

InfoMania



April 2017

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this edition of *Infomania*. We have lots of interesting news to share with you!

In this edition you can read more about the characteristics of potential predatory publishers and the achievement of our institutional repository, UPSpace, in the Ranking Web of Repositories.

News on PLOS ONE, the latest QS World University subject rankings and the new RefWorks, is also included.

Sadly, we say goodbye to our colleague Antoinette Lourens who is retiring at the end of April, after many years of excellent service.

Lastly we take a quick look at the construction work at the Sir Arnold Theiler Building and how it affects the Library.

We hope you will enjoy this issue of *Infomania*, keeping you up-to-date on the latest happenings in your information world.

Tertia Coetsee (Editor)

This newsletter is also available electronically at <http://www.library.up.ac.za/vet/infomania.htm>

Characteristics of potential predatory publishers and journals

By Susan Marsh

The NRF's recent public statement on predatory journals and deceptive publishers and its impact on the integrity of the NRF's scientific peer review process, once again had the scholarly community's attention focused on predatory publishers. <http://www.nrf.ac.za/media-room/news/nrf-statement-predatory-journals-deceptive-publishers>

One of the biggest challenges remains identifying these potential predatory publishers and journals.

Beall's list of potential, possible or probable predatory scholarly open-access publishers used to be a valuable source to identify publishers and journals of risk.

Unfortunately during January this year, Jeffrey Beall, associate professor and librarian at the University of Colorado Denver, has decided to no longer maintain or publish this list. Various speculations about his reasons are doing the rounds, but nothing could be confirmed. The good news is that the latest archived version of his list (12 Jan 2017) can be found at <https://web.archive.org/web/20170112125427/https://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>

Various articles are available that include suggested criteria for identifying potential predatory journals.

An interesting article authored during 2017 by Larissa Shamseer et al in BMC Medicine, compared the characteristics of potential predatory and presumed legitimate biomedical journals.

Journal characteristics (e.g., website integrity, look and feel, editors and staff, editorial/peer review process, instructions to authors, publication model, copyright and licensing, journal location, and contact) were collected by one assessor and verified by a second. Summary statistics were calculated.

The most important characteristics of potential predatory journals were summarised as:

1. The scope of interest includes non-biomedical subjects alongside biomedical topics. It was found that predatory journals tended to include a wide variety of topics of interest simply to broaden their potential income, while legitimate journals focused on topics that were related and belonged to a sub-section of a larger medical field.
2. The website contains spelling and grammar errors. As most predatory journals originate from countries where a non-English language is dominant, spelling and grammatical errors were multiple due to translation efforts. Legitimate journals were more concerned to eliminate spelling and grammatical errors to maintain professionalism and a good reputation.
3. Images are distorted or fuzzy, intended to look like something they are not.

4. The homepage language targets authors. In general legitimate journals strive to interest their readers while predatory journals focus on potential authors to contribute to their journal.
5. Different metrics, e.g. the Index Copernicus value is often promoted on their website.
6. Description of the manuscript handling process is lacking
7. Manuscripts are requested to be submitted via email rather than a submission system. Journals that use a manuscript submission system with built-in manuscript checks against journal policies etc. are more legitimate as opposed to predatory journals who accept simple e-mail submissions.
8. Rapid publication is promised
9. There is no retraction policy
10. Information on whether and how journal content will be digitally preserved is absent
11. The Article processing/publication charge is very low (e.g., < \$150 USD). The median APC for presumed legitimate fully open access journals is at least 18 times more than the APC of potential predatory journals.
12. Journals claiming to be open access either retain copyright of published research or fail to mention copyright
13. The contact email address is non-professional and non-journal affiliated (e.g., @gmail.com or @yahoo.com) (Shamseer et al. 2017)

These characteristics may be useful for authors who need to evaluate journals for publication, especially early career researchers who are inexperienced and at risk.

Another important element to remember is that predatory journals usually aren't indexed in appropriate databases such as Web of Science or Scopus, but often claim to be indexed in Google Scholar which is not an indexing database.

