



Reprint Request and Scientific Scamming

Pathum Sookaromdee¹, Somsri Wiwanitkit², Viroj Wiwanitkit³

¹Private Academic Consultant, Bangkok, Thailand.

²Private Academic and Editorial Consultant, Bangkok Thailand.

³Joseph Ayobabalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji, Nigeria.

Abstract

Scientific fraud through scamming via report request involves individuals posing as researchers or reputable organizations to deceive authors into providing reports. This undermines the credibility of scientific literature and erodes trust in the research community. It can lead to dissemination of fraudulent reports, compromising subsequent research and impeding scientific progress. Addressing this issue requires awareness campaigns, education, and stricter verification protocols. By understanding the consequences and taking preventative measures, the scientific community can combat this unethical and fraudulent practice, preserving the integrity of research.

Keywords: Reprint, Request, Scamming.

Introduction

Scamming is the emerging problem in the current IT era. There are currently few approaches that enable an investigator to explore the network, text, and metadata in a unified manner [1]. Scientific fraud is a serious problem with far-reaching consequences. The consequences of such misconduct include not only the credibility of scientific literature, but also the possibility of deception of other researchers. It is critical to recognize that scientific fraud can result from unethical or fraudulent behavior on the part of individuals. This discussion focuses on a specific type of scam that involves sending fraudulent requests for reports to the authors of published articles via email.

Individuals posing as researchers or members of reputable scientific organizations solicit reports from the authors of published articles in the fraudulent practice of report request. These con artists prey on the scientific community's trust and goodwill, preying on authors' willingness to collaborate and share their work. Scammers hope to obtain scientific findings for personal gain or malicious purposes by tricking them into providing reports.

The consequences of this type of scam are significant. To begin with, the credibility of scientific literature is jeopardized because fraudulent reports may be disseminated, leading to incorrect

conclusions and subsequent research based on false information. Second, it erodes researcher trust, instilling skepticism and suspicion about collaborative exchanges within the scientific community. This can stifle scientific progress by impeding the free flow of knowledge and stifling scientific advancements.

A request is a formal request made by a researcher or author for a copy of a scientific article. Requesting a reprint is typically done to gain access to the article's content for future reference, analysis, or to support one's own scientific research. Reprint requests are common in scientific communities because they allow researchers to share and expand on prior knowledge.

Scientific scamming, on the other hand, refers to the deception of scientists or scientific organizations. Forging scientific findings, falsifying research data, or publishing in predatory journals are all examples of this. Scientific fraud has serious consequences, including undermining the credibility of scientific literature and deceiving other researchers. However, it is possible that it is an unethical or fraudulent problem caused by anyone. The authors will discuss scamming via report request via email to the author of the published article.

How can asking for published article reprint request via email can be the way for scamming?

Asking for a published article reprint request via email can potentially be used as a method for scamming in several ways:

1. **Impersonation:** Scammers may impersonate reputable journals, researchers, or institutions to make their request appear legitimate. They might use email addresses, logos, and formatting that closely resemble those of trusted organizations. This can trick the recipient into believing that the request is genuine.
2. **Phishing:** Scammers may embed phishing links or attachments within the email, urging the recipient to click on them to access the requested article. These links could lead to malicious websites that harvest personal information, install malware, or attempt to gain unauthorized access to systems.
3. **Fee requests:** In some cases, scammers may request payment for the article reprint under the guise of processing fees, copyright fees, or journal subscription fees. They may ask for credit card information or request payment through insecure channels, leading to financial loss or identity theft.
4. **Fake article submission:** Scammers may deceive researchers by claiming to be interested in publishing their work and requesting the full article for review. However, their intention may be to plagiarize the content or use it for malicious purposes.

To avoid falling victim to scams, it is important to exercise caution when dealing with unsolicited email requests for article reprints. Verify the legitimacy of the request by independently researching the sender's email address, carefully examining the email for any inconsistencies or suspicious elements, and contacting the publisher or institution directly through their official channels to confirm the request's authenticity. Additionally, be cautious about clicking on unfamiliar links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.

Conclusion

It is critical for researchers to exercise caution when requesting reprints to avoid unknowingly engaging in fraudulent activities. One way to reduce the risk of scientific fraud is to check the journal's or author's credibility and reputation before requesting a reprint. Researchers should also be aware of predatory publishing practices and refrain from requesting reprints from journals that lack proper peer review or have a shady reputation.

Furthermore, peer-review is frequently used by scientific communities to validate the quality and integrity of research articles. To avoid being duped by scientific scams, researchers should be vigilant in identifying any red flags or inconsistencies within published articles. Collaboration with other experts in the field, as well as the use of reputable databases and platforms, can also help validate the credibility of scientific research before requesting reprints. Overall, reprint requests help to advance scientific knowledge by allowing researchers to access and expand on existing research. However, researchers must be aware of the risks of scientific fraud and take appropriate precautions to ensure they engage with reliable and trustworthy sources.

References

Koven J, Felix C, Siadati H, Jakobsson M, Bertini E. Lessons Learned Developing a Visual Analytics Solution for Investigative Analysis of Scamming Activities. *IEEE Trans Vis Comput Graph*. 2019 Jan; 25(1):225-234.