A to Z list of common features in emails from predatory publishers
(with examples)

Awkward language

“we heartily appreciate your expertise in the related field”
“enabling us to be a window for knowledge”
“It’s my pleasure that invite you to submit your other excellent research papers”
“We honestly inform you a good news of no fee for paper publication in recommended journals which a preferable platform can be supplied for you and all the other authors to share more research findings in various fields.”
“Your prompt submission sustains us a lot and impacts my ranking in end of this month.”
“Await your encouraging submission.”
“Hence, we humbly request you to submit any type of article”

Citing a former article by the author, then requesting a continuation:

“I have had an opportunity to read your paper: [TITLE] which was published in [FULL CITATION]. I know you are an expert in this field.
“I am writing this e-mail with reference to your article published in the field of XYZ “
“We would like to welcome you to be the chair/speaker in XYZ Conference, while presenting about [previously published article]”
“We gone through one of your publication entitled [article] and were very impressed by it.”
“We have also gone through some of your research work, and we heartily appreciate your expertise in the related field.”

Copycat syndrome

Hijacked journals - respected journals for which someone has created a counterfeit website. Journal title sounds familiar, but is not the real one: intentional resemblance
Example (based on the longest running journal in addiction
Originally: Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs

Fake impact factor

universal IF
global IF
international IF
“Google-based Impact Factor: 1.15”

False information

about their headquarters: US address, while website is registered outside the US
about editorial board members: scholar is unaware of being listed

Flattering

“We hope to publish your valuable paper”
“Given your extensive experience and contributions in ... field”
“I want to congratulate you on all your many accomplishments in your field of research and
expertise” “with the support from eminent researchers like you”
“We would like to appreciate your contribution towards the scientific community by publishing your precious work.”
“It is my great honour & privilege to invite an eminent researcher like you to contribute”
“We anticipate your gracious presence at our event.”
“We welcome your gracious presence as a Speaker at the upcoming [CONFERENCE]”

Greeting and ending unusual
“Greetings for the day!”
“Seasonal Wishes from XYZ Journal!” “
“Hope this mail finds you in healthy spirits”
“Have a nice and healthy day ahead!”
“We will be looking forward to hear a positive response from you soon”
“We look forward to your quick response for the good scientific approach and study”
“Best Regards, Sophia Loren”
“Greetings and good wishes!”
“Anticipating for your positive response...”
“Looking forward for a Fruitful Association”
“We look forward to your quick response for the good scientific approach and study.”
“Looking forward to have a long lasting scientific relationship. Have a productive day at work!”

Ignorance about publishing
“We are glad to let you know that we have successfully released the former issues in 2016.”
“You are requested to send your resume to Email Id: [EMAIL] furnishing us with the details mentioned here under. So that we can accept you to be a member of our Journal.”
“Once a manuscript has been accepted for publication, it will undergo language copy editing, typesetting, and reference validation in order to provide the highest publication quality.”
“[JOURNAL] is an internationally peer reviewed, open access source for a large number of high quality articles. Scientists, residents, research fellows, engineers etc, involved in research can make the most of this growing global forum to publish papers covering their original research or extended versions of already published conference/journal papers, academic articles, etc.”
“Our eminent editorial panel which does peer reviewing of all the articles submitted which ensures credibility of the article submitted.”
“Allotment of DOI number for the abstract paper”

Incomprehensible sentences
“Your prompt submission sustains us a lot and impacts my ranking in end of this month”
“Await your encouraging submission”
“The organizing committee members for the esteemed event are 20 initially who are eminent in the field.”
“I will be thankful if you could concern on my request.”
“Authors with top refereced papers will benefit the journal yearly grant.”
“[CONFERENCE] is specifically premeditated with a unifying axiom providing pulpit to widen the imminent scientific creations.”
“Wish contributing 2 page article isn’t time period having process by means of eminent just like you.”
“This conference point of convergence is on the integration of Addiction Research perspectives that can guide improvements for the health and Co morbid drug abuse and mental disorders.”
Indexed in Google Scholar (which includes most journals, regardless of quality).

“Most of the publications from us can be searched by Google Scholar.”
“Proceedings will be indexed in Google Scholar.”
“Indexed in major indexing like EBSCO HOST, CABELL’s library, ULRICH web, Jour Info etc.”
“Indexes: Cabell’s Directories, DBLP, EBSCOhost, ERA, Google Scholar, LOCKSS, Open J-Gate, PKP Open Archives Harvester, Standard Periodical Directory, The Index of Information Systems Journals (Published by Deakin University), Ulrich’s, Universe Digital Library, WorldCat and SHERPA/RoMEO.”
“As an open-access journal we are indexed in EBSCOhost, Ulrich, Informed Librarian Online, DOAJ, ISI, Google Scholar, CrossRef, OAK, and similar indexes.”