Reference:

Shamseer, L., Moher, D., Maduekwe, O., Turner, L., Barbour, V., Burch, R., *et al.* 2017, 'Potential predatory and legitimate biomedical journals: can you tell the difference? A cross-sectional comparison', *BMC Medicine*, vol 15, viewed 27 March 2017, from <http://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-017-0785-9>

Faculty of Veterinary Science annual Open Day on 3 March 2017

By Tertia Coetsee

Open Day at Onderstepoort Campus was a huge success. About 600 prospective students and parents visited our campus.

This event presented an ideal opportunity for learners and their parents or guardians to explore the campus and facilities and gave learners the chance to find out exactly what certain subjects of the study entail.

The formal program included welcoming by the Deputy Dean Teaching and Learning, Prof Dietmar Holm. Ms Bessie Slabbert, Head: Student Administration, spoke about selection criteria for prospective BVSc and DVN students. Other presentations included career opportunities for veterinarians and veterinary students, information on how to enrol as Junior Tukkies and all the advantages it includes and information about the residences and the OPVSC. An optional campus walk-through was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Exhibitions of all Departments, Client Services and Student Societies and the Jotello F. Soga library were visited and enjoyed. Personnel answered questions and provided pamphlets and information.



UPSpace ranking January 2017

By Antoinette Lourens

[UPSpace](#) was recently ranked as the best in Africa and within the top 100 worldwide (85/2284) by [Webometrics](#). The Ranking Web of Repositories is an initiative of the Cybermetrics Lab, which also publishes the Ranking Web of Universities. It ranks over two thousand (2284) of the world's repositories according to a set of indicators on their size, visibility and impact in social networks, although it also considers other aspects such as the number of publications in Google Scholar Citations.

The aim of these rankings is not just to rank repositories, but also to promote open access initiatives and global access to academic knowledge.

Open access refers to the practice of providing unrestricted access to research material in the digital environment. The open access movement started in the late 1990s as a response to social inequality. Institutions and individuals that cannot afford access to subscription-based journals are excluded from the research they contain, and even wealthy institutions are beginning to struggle to keep up with rising subscription and publication fees.

Institutional repositories such as UPSpace provide a wealth of research that is freely available for the public to access. The UPSpace team therefore see their ranking as a win not only for the institution, but also for the open access movement.

The University of Pretoria supports free access to research literature for all researchers worldwide and takes responsibility for the dissemination of its own research outputs. This is important because theses and dissertations are not formally published (grey matter) it is even more important that the University itself should provide access to them. There are currently 11 453 theses and dissertations, and 14 679 research articles available on UPSpace. Since 2011, 34 million searches and 46 million downloads have been conducted on the platform.

It ranks over two thousand of the world's repositories according to a set of indicators on their size, visibility and impact in social networks, although it also considers other aspects such as the number of publications in Google Scholar Citations.

ranking	World Rank ↕	Instituto	Country	Size	Visibility	Files Rich	scholar
1	85	University of Pretoria Institutional Repository		73	146	117	96
2	124	Stellenbosch University Scholar Repository		60	309	160	126
3	197	University of South Africa Institutional Repository		498	261	199	293
4	214	University of Nairobi Digital Repository		22	602	460	37
5	241	University of the Witwatersrand Institutional Repository		259	358	274	263
6	342	OpenUCT University of Cape Town Repository		235	588	401	211
7	364	Boloka North West University Research Repository		661	541	412	237
8	411	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Space		403	457	472	574
9	444	Addis Ababa University Libraries Electronic Thesis and Dissertations Database		95	771	616	232
10	600	University of the Western Cape Theses and Dissertations		519	773	639	559

Welcome to the New RefWorks!

By Tertia Coetsee

ProQuest is launching a new and improved version of RefWorks that makes it easier than ever to manage and organize your research. The New RefWorks is the next generation of reference management software empowering both researchers and librarians to do more. It provides powerful citation management functionality which includes database import, web capture tools and thousands of flexible citation styles. Full-text management, collaboration and other features provide a refined user experience.

This update to RefWorks is a new way to collect, manage and organize research papers and documents. You can read, annotate, organize, and cite your research as well as collaborate with friends and colleagues by sharing collections.

