

NRF Statement on Predatory Journals and Deceptive Publishers

The National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa's peer review and adjudication system has identified a number of instances where applications for research grants, scholarships and NRF rating include publications in predatory journals or cite invitations by deceptive publishers to serve on editorial boards of journals.

This practice is neither supported nor encouraged by the NRF as it challenges the integrity of the NRF's scientific peer review process. The use of predatory journals and deceptive publishers compromises the creation and dissemination of rigorous scientific and scholarly work within the Digital and Open Access movement.

In order to protect the integrity of the NRF's processes and reputation from these unethical and unscholarly practices, the NRF reserves the right to not consider applications where this practice is evident.

The NRF encourages its stakeholder community, including the NRF's Business Units and its National Research Facilities (NFs), to:

- Ensure that its researchers and students adhere to the principles of research integrity and are aware of predatory journals and deceptive publishers; and
- Avoid publishing in journals that do not have a rigorous peer review system or scholarly publishing practices.



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