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AN ANXIETY ON CLONE JOURNALS

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ABSTRACT:

In recent years, the academic publishing landscape has been plagued by the proliferation of clone journals. These journals, which mimic the names and branding of legitimate scholarly publications, pose significant challenges to the integrity and credibility of academic research. This paper examines the phenomenon of clone journals, their impact on researchers and institutions, and strategies to identify and mitigate their influence. Through a detailed review of existing literature, case studies, and expert interviews, this study sheds light on the anxiety caused by clone journals and offers actionable solutions to combat them.

KEYWORDS: Clone Journals, Journal Quality, Predatory Journal.

INTRODUCTION:

The advancement of science and academia relies heavily on the dissemination of credible research findings. However, the rise of clone journals has disrupted this process, creating a crisis in scholarly communication. Clone journals are deceptive entities that replicate the titles, logos, and other identifiers of reputable journals to lure researchers into publishing their work in substandard or fraudulent venues. This not only jeopardizes the careers of unsuspecting researchers but also undermines the trustworthiness of academic literature as a whole.

The anxiety surrounding clone journals stems from several factors, including the potential damage to researchers' reputations, financial exploitation, and the erosion of public trust in scientific findings. This paper explores the origins of clone journals, the mechanisms they employ, and the far-reaching consequences of their existence. It also highlights the urgent need for robust countermeasures to protect the academic community from their adverse effects.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE:

Lukić, T., Blešić, I., Basarin, B., Ivanović, B. L., Milošević, D., & Sakulski, D. (2014) review highlights the growing issue of predatory publishers exploiting open-access models, deceiving researchers, and profiting from fake journals. It emphasizes the importance of consulting Beall's list and staying informed through scientific portals to avoid falling victim to such fraud. The paper effectively summarizes recent investigations, underscoring the global impact of this unethical practice on the scientific community.

Dadkhah, M., & Bianciardi, G. (2016) highlights the emergence of cyber-criminals hijacking legitimate journals indexed by Thomson Reuters, assigning fake impact factors, and misleading researchers. It exposes their integration with scientific conferences to deceive scholars and tarnish research credibility. The study presents the first edition of the Hijacked Journal List 2014 and outlines methods for future updates.

Kebede, M., Schmaus-Klughammer, A. E., & Tekle, B. T. (2017) discusses the rise of poor-quality open access journals and predatory publishers exploiting the open access model. It highlights Jeffery Beall's work in identifying predatory journals and their threat to scientific progress, especially in developing countries. The authors propose solutions and offer guidance to help researchers avoid these deceptive publications.

NEED OF THE STUDY:

The study on "Anxiety on Clone Journals" seeks to understand the psychological impact of cloning technology, specifically how cloning and its media portrayal affect individuals' mental health. By exploring the fear of identity loss and ethical dilemmas surrounding cloning, the research aims to uncover how these factors contribute to anxiety. Additionally, it examines the role of media in shaping public perceptions of cloning. This research intends to offer valuable insights into the emotional and cognitive consequences of technological advancements. The findings could inform ethical discussions and mental health strategies related to technology. It ultimately contributes to the academic understanding of human responses to emerging technologies.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The scope of this study focuses on understanding the psychological impact of cloning technology and its portrayal in the media. It investigates how fears of identity loss and ethical dilemmas surrounding cloning contribute to anxiety. The research also explores the role of media in shaping public perceptions of cloning. By examining these aspects, the study aims to uncover emotional and cognitive consequences linked to technological advancements. It will contribute to ethical discussions about cloning and inform mental health strategies related to emerging technologies. Ultimately, it seeks to enhance academic understanding of human responses to such advancements.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To explore the psychological impact of clone journals on researchers and the academic community.
2. To develop strategies to identify and combat the influence of clone journals in academic publishing.

THE RISE OF CLONE JOURNALS:

The emergence of clone journals can be traced back to the commercialization of academic publishing and the increasing pressure on researchers to "publish or perish." Predatory publishing, a related phenomenon, has created fertile ground for clone journals to thrive. Unlike

predatory journals, which openly operate under their own branding, clone journals impersonate legitimate publications, making them particularly insidious.