RefWorks' drag and drop capability along with its smart document recognition makes it easy and fast to upload documents and bibliographic metadata into your library. The "Save to RefWorks" feature allows you to capture research from websites with the click of a button.

From simple bibliographies to papers formatted with in-text citations or footnotes, RefWorks handles it all.

What is the difference between the Legacy and New RefWorks?

Currently, the biggest difference users will notice is that the new RefWorks has an entirely new look and feel, although most of the functionality remains the same. Ability to drag and drop PDFs and populate citation field from the web, as well as enhanced sharing features are a priority for the developers. Eventually, users will be able to highlight and annotate PDFs. Small changes have been made, such as changing the name of folders to collections. One change that will affect users who have multiple accounts is that in the New RefWorks, users will only have one account tied to their institutional email address.

Ready to Migrate?

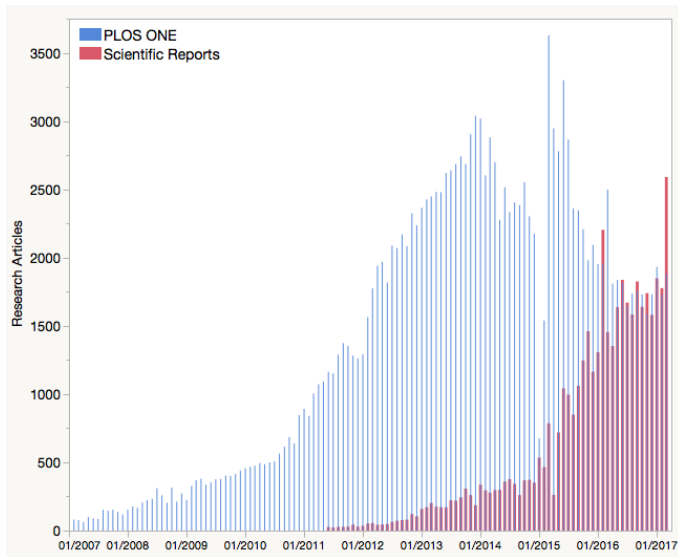
1. Log into your Legacy RefWorks account.
2. Look for the link to move to the New RefWorks. If you have created a New RefWorks account, you will be prompted to login.
3. If you have not created a new RefWorks account, you will be prompted to create an account. Once you click the link to move to the latest version, your references, file attachments, folders and custom output styles will automatically be moved to your new RefWorks account

Scientific Reports Overtakes PLOS ONE as the Largest Open Access Journal

By Susan Marsh

Phil Davis, an independent researcher and publishing consultant specializing in the statistical analysis of citation, readership, publication and survey data, posted a blog entry on "The Scholarly Kitchen", official blog of the Society for Scholarly Publishing on 6 April 2017. (<https://tinyurl.com/l6vs9hv>). He pointed out that, after ten years of publishing, PLOS ONE is no longer the largest journal in the world. This achievement is now taken over by *Scientific Reports* (Springer Nature), which published a total of 6,214 research articles in the first quarter of 2017, compared to 5,541 articles in *PLOS ONE*.

The journal's shrinkage is attributed, in part, to a reduction in manuscript submissions. Joerg Heber, PLOS ONE's new editor-in-chief is also of the opinion that competition from other open access journals with the same editorial model, like *Scientific Reports*, is another reason for the decrease in articles published.



Scientific Reports overtakes *PLOS ONE* to become largest mega journal

Goodbye message by Antoinette Lourens

In the journey of life you meet several people who are hard to forget. I am glad to have met so many people like this at Onderstepoort. When I got here so many years ago in 1991, I would never have realised how connected I would be to such a warm and diverse community of people.

It was an extremely enriching experience to work at the faculty and I will always cherish every day of my work at the university and always keep these fond memories alive.

Since retirement marks the end of working for someone else and the beginning of living for yourself, I can now do the things that I've always wanted to. So in future no more targets or stretched targets, no more goals, no more KPIs and no more meetings.

I wish you all a smooth sailing ahead and a path full of joy. May all your dreams come true and all the best for your future endeavours.



QS World University rankings by subject

By Susan Marsh

The QS World University Rankings by Subject ranks the world's top universities in individual subject areas, covering 46 subjects as of 2017.

