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Identification of Cloned Journals Publications and Their Consequences

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Abstract

The identification of cloned papers is significantly at internet site operations. The work discusses a methodology to identify hijacked journals based on activities analysis of cloned journals. The methodology is most significant in classifying a system of cloned publications that had similar organizations. Cloned journals archives are analysed which allows to identify 50 URLs of cloned journals, which offers the prospect to classify two fake internet page before it operationally functional. This learning reveals that most identified hijacked journals signify a system of cloned journals managed by one or various fraudulent persons. We surveyed various cloned journals, out of which 510 to be specific, to examine the consequences and causes publications to be cloned. Burden to publish research papers in indexed publisher, fast publications and difficult identifying a hijacked journal, are some of various deviation that led scholars to publish articles in cloned journals. It was stimulating to note that contempt the authors identifying that they have come across the consequences of research publications.

Keywords: *Cloned journals, scholars, consequences, publications.*

Introduction

The vast development of cloned and fake papers has predominantly vulnerable the educational society [1]. Enhancement of academics, publication increments, and pressure created with the publication policy of the organization are the significant causes that made authors to establish their work in predatory and fake journals [2]. Moreover, there exist a alteration amongst a cloned and destructive publications, a journal which is cloned utilise the similar title as the esteemed journal and depicts the similar International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) in its internet page [3]. Duplicated publishers deploy a mirror copy of esteemed papers and gather more papers than the cloned periodicals [4]. The threat of grasping and hijacked journals have significantly post epidemic [5]. Associating with the predatory publications, it is problematic to detect the cloned journals [6]. Hijacked journals are the alternative term used to illustrate the word cloned journals. Hijacked publications are duplicate and fake publications done on the internet site using the similar title as genuine paper. Duplicate and hijacked sessions have demolished the truthfulness of the academics [7].

Provided a certain enhancement in the publications of research article throughout the period of COVID-19 and post the situation of epidemic [8]. This work illustrates the consequences and causes of publications in hijacked publisher handling the scenario of Journal of Positive School Psychology (JPSP). The complexity of cybercrime and the amount of effective fraud attempts in global scientometric information provide a problem for the world's scientists. There has no checks for journal hijacking even though scholars, activists, and certain organizations, including the University Grant Commission in India, compile lists of duplicate publications. Additionally, systematic inspections are seldom feasible because it is simple to create a clone

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journal and registering a domain name may be done in complete anonymity.

Fig.1 JPSP cloned journal home screen.

