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## ***Publication Ethics Report***

### **Hijacked Journal List: List of Hijacked Journals and Fake Publishers, First Edition, June.12.2014**

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#### **Abstract:**

Beginning in 2012, cyber-criminals opened a new line in their dirty business by hijacking some journals that are indexed by Thomson Reuters and have their impact factors compiled by the journal citation report (JCR), which is a product of Thomson Reuters. Later, in 2013, the online hoodlums introduced their masterpieces by assigning misleading metrics and fake impact factors to scientific journals. Also, they integrated their hijacked journals with some scientific conferences to show how expert they are in cheating thousands of postgraduate students and university professors all around the world. No matter who they are, they have attacked and tarnished the validity and reliability of published research. This paper introduces the first edition of the list of counterfeit websites and fake publishers (Hijacked Journal List 2014). The methods by which the next editions and future updates of the Hijacked Journal List can be obtained also are presented.

**Keywords:** fake publisher; hijacked journal list; legitimate journal; authentic; counterfeit; Thomson Reuters

#### **Bibliographic Information of this article:**

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### **1. Background and Purpose**

The story of fake publishing began in mid 2000s when an unknown blogger reported a fake scientific conference in Africa. However, “Journal hijacking” is a new term that was first introduced in academia early 2012 after cyber-criminals hijacked three journals using the titles “Texas Journal of Science” (from the United States), “Archives des Sciences” (from Switzerland), and “Wulfenia Journal” (from Austria), all were detected and reported by Mehrdad Jalalian for the first time in the history of journal hijacking (1, 2, 3). Later, other researchers detected more cases of journal hijacking.

Journal hijackers steal the prestige of print-only journals (and some non-English journals that are published in print and electronic form) by building fake websites that mimic those of the legitimate journals (1). The people behind the fake websites broadcast call-for-papers spam, collect millions of dollars for ‘article processing charges’ (APCs), and ultimately publish thousands of unreviewed manuscripts on their counterfeit websites (1). The online hoodlums of the academic world broadcast call-for-paper spam to a wide array of potential victims, i.e., postgraduate students or lecturers who are in urgent need of publishing “something” in Thomson Reuters-indexed journals.

In late 2013, they refreshed their showcase by launching two new malicious activities, i.e., 1) buying and renewing the domain names of old, but offline, websites and 2) attacking academia by integrating the hijacked journals with scientific conferences. Their brand new, dirty methodologies were introduced to the academic world by hijacking the ISI-listed monograph entitled “Reef Resources Assessment and Management Technical Paper: RRAMT” and a Polish journal entitled “Chemical and Process Engineering” and buying two inactive domain names, i.e., “behaviorsciences.com” and “processengineering.net,” to build fake websites for these journals. The fake websites were later integrated with scientific conferences.

Without doubt, the un-reviewed scientific papers published by hijacked journals will appear in search results of any literature review and will be a base for future research; this will result in the extensive violation to the validity and reliability of both published scientific work and future research. The purpose of creating a directory of hijacked journals is to protect postgraduate students and young lecturers from becoming misled by these cyber-criminals’ systematic misrepresentation and misconduct.

# HIJACKED JOURNAL LIST: List Of Hijacked Journals And Fake Publishers

First Edition, June.12.2014

<http://www.MehrdadJalalian.com>

## 2. The “Hijacked Journal List”

The “Hijacked Journal List - first edition, June.12.2014,” is presented in Table 1. This list consists of 19 fake publishers or hijacked journals and the counterfeit websites that mimic or clone legitimate journals.

