication dates, including occasional authors and university (host) name changes and rearrangements. The first known article was published by VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal in 2020, followed a month later by Organization Development Journal in 2020. We noticed 4 different publications of the

article by VDI-Z in 5 years. VDI-Z became the fourth journal to be partially scrutinized. It was noted that the four authors as a group did not yield this article, or even separately. Article copies have been saved.

Article title: *Analysis of Wingtip Vortex and Mitigation by Using Winglets*. Publishers. Listed by first publication date, including the publication name.

- 1) VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal, Volume 7 Issue 3, 2020, DOI: 10.37897.VZIPJ.2020.V75.20.40375.
- 2) VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal, [Volume 8 Issue 11, 2021](#), DOI: 10.37897.VZIPJ.2021.V8I11.21.40467.
- 3) VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal, [Volume 12 Issue 1, 2025](#), DOI: 10.37897.VZIPJ.2025.V12I1.25.40829.
- 4) VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal, [Volume 12 Issue 8, 2025](#), DOI: [10.37897.VZIPJ.2025.V128.25.40881](#).
- 5) Organization Development Journal Volume 8, Issue 12, 2020, DOI: [20.18001.OD.2024.V12I1.24.21611](#).
- 6) Organization Development Journal Volume 12, Issue 11, 2024 DOI: [20.18001.OD.2024.V12I11.24.21794](#).
- 7) [Tanz Research Journal Volume 7 Issue 3, 2021](#), DOI: [10.6084/doi.21.7.3.TANZ21482](#).
- 8) Oeil Research Journal (ISSN NO:0029-862X) Volume 20 Issue 6 2022, DOI:10.14148.ORJ.2022.V20.I6.01.
- 9) Journal of Computer Science Volume 15 Issue 12 : Published in December 2022, DOI:10.15229.JCS.2024.V14I5.1300.
- 10) Indica Journal (ISSN:0019-686X) Volume 4 Issue 11 2023.
- 11) JTSEIT Volume 12, issue 7, 2024 DOI: [10.14299/jtseit.12.7.2024.02](#).
- 12) Acervo, (Vol 9, issue 12, 2024).
- 13) Advances in Science and Technology of Water Resources, [Volume 8 Issue 10, 2024](#), <https://japcs.net/volume-8-issue-10-2024>.

Reviewing the VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal archive, the first year of publication, 2014, was examined, and a random article was chosen; [Applying Machine Learning Techniques to Detect of Cyber Attacks](#), DOI: 10.37897.VZIPJ.2014.V1I7.14.40276, Volume 1 issue 10, 2014.

A quick, limited search found that it was published verbatim by at least 3 journals:

- 1) Neelima, B., Sai, A. M. K., Babu, G. V., Krishna, P. S., Kumar, S. S., & Abdulla, S. K. (2023). Applying Machine Learning Techniques to Detect of Cyber Attacks. *Journal Of Electrical Engineering (ISSN NO: 2095-9524)*, 8(3).
- 2) B. Neelima #1, A.Mohan Kumar Sai #2, G.Venu Babu #3, P.Sai Krishna #4, S.V.V Sai Kumar #5, SK.Abdulla #6 (2024). Applying Machine Learning Techniques to Detect of Cyber Attacks. *Kronika Journal (ISSN NO-0023:4923) Volume 24 Issue 5 2024*.

- 3) B. Neelima, A.Mohan Kumar Sai, G.Venu Babu, P.Sai Krishna, S.V.V Sai Kumar, SK.Abdulla. (2024). [Applying Machine Learning Techniques to Detect of Cyber Attacks](#). JTSEIT, (ISSN: 1009-6744), DOI: [10.14299/jtseit.2.3.2014.03](#).

18. Third case list of predatory journals. (all article copies have been saved).

- 1) VDI-Z Integrierte Produktion Journal,
- 2) Organization Development Journal,
- 3) [Tanz Research Journal](#),
- 4) Oeil Research Journal,
- 5) Journal of Computer Science,
- 6) Indica Journal,
- 7) Journal of Electrical Engineering,
- 8) JTSEIT,
- 9) Advances in Science and Technology of Water Resources,
- 10) Journal of Electrical Engineering,
- 11) *Kronika Journal*.

19. Reading the details

The third case, a plagiarized verbatim article, had a total of six authors; #1 was an assistant professor, and all others were students, whose photographs appeared at the end of each publication, displaying the dates 2017-2021. The VDI-Z publication dated 2014, at the end of the article, also had the same photographs as did all the other journals, including the dates 2017-2021. That alone is evidence of archive manipulation by rogue publishers going back a decade or more, and the findings indicate that such action is a common trend. Such manipulation is clearly unethical and illegitimate. It is probable that these authors are victims of rogue publishers. It is understandable that as the world's educational frontiers expand, knowledge capabilities, academic achievement and research results will lead to an increase in publication output. It should be understood that such educational and knowledge output is valuable as it is vulnerable.

20. Conclusion

Profiting from someone else's property without rights or permission can hardly be considered a minor or non-criminal violation. Fraudulent sites, also known as hijacked journals, are immersed in criminal activities in pursuit of profit from circulating and adapting others' property into their own archives and sharing it with other illicit networks. As a widespread practice, fraudulent and hijacked sites vanish as soon as they are identified. This case review, based on a basic sample and illustrative exhibit, has clearly identified illegitimate cross-border journals and networks. Even with the limited research scope 17 journals were identified with illegitimate operations. Looking forward,

the ramifications of fraudulent sites are likely to increase as AI and other technologies expand by providing a wider technological reach to rogue publishers. Rogue publishers will continue to develop new ways to trap and attract authors as publishing continuously grows with a higher number of authors year after year. A better understanding of rogue publishers' characteristics and operations will assist students, authors and researchers in finding ways to identify and avoid predatory journals and illegitimate sites. Plagiarism from a national perspective has manageable legal resources; international fraudulent sites and networks reveal a more complex problem. Criminal niches and racketeering networks are abusive, illegitimate practices that do not in any way form part of any educational experience. The role of education becomes a tool to identify and limit the operations of illegitimate rogue publishers, predatory and unethical journal practices.

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Conflict of Interest Statement

The author declares no conflicts of interest

About the Author(s)

Randle Sloan-Toraño gained a History and Contemporary Studies Ph.D. from the University of Jaume I, Spain. Research interests include native American cultures, ancient identity, decolonization and protection of original heritage. With further interdisciplinary research interest in the built environment and educational development studies.

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