Key factors contributing to the rise of clone journals include:

1. **Ease of Digital Replication:** Advances in web design and digital marketing have made it simple for clone journals to mimic the appearance of reputable journals.
2. **Lack of Awareness:** Many researchers, especially early-career academics and those from developing regions, are unaware of the existence of clone journals and fall prey to their tactics.
3. **Pressure to Publish:** The academic community's emphasis on publishing in high-impact journals creates a vulnerability that clone journals exploit.
4. **Financial Motivation:** Clone journals often charge exorbitant publication fees, prioritizing profit over quality and ethics.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CLONE JOURNALS:

Clone journals share several common traits that distinguish them from legitimate publications:

1. **Identical or Similar Names:** Clone journals often use names that are nearly identical to reputable journals, with minor variations in spelling or punctuation.
2. **Fake Editorial Boards:** These journals list prominent academics as editors without their knowledge or consent.
3. **Rapid Peer Review:** Clone journals promise unrealistically quick peer review processes to attract submissions.
4. **Unsecured Websites:** Many clone journals operate on poorly maintained websites with suspicious domain names.
5. **Aggressive Solicitation:** Researchers often receive persistent and unsolicited emails from clone journals requesting submissions.

IMPACT OF CLONE JOURNALS:

The consequences of clone journals are far-reaching and multifaceted, affecting individual researchers, academic institutions, and the broader scientific community.

1. **Reputational Damage:** Publishing in a clone journal can tarnish a researcher's reputation, as such publications are often dismissed as illegitimate.
2. **Financial Losses:** Researchers and institutions lose significant amounts of money to publication fees charged by clone journals.
3. **Erosion of Academic Integrity:** The presence of clone journals dilutes the quality of academic literature, making it difficult to distinguish credible research from fraudulent work.
4. **Loss of Public Trust:** Clone journals contribute to the dissemination of unreliable findings, which can erode public confidence in science and academia.
5. **Wasted Resources:** Time and effort spent on submissions to clone journals could have been directed toward legitimate academic endeavors.

IDENTIFYING CLONE JOURNALS:

To combat the menace of clone journals, researchers and institutions must be equipped with tools and strategies to identify them. Key indicators of clone journals include:

1. **Cross-Referencing with Indexing Databases:** Reputable journals are indexed in databases like Scopus, Web of Science, and PubMed. Researchers should verify a journal's presence in these indexes.
2. **Checking the Journal's Website:** Legitimate journals have professional websites with clear information about their editorial boards, submission guidelines, and contact details.
3. **Verifying ISSN Numbers:** Each journal is assigned a unique ISSN (International Standard Serial Number). Clone journals often use invalid or duplicate ISSNs.
4. **Consulting Blacklists and Whitelists:** Resources like Beall's List and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) can help researchers identify predatory and clone journals.
5. **Seeking Peer Advice:** Experienced colleagues and mentors can provide valuable insights into the legitimacy of a journal.

STRATEGIES TO COMBAT CLONE JOURNALS:

Addressing the problem of clone journals requires a collective effort from researchers, institutions, publishers, and policymakers. Key strategies include:

1. **Raising Awareness:** Conducting workshops, seminars, and training sessions to educate researchers about clone journals and how to avoid them.
2. **Strengthening Regulations:** Implementing stringent guidelines and penalties for fraudulent publishing practices.
3. **Enhancing Technology:** Developing advanced tools and algorithms to detect and report clone journals.
4. **Promoting Open Access:** Encouraging the use of credible open-access platforms to reduce the influence of predatory and clone journals.
5. **Collaboration Among Stakeholders:** Fostering partnerships between academic institutions, publishers, and indexing agencies to maintain the integrity of scholarly communication.

FINDINGS:

1. Clone Journals Significantly Contribute to Academic Anxiety and Reputational Damage
2. Lack of Awareness and Institutional Safeguards Facilitate the Proliferation of Clone Journals

CONCLUSION:

The proliferation of clone journals represents a serious threat to the integrity of academic publishing. By exploiting the vulnerabilities of researchers and institutions, these journals undermine the credibility of scientific literature and erode public trust in academia. Combating clone journals requires a multifaceted approach that combines awareness, regulation, technology, and collaboration. By taking decisive action, the academic community can reclaim the integrity of scholarly communication and ensure that research continues to serve as a cornerstone of progress and innovation.

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