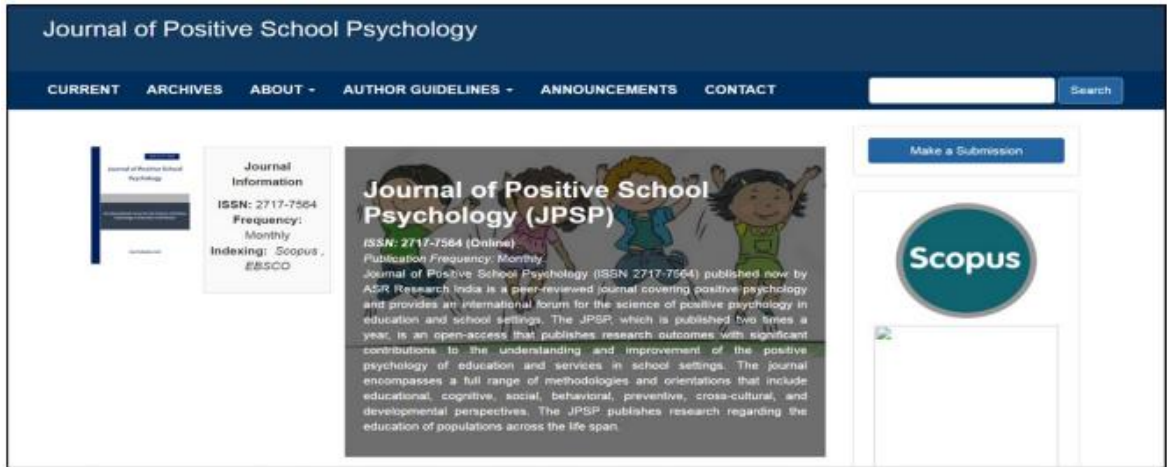


Fig.2. Volume 6 No. 4 issue of JPSP



The open access (OA) paradigm is abused by hacked journals and dishonest publishers that charge for the publishing of an article. No peer review is required for quick publishing in clone journals. Duplicate journals endanger academic identity by disseminating articles without peer review, skewing international rankings, and serving as a temporary repository for low-quality studies when their clone websites are down [9]. The identification of multiple clone publishers in 2020 raised interest in the research of duplicate publications. The website of the journal Development of Talent and Excellence was hacked and copied by the dishonest publishers. Additionally, they were successful in indexing almost 500 manuscripts in Scopus in 2020 [10], albeit these were later removed in response to letters from reputable publishers. The Transylvanian Review's false information also made it into Scopus before being removed from the database. The Russian researcher Eugene Osin posted a description of another occurrence on social media [11]. Figure 1 illustrates the home shelter of the hijacked periodical and indexation. At point of time, its significance can also be shown from vigilant observations. On the different perspective, it

notifies that its regularity is monitored regularly, while the published black box done twice a year. Figure 2 depicts the volume 6 No 4 from the cloned JPSP journal which is listed.

The valuation of minimal quality hijacked website of German publications came from various questions. Despite their regularity being different, the domain check utilizing the services like Whois depicts that the internet site was modified on January 8, 2020. This methodology was utilised by authors in [12] who identified hijacked publications using present registration of internet site to differentiate original publishers and hijacked publications. The activities of the hijacked journals initiated in the year 2020, the hypothesis includes the content which is fake as publication itself. The expectancy was to identify the manuscripts that has been reported in various publishers. The opposing theory was that those innocent writers who were duped ended up publishing their original works. Two people responded, and both said they had never submitted an article to the journal. These academics' papers were replicated and included in the journal's archive. This demonstrated that the notion that the information was phoney was accurate. Several such clone journals that used the identical materials for their archive portions might be found by manually searching Google for the titles of the written pieces and their authors.

Anti-plagiarism software cannot identify text similarities in articles published in journals that have been hijacked since they are not indexed [13]. Since publications are accepted by hijacked journals with no significant review, it is quite does not scan the manuscripts for instances of piracy or self-piracy. Russian Dissernet, which discovered a system of thesis mills and the distribution of undistinguishable texts amongst various PhD theses without the required citation, also provided evidence of the movement of textual similarities [14]. Reusing PhD theses that were declared in dissertation mills led to the prediction of more dishonest dissertations. Based on this data, it is possible to forecast the content of additional fraudulent journals by looking at the hijacked journals, particularly if they are part of the same network.

The only thing that may be shown in these bogus mills using hijacked journal text is the appearance of a scientific paper, and it must also meet formal requirements such being a title, review, information. I will investigate if it is possible to anticipate future stolen journals, particularly those from the same network, using the archives of existing hijacked journals. I must look up more seized articles from the network using the heading and writers of the discovered appropriated journals in order to do the analysis.

Related Work

Jalalian and Mahboobi [15] present scenario in academic anxieties lectures, professors, postgraduate scholars, and researchers elaborate as many journals manuscripts as possible. Certain of the procedures makers in several academic subjects involving research identity to be of range only if they are available in an internationally indexed publisher. Initiated on august 11, 2011, the online cybercriminals and hackers opened a unique line in their organizations, i.e., forming a false website that replicate the genuine journals that more significantly indexed by Web of Science (WOS) etc. Mahboobi et al. [16] identified this normal academic misbehaviour and unofficially included the term “hijacked journal”.

During the present years, cloned hackers have formed various counterfeit sites for various scientific journals, significantly printing them once. Jalalian et al [17] described that call-for-papers have broadcasted like spam to authors mail addresses. Subsequent the cybercriminals significantly marketed the hijacked publications and cloned journals, they presented a secondary product in the year 2013, i.e., Duplicate impact factor journals and metrics which are misleading that were gathered by unknown institutes. A significant issue is the reliability and validation of the range matric and the various measures suggested by the database which is scientifically indexed, since the people who maintain and operate these databases. Lukic et al. [18] surveyed and presented a discussed the issues caused by questionable publishers and cloned journals. Mehdi Dadkhah and Aida Quliyeva [19] stated that social engineering is

utilised by forgers to tackle their victims. Based on the suggestion of the authors, forming up a fake manuscript has become a significant way of getting scholars manuscripts and publishing them in cloned journals. Dadkhah et al. [20] mentioned that manuscript of cloned journals does not express a title with specific subjects, and helped the cloned journals to publish the articles in different areas of specialization. Seethapathy et al. [21] stated the initial group of parameters are associated with academic specifications for manuscripts, e.g., to put on for a position or to gain the upgrade in academic circle, to pass familiar academic regulations.

