Example 1: (many obvious red flags)

- publisher: very little info, other than based in India
- scope: ill-defined, extremely broad
- submissions: to a generic email address (ijmcer.research@gmail.com)
- publication fees: $65 USD “For Other Countries Authors”
- indexing: articles “indexed on most reputed indexing services over the web” (FAQs)
- peer review turn-around time: “usually complete within 7 days time . . .”
- how reviewers are chosen: “Eminent academicians are on the editorial board . . . who evaluate applicant profiles before they are selected for place in Editorial Board or Reviewer Panel.”
- indexing: no recognized specialized scholarly indexing sources

Example 2 (several obvious red flags)

- publisher: very little info; publishes several hundred OA journals, all involving APCs
- scope: ill-defined, extremely broad
- editorial board, peer reviewers, editor-in-chief: dubious recruitment advertising
- publication fees: questionable rationales (e.g., “commissioning content”?)
- publication ethics statement: uses publisher-developed “international standards”
- manuscript template: fill-in-the-blanks
- peer review: not discussed at all
- indexing: WorldCat, Crossref, ResearchBib, EurAsian Scientific Journal Index

OMICS dispute

- 2016 August: Federal Trade Commission (FTC) complaint
- 2016 November: Canadian specialty medical societies fall prey to OMICS
- 2017 November: FTC awarded preliminary injunction against OMICS publisher
- 2018 May: FTC summary judgment application against OMICS
- 2019 March: US District Court summary judgment granted to FTC
- 2019 October: FTC brief responding to OMICS’ appeal of the summary judgment

Resources for evaluating the legitimacy of OA journals (in addition to evaluating individual articles):

- Think. Check. Submit (tool to help identify trustworthy journals)
- Ulrichsweb (global directory of serials)
- Directory of Open Access Journals (see Principles of Transparency & Best Practice)
- JournalTOCs (directory of scholarly journal tables of contents)
- Sherpa/RoMEO (database of publishers’ copyright and local archiving policies)
- Journal Citation Reports (ISI impact factors)
- U of L Subject Librarians
- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association
- Stop Predatory Journals (Beall’s lists maintained anonymously by “a small group of scholars and information professionals”)