Analysis of domain registration activity of journal hijackers: A cross sectional survey

Background: A hijacked journal is a genuine scientific journal that offers print-only version, for which a fake website has been created by a spiteful third party sham publisher for the aim of fraudulently offering research scientists the chance to quickly publish their paper online with publication charge.

Methods: Number of domains registered by journal hijackers from 2000 to 20 July 2014 were analyzed in this cross sectional survey. Hijacked journal data obtained from updated hijacked journal list (http://www.mehrdadjalalian.com/) and registration dates are taken from who is database (http://whois.domaintools.com/).

Results: Domain registration activity of journal hijackers increased dramatically during 2012-1014. We found the highest activity at 2013 by 11 fake journal domain registration.
Conclusions: The aim of an anti-journal hijacking plan must be to “disseminate knowledge/awareness about such cheats and to educate authors and journal editor so they will have the basic abilities essential avoiding hijacked journals. We believe that well-known international organizations e.g. International Committee of Medical Journal Editors, World Association of Medical Editors and Committee on Publication Ethics must do action against journal hijacking.

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