



# Predatory publishing

A view from an Open Access publisher

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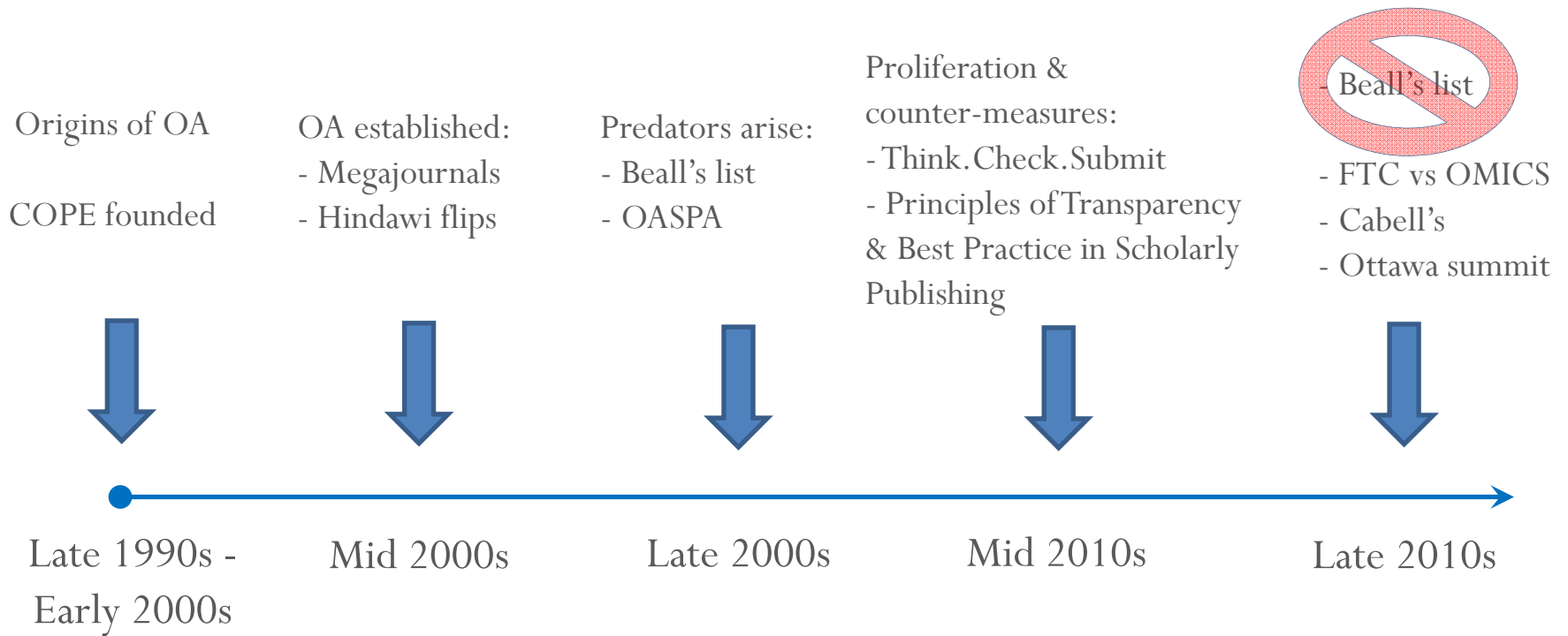
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# Summary

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- History
- Distinguishing legitimate journals
- Our experience
- Impact on other publishers
- Wider ecosystem
- Other business models & publishing models

# Timeline



# Telling apart legitimate & predatory

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- Clear information on costs and waiver policy
- Separation of ownership/finances from editorial
- Engage with publishing & research communities
  - COPE & OASPA membership
  - Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing
    - Ownership, management, location, processes
- Legitimate indexing services
- Don't over-promise, don't fight or threaten critics

CAVEAT: *Not* a dichotomy

# Hindawi's experience

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- Founded in Cairo in 1997, began with conference abstracts
- Acquired first journals 1999-2001
- Completed flip to Open Access in 2007
- Growth and experiments in peer review models
- Co-founded Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association (OASPA) in 2008... but briefly on Beall's 'watchlist'

