

Journal verification record

Check a journal's claims against independent records before submitting or paying a fee.

Use and limits. A documented assessment, not a blacklist or automated verdict. A fee, unfamiliar title, or missing directory entry alone does not establish deceptive practice. Escalate unresolved contradictions.

WORKED EXAMPLE · FICTIONAL

Fictional case packet: an invitation for Meridian Methods in Biomedicine links to meridian-methods.example. The email claims MEDLINE indexing, no author fee, and acceptance within 48 hours. Its fictional website lists a USD 900 fee. All documents and checks below are simulated; no real journal is evaluated.

1. Identity and official site

Invitation and site give the same title and .example domain but no ISSN or independently confirmed publisher route. Status: identity unknown. Next: search an independent serials record by exact title and request the ISSN.

3. Editorial responsibility

The fictional site lists two editors with university affiliations, but this case packet has no independent affiliation records. Status: unknown. Next: verify each role through the institutions, not the invitation's links.

5. Fees and rights

Email says no author fee; fictional site lists USD 900 after acceptance, with no waiver or license terms in the packet. Status: direct fee contradiction. Next: retain both dated claims and seek written terms.

2. Indexing claims

Email says MEDLINE indexed. In the simulated NLM Catalog check, that exact title has no confirming MEDLINE record. Status: unconfirmed, not a misconduct finding. Next: request the NLM record ID and recheck by ISSN.

4. Review and publication policies

Email promises acceptance within 48 hours; the fictional site does not explain external review or corrections. Status: consequential unanswered question. Next: request the review and correction policies before uploading.

6. Decision and unresolved questions

Do not submit or pay yet. Ask a librarian to check identity and NLM coverage, and ask the verified publisher contact to resolve the fee and review claims. If unresolved, choose another venue; do not publicly label this fictional journal.

SOURCE GUIDANCE · CHECKED 2026-09-22

[Think. Check. Submit.: Journals](https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/). Checking publisher identity, review, fees, rights, and independent services before submission.
<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/journals/>

[NLM: PubMed User Guide](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/help/). Distinguishes PubMed citations from MEDLINE indexing and explains journal searches.
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/help/>

[NLM Catalog](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/). Search the exact title or ISSN in NLM's journal records; a missing match alone is not a misconduct finding.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/>

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[Online worksheet and current version](https://manusights.com/resources/predatory-journals-biomedical#worksheet) · [Corrections](#)
<https://manusights.com/resources/predatory-journals-biomedical#worksheet>

Check each claim

Journal / website: _____

Checked by / date: _____

Record the exact source and date. If a claim cannot be checked, leave it unknown. Keep completed copies private.

1. Identity and official site

Record exact title, ISSN, publisher, and website. Check for similar names, copied branding, or contradictory contact information.

Status: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Contradicted ☐ Unknown

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Next action / owner

2. Indexing claims

List each claimed database and verify it in that database. Record the result, URL, and date, including not found or unclear.

Status: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Contradicted ☐ Unknown

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Next action / owner

3. Editorial responsibility

Check editorial roles, contact routes, and whether named editors' affiliations can be independently corroborated.

Status: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Contradicted ☐ Unknown

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Next action / owner

[Open the interactive worksheet](#) for longer notes and current source links. This record is not a misconduct finding.

Resolve the decision

Journal / website: _____

Checked by / date: _____

Record the exact source and date. If a claim cannot be checked, leave it unknown. Keep completed copies private.

4. Review and publication policies

Locate peer-review, correction, retraction, and archiving policies. Compare promises with the journal's published process.

Status: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Contradicted ☐ Unknown

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Next action / owner

5. Fees and rights

Record amount, currency, payment trigger, waiver terms, license, and copyright arrangements from current policies.

Status: ☐ Confirmed ☐ Contradicted ☐ Unknown

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Next action / owner

6. Decision and unresolved questions

Choose proceed to fit assessment, seek advice, or do not proceed yet. List evidence, unresolved claims, and next action.

Decision: ☐ Proceed to fit assessment ☐ Seek advice ☐ Do not proceed yet

Claim / where seen / date

Independent source / URL / date

Unresolved questions / owner / next
check

BEFORE YOU USE THE RESULT

- Claims were checked outside the journal's own marketing pages.
- Uncertainty is visible; absence of evidence is not presented as a misconduct finding.
- Unresolved identity, fee, or review contradictions are addressed before submission.

[Open the interactive worksheet](#) for longer notes and current source links. This record is not a misconduct finding.