Each of the subject rankings is compiled using four sources. The first two of these are QS's global surveys of academics and employers, which are used to assess institutions' international reputation in each subject. The second two indicators assess research impact, based on research citations per paper and h-index in the relevant subject. These are sourced from Elsevier's Scopus database, the world's most comprehensive research citations database. These four components are combined to produce the results for each of the subject rankings, with weightings adapted for each discipline. More information on the methodology can be found at <https://www.topuniversities.com/subject-rankings/methodology>

The following institutions were ranked as the top ten for the subject field *Veterinary Science*.

Veterinary Science ▼ [Read more about Veterinary Science Degrees](#)

# RANK	UNIVERSITY	LOCATION	COMPARE	5★ STARS™
2017 ▼	University search <input type="text"/>	By location ▼	<input type="checkbox"/> Rated only	
1	University of California, Davis		<input type="checkbox"/>	
2	Cornell University		<input type="checkbox"/>	5★ RATING
3	Royal Veterinary College, University of London		<input type="checkbox"/>	
4	University of Cambridge		<input type="checkbox"/>	5★ RATING
5	University of Liverpool		<input type="checkbox"/>	5★ RATING
6	University of Guelph		<input type="checkbox"/>	5★ RATING
7	University of Pennsylvania		<input type="checkbox"/>	5★ RATING
8	The University of Edinburgh		<input type="checkbox"/>	
9	Utrecht University		<input type="checkbox"/>	
10	Texas A&M University		<input type="checkbox"/>	

<https://www.topuniversities.com/university-rankings/university-subject-rankings/2017/veterinary-science>

Article Processing Charges expenditures for 2016: Leipzig University vs UP.

By Susan Marsh

We recently came across interesting information about the APC expenditure of the Leipzig University for 2016. The Leipzig University Library is in charge of the University's Open Access Publishing Fund.

At UP, the "Policy on Support for Article Processing Charges (APC)" was finalised during 2015. The Open Scholarship Office is responsible for managing the APC fund according to specified guidelines. In 2016 R1 million was added to this fund in support of 50-60% refund allocations for articles published in high impact open access journals. The Department of Library Services' 2016 Annual report gave the following statistics for APC expenditure for the years 2015 and 2016:

	Number of articles supported	Payments vouched	Refunds requested	Average impact factor
2015	52/59	R572 853.89	R227 944.26	3.36
2016	53/60	R697 739.46	R405 259.00	3.62

Statistics for the Leipzig University show that a total amount of 142966 euro (R 2 025 884) has been paid for Author Processing Charges for 97 articles during 2016.

The following table shows the payments Leipzig University Library has made to publishers in 2016.

	Articles	Fees paid in EURO	Mean Fee paid
Springer Nature	42	67499	1607
Public Library of Science (PLoS)	25	39600	1584
MDPI AG	6	8206	1368
Wiley-Blackwell	5	4885	977
Elsevier BV	4	4540	1135
Hindawi Publishing Corporation	4	4072	1018
AIP Publishing	2	2936	1468
Copernicus GmbH	2	357	178
American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	1	1805	1805
BMJ	1	1427	1427
Frontiers Media SA	1	1687	1687

	Articles	Fees paid in EURO	Mean Fee paid
International Scientific Literature	1	1180	1180
IOP Publishing	1	1392	1392
Ovid Technologies (Wolters Kluwer Health)	1	1479	1479
Oxford University Press (OUP)	1	1901	1901

Construction work in the Sir Arnold Theiler Building

By Tertia Coetsee

Construction work in the Sir Arnold Theiler building started in January 2017. Plans include a brand new IT laboratory to accommodate our growing number of students and a new study area with group facilities for undergraduates and private cubicles for postgraduate students. Fireproofing is added to all existing shafts. Alterations to the Deans offices on level 6 are also part of the plans.

Unfortunately all this excitement presents a degree of disruption and discomfort to our clients, for which we apologise.

Please note that the open book collection, seminar room and study area in the library, on the fifth floor, will be temporarily unavailable for the whole of April, due to the construction work.

The Library staff do their utmost best to deliver the same quality service that our patrons are used to.

Please contact library staff at the desk for book requests.