*“I think my inclusion of ISRN may have hurt my credibility regarding classing the others as predatory”*  
(Jeffrey Beall to Richard Poynder, 2012)

# Hindawi's experience

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- Acquired *The Scientific World Journal*
  - Deselected by Thomson Reuters in 2011 due to prior issues
- Enhanced editorial screening in 2012:
  - Checks for citation manipulation, author identities, text similarity, etc.
- Research Integrity team created in 2016
- HQ moved to London in 2017
- Partnerships with other publishers —
  - SAGE (2007-11), Wiley (2016- ), AAAS (2017- )

# How predators affect legitimate publishers

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- Tarred with same brush
- Unfair doubt on new entrants
- Stolen or imitated journal titles
- Dual submission leads to gazumping
- Confused authors
- Degrade standards:
  - Lower researcher expectations of peer review quality
  - Raised researcher expectations of speed

# Wider ecosystem of “Cargo Cults”

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- Republishing unedited theses as “books”
- Paper mills, selling authorship, fake peer review
  - “China’s Publication Bazaar”, 2013 DOI: 10.1126/science.342.6162.1035
- Scamferences

## Why?

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- Perverse incentives in research assessment
  - San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), [sfdora.org](http://sfdora.org)
- Lack of training and support for researchers



# Subscription model isn't immune

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- Hijacked/fake journals present as subscription journals
- Author fees: colour charges, page charges, supplementary materials, cover image, submission fees  
  
[cofactorscience.com/blog/author-charge](http://cofactorscience.com/blog/author-charge)
- Subscription costs justified by number of journals & articles

# Subscription model isn't immune

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- Biggest bulk retraction ever?
- Merck paid to create a marketing journal in 2003
- *Medical Hypotheses* was not peer reviewed & deliberately published provocative work until 2010 scandal
- Elephant autism & space octopuses

# Preprint servers

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- Low or no fees
- No guarantee of peer review
  - arXiv has no comments
- Level of editorial screening varies
  - Higher in MedRxiv
- viXra

*“When a paper is published in viXra, it is usually a sign that it is not likely to contain acceptable results. It may, but the odds against that are considerable”*

– Gerard 't Hooft

# Free to read, “free” to publish

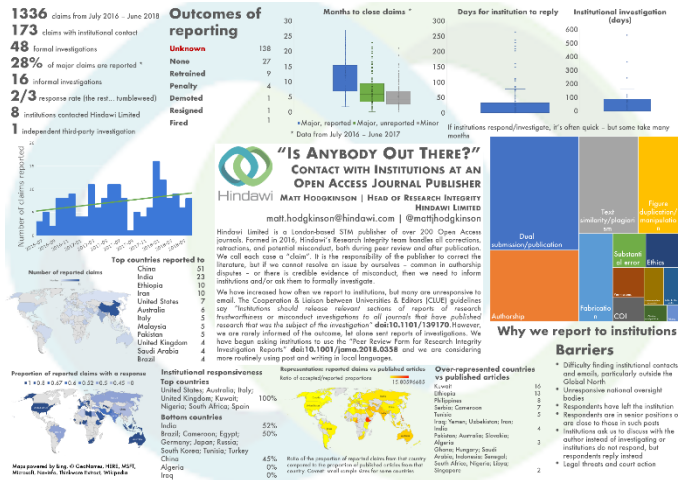
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- SciELO – Latin American and Caribbean governments
- Open Library of the Humanities – library support
- Knowledge Unlatched – crowdfunding
- Volunteerism – hidden costs
- But...
  - How sustainable?
  - Funder influence?

# Different types of peer review

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- Open peer review
  - Science Domain International uses, but published a nonsense SciGen sting by German journalists, DOI:10.9734/JGEESI/2018/42607
- Post-publication peer review
- Author-driven vs editor-driven
- Volunteer peer review



[bit.ly/2XnYABT](https://bit.ly/2XnYABT) (link to tweet with high-res poster)

[journalology.blogspot.com](http://journalology.blogspot.com)

[about.hindawi.com/blog/curbing-the-cargo-cults](http://about.hindawi.com/blog/curbing-the-cargo-cults)

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