The second set of variables explains why early or inexperienced researchers who may not be aware of the journals' standards submit manuscript to end up publishing in low-quality journals as stated by Kurt [22]. The third category has to do with the standard of the study itself. Additionally, there is proof that some researchers have no way to produce the superior research necessary for famous publications. Kurt [22] suggested that researchers often refrain from submitting their work to reputable publications because of their poor English skills. The final category relates to community or religious identity. Predatory and hacked journals that offer inadequate or no review by peers and do not sufficiently or at all examine the texts for copying are now causing a great deal of worry. This makes maintaining academic honesty difficult. In addition, we still lack sufficient knowledge about plagiarism in journals because systematic checks for copying, which are still not conducted by researchers due to procedures that are obviously resource- and time-intensive and difficulties in detecting text similarities, directly depend on our understanding of text analogies as stated by Weber-Wulff. This gives low-quality journals and journals that have been hijacked the chance to grow their businesses freely and without respect for the standards of academic honesty.

This study's importance is significant on several levels. One is that since they precisely mimic practically every aspect of a reputable publication, cloned journals are particularly challenging to spot. The size of the essay that was published in cloned publications is remarkable, too. Third, academicians are still required to publish additional research, which is a difficult need. Fourth, comparing to the pre-COVID period, the count of manuscript increased significantly at the time of COVID-19 and following the pandemic. The authors of this research considered that, considering these changes, a thorough investigation should be conducted on basis of substantial experiential data from publishers of duplicated articles in journals in order to comprehend the causes and effects of duplicated journal periodicals. Two different research questionnaires were posted:

RQ1: *What issues motivated authors to publish in hijacked journals?*

RQ2: *Are authors noticed about the significance of cloned journals?*

Methodology

The writers of the duplicated JPSP journal were the source of the study's primary data. The papers in the majority of the mega-article pages in the duplicated JPSP journal include email addresses for the accompanying and other authors, and the publication is open access. For a very big population of, say, twenty thousand, the sample size, according to commonly used statistical benches like Krejcie and Morgan [23], comes from 360 at 94% level of confidence and 4% from interval confidence. To account for a considerably bigger population and correct for sample flaws, this was rounded up to 300. Around 700 editors of the duplicated JPSP publication were mailed the survey form that was created via Google Forms. The requisite proof was provided to the authors to show that the JPSP journal, where their article was published, was a clone. The evidence presented included the unusually high page counts as well as the number of articles published in the journal's most recent four issues, the discrepancy between the publisher listed on the cloned journal's website and the publisher listed in the Scopus index, hidden

article processing fees, and the differences in the number of issues. The editorial board's information, which we discovered to be false, was also pushed upon the writers to be verified.

Three elements made up the survey questionnaire: professional information, reasons for publishing in the duplicated JPSP publication, and consciousness of the repercussions of publishing in the duplicated journal. There were nine questions in the part on general information, and ten in the section on causes and effects. The "publish or perish" principle, academic promotion, financial incentives for publishing, fear of rejection from reputable journals, lack of awareness, and other factors were all taken into consideration while creating the list of 10 causes. Similarly, the questionnaire used to gauge respondents' knowledge of the effects of copied journal papers included a list of ten statements. The ten items were mostly based on the literature that was already available (such cloned manuscripts are cited in subsequent research; these journals pose a serious threat to educational integrity; they have a negative impact on the quality of publications; their papers may contain false conclusions and impede scientific advancement).

On a Likert scale with five possible responses, we asked. Totally disagree, slightly disagree, Neither agreeing nor disagreeing, Relatively agree, and firmly concur were the available responses. Google Forms was used to host the survey. Over the course of one week in June 2022, 512 replies were submitted, yielding a rate of response of 64% (500/700). With a few notable exceptions, the majority of copy journals utilise the exact ISSN of the unique articles on their web pages. The clone journals' names have small variations. Changes to the letters or new phrases, such as "Journal", "Journal of", "Multidisciplinary Journal", "Research" or "Research journal of," may also be present. Some of the cloned sites were created on the exact same day and have similarly organized webpages.

Table. 1 Questionnaire for the cloned journal

QUESTIONNAIRES
Learning of the consequences and significance of hijacked publishers
Information of the Profile
Q1. Gender (Female, Male)
Q2. Oldness (<28 years, 28-37 years, 38-47 years, >= 50 years)
Q3. Area (South Asia, North Europe, Rest of World)
Q4. Designation (Researcher, Post Graduate Student, Others)
Q5. Experience (<4 years, 4-10 years, 11-14 years, >14 years)
Q6. Publication mode (Direct, using agent)
Q7. Publication authenticity (Yes, No)
Q8. Support through funding (No, Yes)

The hypotheses were tested using the methodology used. Each section's results were combined into two opposing categories, agreeing, and disagreeing. In order to distinguish the completely concur and strongly disagree replies from the slightly agree and slightly disapprove responses, respectively, a weight of 2 was given to each extreme response. The "neither agree nor disagree" comments were given 0 weight in the computations. An average count was obtained for the two opposing viewpoints of either support or opposition for each sub-question.

