

Predatory Journals at Scopus and WoS: Translation Plagiarism

The first large-scale evidence of plagiarism by Russian scholars in international predatory journals is reported. The detected are 259 English-language scientific papers machine-translated (or poorly human-translated on the verge of illegibility) from Russian sources and published as original research papers in 94 Scopus and Web of Science Core Collection (hence WoS) indexed journals. In 174 cases, the Russian sources for these papers were texts published earlier by third parties, which classifies a significant part of the cases as plagiarism by translation; the sources include newspapers articles, student term papers, official government reports etc. Apparently plagiarizing from a Russian source may have been employed in order to avoid automatic plagiarism detection from an English source. In 85 cases, the lists of authors of the original and translated texts partially overlap, most likely pointing towards gift co-authorship.