

Scholarly Communication and Predatory Publishing in the Undergraduate Classroom



By: Tara Spies Smith

ACRL STS-IL Chat

February 11, 2020

Dianna Morganti, MLS, PMP®

Research Instruction & Outreach Librarian

Texas State University



Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy

Creating Strategic Collaborations
for a Changing Academic Environment

- 1.) economics of the distribution of scholarship (including access to scholarship, the changing nature of scholarly publishing, and the education of students to be knowledgeable content consumers and content creators);
-

- OR: Gone are the days of “Google bad. Library good”

Association of College and Research Libraries. Working Group on Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy. *Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy: Creating Strategic Collaborations for a Changing Academic Environment*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2013. Published online at <http://acrl.ala.org/intersections>

2.) digital literacies (including teaching new technologies and rights issues, and the emergence of multiple types of non-textual content);

OR: Wait – I thought “.edu” meant it was good.



Association of College and Research Libraries. Working Group on Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy. *Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy: Creating Strategic Collaborations for a Changing Academic Environment*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2013. Published online at <http://acrl.ala.org/intersections>



3.) our changing roles (including the imperative to contribute to the building of new infrastructures for scholarship, and deep involvement with creative approaches to teaching).

OR: Competencies can't cut it anymore.

Association of College and Research Libraries. Working Group on Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy. *Intersections of Scholarly Communication and Information Literacy: Creating Strategic Collaborations for a Changing Academic Environment*. Chicago, IL: Association of College and Research Libraries, 2013. Published online at <http://acrl.ala.org/intersections>

Encountering Schol Comm Problems in Undergraduate Research

Schol Comm Issues Encountered



Predatory Publications – pretend peer-review



Pre-Prints/Post-Prints with wrong citations (“SSRN Journal”)



Pretend Pre-Preprint, purported to be published in prestigious journal (poorly written)

Designing the intervention

- Economics of publishing : everyday life
- Activity: Reviewing a OMICS paper
 - Poor grammar
 - Different journal titles on side than top of paper
- Students ability/difficulty in judging quality

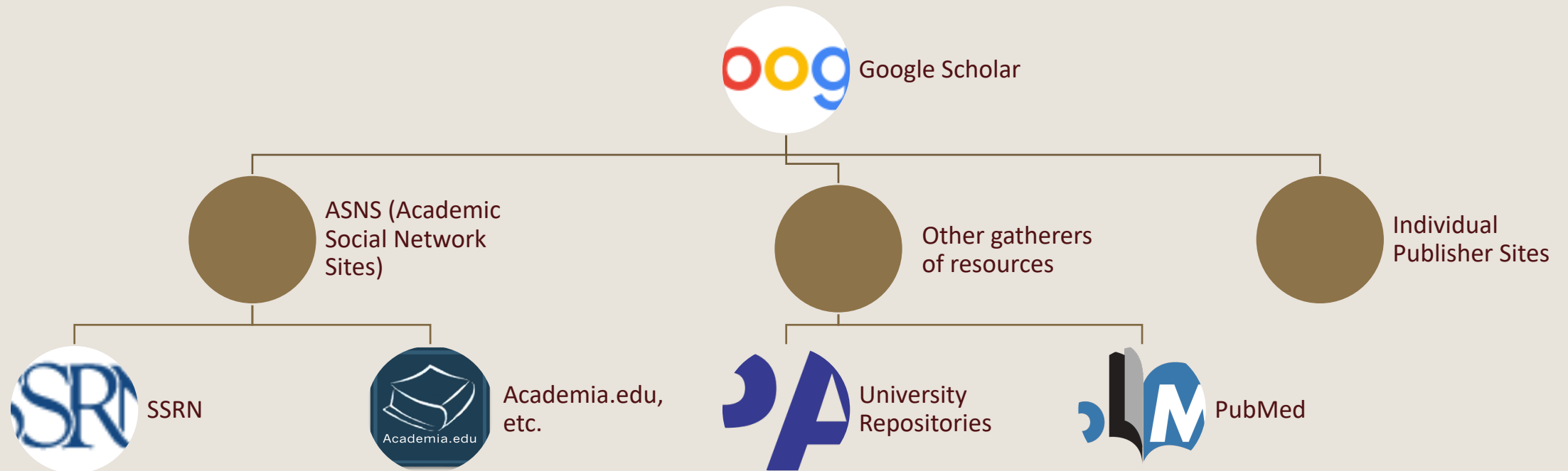
Problems encountered

- “Don’t discount my ability to judge quality!”
- The citations STILL stunk. Of course – I didn’t have time to talk about citing!
- One student persisted in using ASNS and incorrectly citing – did they attend?

Where we are now...

- “Google Mixed. Library more efficient for true peer-review.”
 - ... but also, here’s why.
 - And here’s where open access came from
 - And here’s where it’s going
 - And it’s all coming from really good places, but you aren’t always seeing the “peer review” you need for this class
 - Later in your career, you’ll be able to do more digging on authority, but for now, it’s nice to have a more trustworthy place to SAVE your TIME.

What you find where



Open discussion – ice breakers

- How do you discuss Google Scholar with your STEM students?
- Are they getting early Info Lit before they meet with you in STEM classes?
- Have you ever caught any of those three issues I found?
 - Predatory pubs, incorrectly cited pre-prints, or essays masquerading as published articles?