

Predatory publishing, scientific misconduct, and algorithms

Week 6: Calling Bullshit

Thoughts on Last Week's Reading?

- Good and Bad graphs
- Tools and tricks: Misleading axes
- Optional: Edward R. Tufte. “Chartjunk: vibrations, grids, and ducks.” The Visual Display of Quantitative Information, 1983.

Predatory Publishing

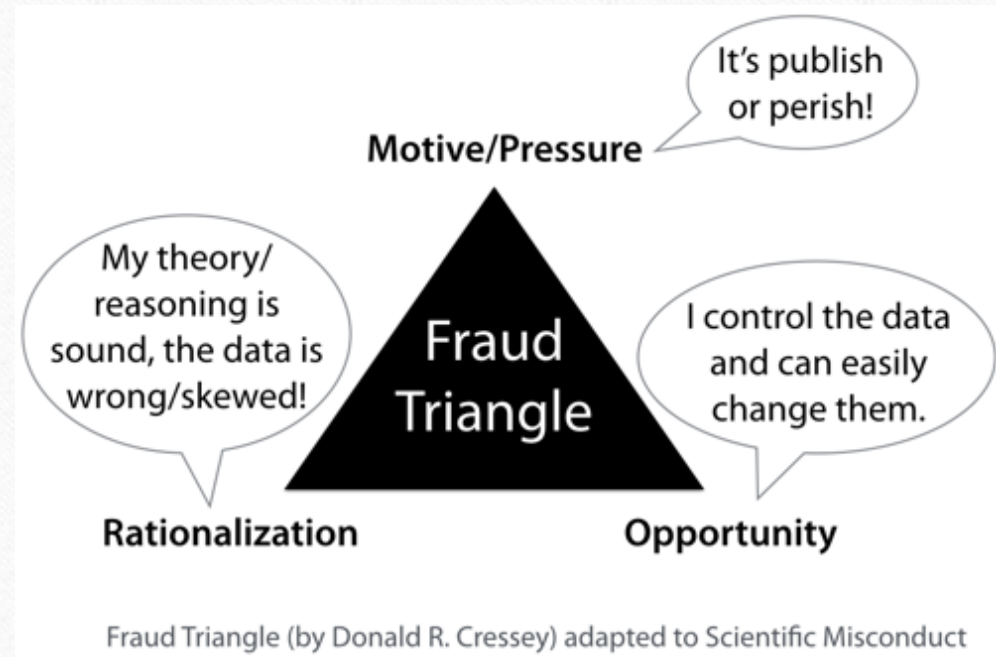
An exploitative publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without providing the editorial and publishing services associated with legitimate journals (open access or not). Accepting articles quickly with little or no peer review or quality control, including hoax and nonsensical papers.

- Notifying academics of article fees only after papers are accepted.
- Aggressively campaigning for academics to submit articles or serve on editorial boards.
- Listing academics as members of editorial boards without their permission, and not allowing academics to resign from editorial boards.
- Appointing fake academics to editorial boards.
- Mimicking the name or web site style of more established journals.
- Misleading claims about the publishing operation, such as a false location.

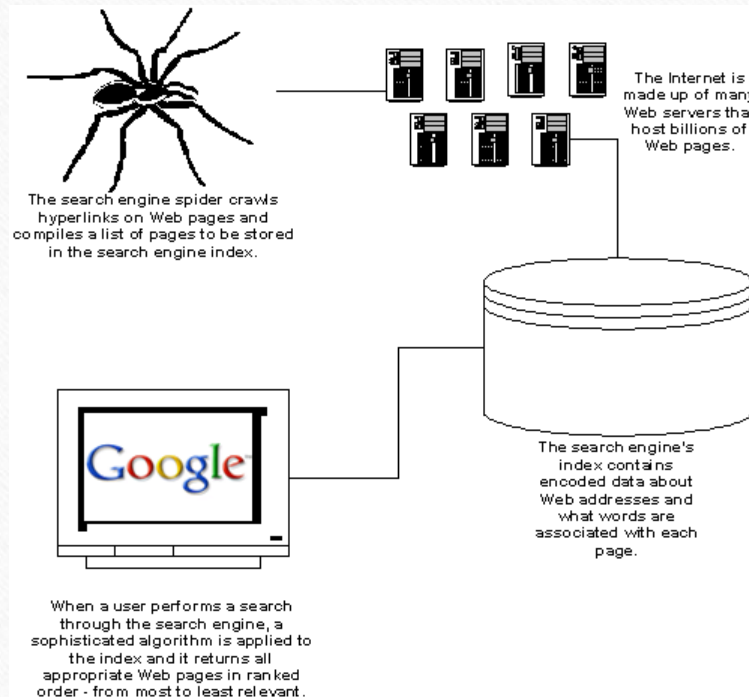
Scientific Misconduct

Violation of the standard codes of scholarly conduct and ethical behavior in professional scientific research.

- Willful ignorance of data
- Evidence of falsifying, skewing, or deliberate misrepresentation of data
- Misuse of human subjects



Algorithms



“...behind every algorithm is always a person, a person with a set of personal beliefs that no code can ever completely eradicate.”

-Andreas Ekström

Assigned Reading

- Kevin Carey, [A Peek Inside the Strange World of Fake Academia](#), *New York Times*, Dec. 29, 2016
- Lee Rainie and Janna Anderson, [Code-Dependent: Pros and Cons of the Algorithm Age](#), Pew Research Center Report, February 8, 2017

Next week: Fake News

The power to shape public opinion?