Author Services

The race for publication in well-established, English language journals has led to an explosion in the number of scientific journals, publishing companies, and the creation of a rapidly developing industry - *Author Services* - estimated to be generating hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Editing, academic publication support and translation services aimed at authors, many from non-English speaking countries, are provided for authors online in support levels (basic, regular and advanced) with options for preferred turnaround timeline based on length of manuscript (for example, for 3500 words, the average cost of English Language Editing ranges from $200-$600 USD). Services typically include:

- **English Language Editing** - Detailed language check, rephrasing, organization and restructuring, feedback, and formatting, crosscheck
- **Translation with Editing** - Translation to English, from: Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Turkish, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Indian dialects

As well as:

- **Technical Review** - Comprehensive assessment of study design, literature review, critical analysis and recommendations for improvement
- **Plagiarism Check** – Check for unintentional plagiarism and specific recommendations to address any potential problems
- **Journal selection** – Selection of the best Journals in which to submit including pros and cons of each
- **Research Communication**: Specialized promotional tools for research discoverability, increased citations, improved impact with peers, media and funders
- **Artwork/illustration/infographic preparation** – Accuracy check, format/revise artwork to meet the technical requirement

Over the past 5 years, the rate at which new Author Services options have generated is on par with the simultaneous upsurge in the quantity of published journal titles. Authors in need of English Language support services, many from non-English speaking countries who already face challenges in publishing relevant scientific research, have subsequently faced increased challenges in navigating the myriad of options and determining the best choice. As is the case with Journal titles, many of these services to authors are provided through publishers (either in house, third party, or a combination). Alternatively, other available services options range from individuals freelancing online to large, established companies, all advertising to authors similar services and results. However, it has become apparent that "Predatory" Journals not only charge authors for publication but by extension offer language services as well and charge for providing little to no actual services, while other services offered to authors may provide substandard work for a very low price. Predatory author services emulate legitimate author services websites and they are very good at it, so it is often very difficult to determine legitimacy from simply glancing at the website.

Reviewing the literature on this industry shows that the same criteria used for determining Predatory Journals may be used in evaluating potential author services. The following criteria has been identified for credible products and providers for authors:

1. **Services provided by the author's Host Institution**:

   Services provided, linked or recommended by a University, Health Institute or Professional Society can be trusted source of credible resources.

2. **Consultation with Colleagues and other Subject Matter Experts**:

   a. **Journal Selection/Recommendation**: It is best to have an experienced mentor guide Journal selection. Ask colleagues for recommendations, or what they may know about particular services in that geographic region or location. Experienced mentors can provide assistance to authors in the evaluation of a journal, help with fit, career goals and avoiding predatory journals.

   b. **Journal Finder:** Online journal recommendation tools to guide journal selection.
      - Wiley (https://journalfinder.wiley.com/search?type=select). I checked out the links you provided for editing services didn't find any others that provide journal selection services without a cost. If anyone knows of others, we can add those as well.
      - AJE https://www.journalguide.com/ is a great recommendation and looks relatively inclusive. I'll include it.
      - JANE (Journal/Author Name Estimator) https://jane.biosemantics.org

3. **Professional English Language Vendors**: Numerous companies offer editing service, with prices ranging between $100 - $750, depending on factors; it is recommended that authors be aware of the following:

   - *Publisher Specific* The services provided by large, established global publishers provide detailed services and an up-front outline of services and costs; these companies typically originate in North American or Europe, and the editors are screened for skills/education.

   Elsevier   https://webshop.elsevier.com/language-editing-services/language-editing
   T & F Editing Services   https://www.tandfeditingservices.com
   Springer Nature   https://authorservices.springernature.com/
   SAGE Editing   https://languageservices.sagepub.com/en/

   Wiley Editing   https://authorservices.wiley.com/home.html

   Wolters Kluwer   https://wkauthorservices.editage.com

   - *Professional Companies* Services provided by established, large global companies which also advertise competent editors and price ranges consistent with the publishing companies.

   Editage   https://www.editage.com/
   AJE   https://www.aje.com/
   LetPub   https://www.letpub.com/
   International Science Editing   https://www.internationalscienceediting.com/

   - *National/Regional* Services provided by smaller, private companies which have national/continental focus, also advertise skilled editors:

   Enago (China, South Korea, Japan, Turkey) https://www.enago.com/journal-article-editing.htm
   Edanz (Japan) https://en-author-services.edanz.com/
   Scibendi (Canada) https://www.scribendi.com/
   Science Journal Editors (USA) https://www.scienceje.com/editing
   Charlesworth (UK, China) https://www.cwauthors.com/

Recommendations for Authors:

   - It is strongly recommended that unfamiliar "Author Services" be thoroughly vetted. Authors are advised to:

- Look the name up online; research their website
- Ask a fellow colleague or mentor
- Pose a question in a research forum

If it is genuine, it will show up in searches and inquiries

- **It is further recommended that authors watch carefully for the following "red flags" when evaluating potential Author Service providers, and be wary of those who:**
  - send out non-stop Spam emails advertising their services
  - randomly advertise online "hundreds of experts" with no other information provided
  - are unknown but on their website lists multiple academic "Partnerships "or affiliations with established entities
  - provide no physical address or a vague address which cannot be located or easily verified
  - have website in which multiple links do not work, just loop back or do not lead to the information
  - make any reference to "ghost" writing

  If it is genuine, the information should be verifiable

- **It is recommended that Authors take great caution with Author Services advertised or solicited via online marketplaces:**
  - Websites in which authors must post *"subject area, length of manuscript and your turnaround time"* and people bid on the "job"

  It is not possible in this case to actually verify information, therefore may not be trusted

Resources and References

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