

Do Open Access Journals Qualify?

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Criticism towards Open Access (OA)

- Belief that OA journals use only open review of preprints
- Mixing of scientific OA publishing with blogs and Wikipedia
- Belief that most OA journals are *predatory journals* – journals which charge author fees claiming to be peer reviewed and well edited but which do not use referees <http://scholarlyoa.com/>

John Bohannon: Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

- Bohannon submitted 304 versions of a paper with grave and obvious errors to OA journals
 - 157 of the journals accepted the paper
 - 98 rejected
 - 29 seemed not to be existing any more
 - 20 did not manage to organize the review in the course of the study
- > Conclusion: *A spoof paper reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.*

A remedy – guaranteeing the peer review process?



GPRC

Guaranteed
Peer Reviewed
Content

boekenvak.be/gprc

The aims of the Finnish Peer Review Label

- To distinguish peer reviewed texts in a journal or in a monograph from those that have not been reviewed (e. g. scientific articles are marked while reports or book reviews are not)
- To encourage publishers to sharpen their review practices
- To encourage publishers to make their review processes transparent

Requirements

- Review statements must be asked from at least two referees (not including the editors) who have at minimum PhD degree
- The publisher saves the documents of the review process, at minimum:
 - the proposal of the author
 - the referee statements
 - the decision to publish or reject the paper

What to do?

- To develop new methods and tools to indicate the quality of the journal
- Commitments to guidelines of responsible conduct of research
- To acquire information on predatory OA journals and to eliminate them from the DOAJ and from other journal lists

Sources

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