**Table 1.** Mehrdad Jalalian’s list of hijacked journals and fake publishers, first edition, June.12.2014

	Journal / publisher	Hijacked journal / Fake website
1	<sup>1</sup> Afinidad (ISSN: 0001-9704) <a href="http://www.aiqs.es/catala/afinidad.asp">http://www.aiqs.es/catala/afinidad.asp</a>	<a href="http://www.afinidad.org">http://www.afinidad.org</a>
2	<sup>1</sup> Archives des sciences (ISSN: 1661-464X) <a href="http://www.unige.ch/sphn/">http://www.unige.ch/sphn/</a>	<sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.archiveofscience.com">http://www.archiveofscience.com</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.sciencesarchive.com">http://www.sciencesarchive.com</a>
3	<sup>3</sup> Bothalia (ISSN: 0006-8241) <a href="http://www.abcjournal.org/">http://www.abcjournal.org/</a>	<a href="http://www.bothalia.com">http://www.bothalia.com</a>
4	<sup>3</sup> Bradleya (ISSN: 0265-086X) <a href="http://www.bcss.org.uk/brad.php">http://www.bcss.org.uk/brad.php</a>	<a href="http://www.britishedu.org.uk">http://www.britishedu.org.uk</a>
5	<sup>3,7,8</sup> Chemical and process engineering- Inzynieria chemiczna I procesowa (ISSN: 0208-6425) <a href="http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/cpe">http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/cpe</a>	<a href="http://www.processengineering.net">http://www.processengineering.net</a>
6	<sup>3</sup> Ciencia e tecnica vitivinicola (ISSN: 0254-0223) <a href="http://www.scielo.oces.mctes.pt/scielo.php?script=sci_issues&amp;pid=0254-0223&amp;lng=en&amp;nrm=iso">http://www.scielo.oces.mctes.pt/scielo.php?script=sci_issues&amp;pid=0254-0223&amp;lng=en&amp;nrm=iso</a>	<a href="http://www.ciencia-e-tecnica.org">http://www.ciencia-e-tecnica.org</a>
7	<sup>4</sup> Emergencias (ISSN: 1137-6821) <a href="http://www.semes.org/revista_EMERGENCIAS/">http://www.semes.org/revista_EMERGENCIAS/</a>	<a href="http://www.sanidadediciones.com">http://www.sanidadediciones.com</a>
8	<sup>3</sup> Jokull Journal (ISSN: 0449-0576) <a href="http://www.jokulljournal.is">http://www.jokulljournal.is</a>	<sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.jkljournal.com">http://www.jkljournal.com</a> <a href="http://www.jkljournal.org">http://www.jkljournal.org</a> <a href="http://www.jokulljournal.com">http://www.jokulljournal.com</a>
9	<sup>3</sup> Mitteilungen Klosterneuburg (ISSN: 0007-5922)	<a href="http://www.mitt-klosterneuburg.com">http://www.mitt-klosterneuburg.com</a>
10	<sup>3</sup> Nautilus <a href="http://www.shellmuseum.org/nautilus/index.html">http://www.shellmuseum.org/nautilus/index.html</a>	<a href="http://www.nautilusjournal.net">http://www.nautilusjournal.net</a>
11	<sup>3</sup> National park-forschung in der scheidt (ISSN: 1022-9493)	<a href="http://www.naukpublication.org">http://www.naukpublication.org</a>
12	<sup>3</sup> Pensee journal (ISSN: 0031-4773) <a href="http://www.gabrielperi.fr/spip.php?page=rubrique_base&amp;id_rubrique=321&amp;lang=fr">http://www.gabrielperi.fr/spip.php?page=rubrique_base&amp;id_rubrique=321&amp;lang=fr</a>	<a href="http://www.penseejournal.com">http://www.penseejournal.com</a>
13	<sup>5</sup> Recent science (Fake publisher, listed too many fake journals)	<a href="http://www.recentscience.org">http://www.recentscience.org</a>
14	<sup>3,7,8</sup> Reef resources assessment and management technical paper (RRAMT) (ISSN: 1607-7393)	<a href="http://www.behaviorsciences.com">http://www.behaviorsciences.com</a>
15	<sup>6</sup> Sylwan (ISSN: 0039-7660) <a href="http://sylwan.ibles.waw.pl/pls/apex/f?p=105:1:0">http://sylwan.ibles.waw.pl/pls/apex/f?p=105:1:0</a> (3-in-1: Journal hijacking + Hacking the credit cards of authors+ Money laundering)	<a href="http://www.sylwan.ibles.org">http://www.sylwan.ibles.org</a>
16	<sup>1</sup> Texas Journal of Science (ISSN: 0040-4403) <a href="http://www.texasacademyofscience.org">http://www.texasacademyofscience.org</a>	<sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.texassciences.us">http://www.texassciences.us</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.texassciences.com">http://www.texassciences.com</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.texasacademyofscience.com">http://www.texasacademyofscience.com</a>
17	<sup>5</sup> Tomas Publishing (Fake publisher)	<a href="http://www.tomaspubs.com">http://www.tomaspubs.com</a>
18	<sup>1</sup> Vitae-revista de la facultad de quimica farmaceutica <a href="http://aprendeonline.udea.edu.co/revistas/index.php/vitae/ind">http://aprendeonline.udea.edu.co/revistas/index.php/vitae/ind</a>	<a href="http://www.vitae-udea.org/">http://www.vitae-udea.org/</a>
19	<sup>3</sup> Wulfenia journal (ISSN: 1561-882X) <a href="http://www.landesmuseum.ktn.gv.at/210226w_DE.htm?seite=15">http://www.landesmuseum.ktn.gv.at/210226w_DE.htm?seite=15</a>	<a href="http://www.multidisciplinarywulfenia.org">http://www.multidisciplinarywulfenia.org</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.wulfeniajournal.com">www.wulfeniajournal.com</a> <sup>2</sup> <a href="http://www.wulfeniajournal.at">www.wulfeniajournal.at</a>

