Transcript: How to identify predatory publishers

It's important to be able to identify predatory publishers. Predatory publishers often operate in predictable ways. They may: offer unsolicited invitations for submission and publication, have extremely high acceptance rates, be un-indexed in databases, make false claims regarding impact factor, have minimal peer-review process (if they have one), or have repeated instances of plagiarism.

If you suspect a publisher of being predatory, there are a number of steps you can take. Check that the journal is eligible for inclusion in the directory of open access journals. This is the first and best source for open access publications, and you can search journals by title. If you're still unsure you can attempt to independently verify journal claims regarding indexing and impact factor (for example via Scopus directory of open access journals or journal guide). A journal misrepresenting its impact factor or indexing is a red flag. If in doubt, contact your liaison librarian to get an additional perspective.