Language is boastful, editorialized

“leading journal in the discipline”
“a newly launched journal with unique dimensions aiming at meeting all the requirements of diverse sections of researchers across the globe”
“Our eminent editorial panel which does peer reviewing of all the articles submitted which ensures credibility of the article submitted”
“The journal has a distinguished editorial board with extensive academic qualifications, ensuring that the journal maintains high scientific standards and has broad international coverage.”
“[JOURNAL] will have great visibility and will provide you a resounding success in your writing skill endeavour.”

Missing standards: ISSN, DOI, Impact Factor

Mix-and-Match

“published articles are indexed in Crossref, research gate, google scholar, Mendeley, Windows Live Academic & with doi”

New business: new publisher, new journals

“We cordially invite you to publish your paper in the inaugural issue”
“a newly launched journal”
“XYZ Journal, which is newly started and mainly focused on publishing quality research from an eminent scholars to serve for the betterment of Scientific Community”
“We are pleased to announce the successful launch of [JOURNAL], (an Open Access Publishing journal).”
“Awaiting 2nd Issue Release”
“Welcoming Manuscript for the Inaugural Issue of [JOURNAL]”

Overextending

“This is a broad-based journal covering all areas of XYZ”
“I would like to develop this journal into one of the most authentic and significant publications in XYZ Research”
“a newly launched journal with unique dimensions aiming at meeting all the requirements of diverse sections of researchers across the globe in [FIELD]”

Overly polite, but clumsy

“your kind attention in this regard highly esteemed”
“We would like to solicit your gracious presence”
“Please let me know your feasible time to contribute”
“Let us know the feasible duration for the same”
“with a desire to publish your potential article in [JOURNAL], we cordially welcome your precious submission by July 12”

Overzealous

“We cordially welcome your precious submission”
“It is our immense pleasure to introduce our new journal”
“We would be pleased and honored if you would consent to be our speaker”
“Kindly consider this as reminder”

Perceived connection

“Hope you are doing well!!!
“Hope you are doing great doctor.”
“I trust you are doing fine!”
“We hope you are doing a great job”
“We understand your busy schedule”

Persuasive

“I do look forward for your positive response!”
“We strongly encourage you to submit your next article for consideration and publication”

Promises: fast peer review, fast acceptance, fast publication, global reach

“High visibility and fast publication”
“Last Date for paper Submission: 10 May 2017 -- Publication Date: 20 May 2017”
“Search engine friendly”
“Widest possible global dissemination of your research”
“The quick submission will result in fast review process and publications”

Reminder and repetition

“This is a friendly reminder mail regarding the article submission”
“We have contacted you earlier through e-mail as we are aware that you may have engaged in other activities or our message may not have successfully reached you.”
“I didn’t hear back from you about the e-mail which was sent to you few weeks back; hence making a follow up.”
“This is to inquire whether you have received my earlier email inviting you to be the Lead Guest Editor for a Special Issue.”
“We are taking the liberty of resending the mail regarding manuscript submission.”

Request to share

“We request you to suggest your colleagues or experts in the field of [JOURNAL] to submit their research/review works for the upcoming issue.”
“We request you to send this email to your students.”
“Please inform about [JOURNAL] to the teaching communities so that it may serve the purpose of others’. Thanking you......”
“We request author to forward this email to the concern HOD/Librarian for following Journal’s Subscription.”
“Given your interests and contributions to research and academia, we invite you/your research students to submit”

Urgency

“limited time”
“We review your manuscript within 7 days.”
“Give acceptance earlier.”
“introductory offer”
“The below ends today. Please let me know if you would be interested.”
“I am pleased to inform you that [JOURNAL] is planning to release Volume # Issue 1 by end of this month and we need only two articles to succeed this issue.”
“Your kind acknowledgement within 24hours is highly appreciable.”
“Kindly respond to this mail within 48 hrs (or at the earliest possible)”
“***Suitable Discounts will be given for submissions on/before the deadline.”
“We will call you in a week or so to follow up on this.”

Vocabulary is off

“double blinded peer review”
“Email Id”
“The circumnutated theme of this conference is....”
“It is our immense pleasure to invite you and your research allies to submit manuscript for”
“Howevers we extend the time limit with intimation”
“Please let us know if you have any queries.”

Collected by Judit H. Ward from letters received by researchers at the Rutgers Center of Alcohol Studies (2007 to 2017)