<sup>1</sup>Valid link from Thomson Reuters to the authentic website is available/or added recently (last visit on June.12.2014) <sup>2</sup>The counterfeit website was offline (last visit on June.12.2014); <sup>3</sup>No valid link from Thomson Reuters to the authentic website (last visit on June.12.2014); <sup>4</sup>Invalid/wrong link from Thomson Reuters to the authentic website (last visit on June.12.2014); <sup>5</sup>Completely fake publisher; <sup>6</sup>Also hacks the credit card of authors; <sup>7</sup>Hijacked by the same person or group; <sup>8</sup>Integrated with a scientific conference

### **3. Adding a journal to the list and getting future editions**

The number of hijacked journals is increasing rapidly as the techniques used by the academic gangsters are upgraded and refined. Initially, in 2012, they simply registered a new domain for journals that had both printed and electronic versions (1). In early 2013, they moved to target print-only journals that had no website (1). The criminals upgraded their websites by renewing old and inactive domains and using them for the online presentation of their hijacked journals just before the end of 2013. Recently, they integrated the hijacked journals of “Reef Resources Assessment and Management Technical Paper: RRAMT” and “Chemical and Process Engineering” with scientific conferences in February and June 2014, respectively. Therefore, hijacked journals are expected to cheat more academic researchers in the future, even experienced authors of scientific journals. The developer of this list is available for investigating any suspected journal hijacking or suspicious behaviors of journals, publishers, and conferences. Please follow the English website of the author of this article at <http://www.MehrdadJalalian.com> for downloading the future editions of the hijacked journal list and reading the latest news on hijacked journals and fake publishers.

#### **Acknowledgments:**

The author thanks all of the scholars who act as his teachers by sharing up-to-date information on suspicious journals. He believes that the Hijacked Journal List is actually developed and maintained by them.

#### **Disclaimer**

All of the information presented in this list represents the personal ideas of the author and may not reflect his affiliation with scientific institutions and publishers. The readers should use the information presented in the Hijacked Journal List at their own risk; however, all of the proofs and documents related to any single journal in the Hijacked Journal List are available upon request. This list presents only those hijacked-fake journals that are confirmed by Mehrdad Jalalian. There could be other cases of hijacked-fake journals that are not listed here.

#### **Conflict of Interest:**

There is no conflict of interest to be declared.

#### **Contact the developer of the list for updates and inquiries about suspected journals:**

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- **Researchgate:** [http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mehrdad\\_Jalalian](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/Mehrdad_Jalalian)

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