Result and Discussion

Table 2 lists the sample's profile characteristics (n=510).

Male authors made up 46% of the sample, 8 percentage points more than female authors, who made up 54%. A total of 46 percent of respondents were under 30, 22 percent were between the ages of 30 and

39, 27 percent were between the ages of 40 and 49, and 4 percent were over 50. Most of the authors were rather new. $49+38\%=87\%$ of the responses came from India along with other Asian countries, a large majority. 8 % of the respondents worked as full-time researchers, whereas 46% were faculty members, 42% were faculty members who were also doctoral candidates, and 4% held other jobs. 49 percent of respondents had less than five years of research experience, 24 percent had between five and ten years, 13 percent had between eleven and fifteen years, and the remaining 4 percent had more than fifteen years. Overall, the responders had comparatively less research experience.

Table 2. Sample Profile Characteristics.

Variable	Opinion	Numbers	Percentage
Oldness	<28 years	240	45%
28-37 years		110	24%
38-47 years		130	27%
>= 50 years		15	4%
Area	South Asia	229	48%
North Europe		35	8%
Rest of World		173	35%
Designation	Researcher	35	7%
Post Graduate Student		230	43%
Others		20	3%
Check of authenticity	No	420	80%
YES		80	15%

Table 3. Hijacked Journals in Scientometric databases

	Scopus	eLibrary	Scimago
Website link of the hijacked journals	1	3	2
Content indexed from the hijacked journals	1	5	-
Overall number of journals with reference to the cloned publishers and content indexed from the cloned publishers	1	5	3

In Scimago, it got discovered at least three instances of linking to clone websites. Additionally, it was found one instance in Researchgate where the homepage link went to a duplicate publication that had already had material indexed by Scopus. The similar issue was found in the Russian repository eLibrary, where five journals had bogus material in the database and two journals had erroneous homepages. Nine journals (16%) had their data compromised overall in various scientometric databases.

These results might provide insight into why authors are so successfully defrauded by journals that have been hijacked. Academic credibility is seriously threatened by stolen journals. The hijacked "Talent Development and Excellence" journal's Scimago homepage noted that some content landed up in Scopus, where "researchers were not investigators" and were unable to confirm the information from a reliable scientometric database. Even for pros, it might be challenging to identify between genuine and duplicate publications.

Limitations

An primary objective of this work is to detect the network of cloned journals by analysing the content of the identified hijacked journals. This identified technique is the popular significant in classifying the journals that similar with the same system of cloned publications. Because of this circulation of information amongst the journals which is analysed, this technique also allowed the classification of

minimal one stand unique journals. In additions to the cloned journals, search results illustrate the journals. Same outcome were identified amongst the published articles in cloned journals. Although there is currently no proof as to why authors publish in journals that have been taken over, it is generally accepted that inexperienced or novice academics are the targets of cybercrime fraud. But are these the only kind of academics that write in publications that have been taken over? We don't have a lot of proof that the writers are aware of journals that have been taken over. Due to the sharp increase in subpar or fraudulent publications, this may be a crucial topic for future study on the market for hijacked or predatory journals.

Conclusion

Despite its shortcomings, this study makes the following contributions. This study looks at a fresh way to spot journals that have been taken over first. The majority of these journals are connected via the same network, for example, they share an organiser. In order to deceive potential customers, stolen publications from the same connection reuse texts to show continual publication. This novel method identified 62 URLs from 57 hacked journals. The majority of these URLs aren't on the lists of cloned or hijacked journals that are currently on the market. This technique also made it possible to find at least one journal for standalone clones. Second, our research enabled the prediction of two clone publications before their web pages went up. Central education agencies have a significant influence. They should take serious action against the hackers and proprietors of the cloned journals instead of just advertising the cloned publications on their website. Publishing through a journal that has been copied, like the JPSP, is a clear form of fraud, and is thus prohibited. There should be more study in cloned publications as there are not many research in this field. Scholars should keep in mind that a duplicate journal is significantly harmful than a rogue or fraudulent journal since it has a lot of appeal because it is a replication of a reputable publication.

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