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Improper legitimization of **hijacked journals** through citations

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Hijacked journals: background

- Fake websites that use the titles, ISSNs, and metadata of **established journals**
- Emergence: around 2010
- Multidisciplinary and ‘author-pays’ open access journals
- Lack of peer review
- The published results are often based on low-quality or dishonest research practices

Hijacked journals create clone websites and register expired domains

Original journal

<https://web.archive.org/web/2008/https://hivt.be/linguistica>

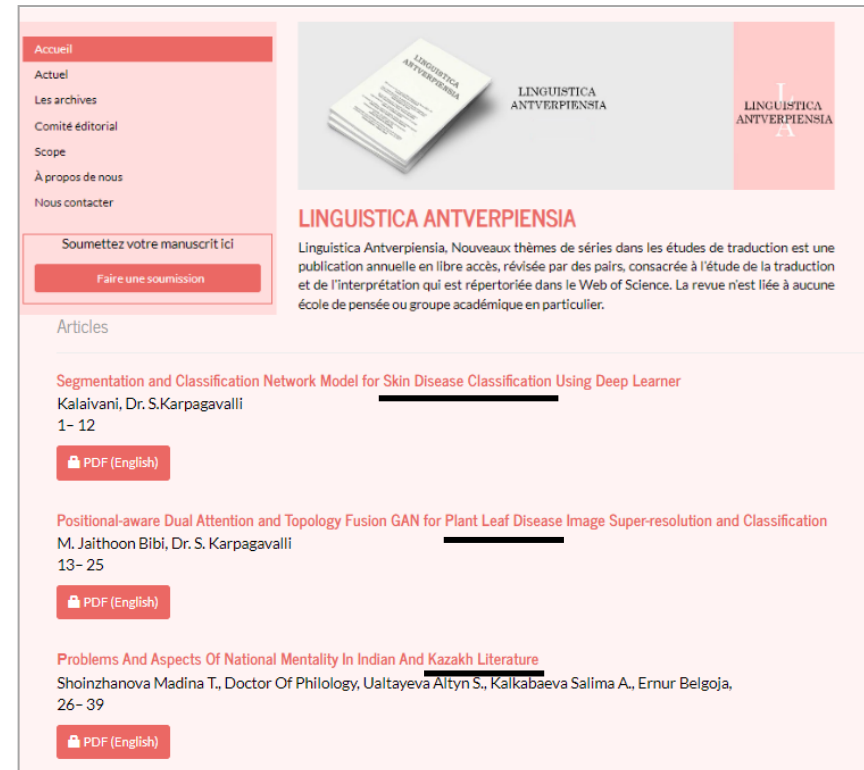


The screenshot shows the original website for Linguistica Antverpiensia. At the top left is the Hoger Instituut voor Vertalers & Tolken logo, and at the top right is the Hogeschool Antwerpen logo. The navigation bar includes 'Startpagina > Publicaties >' and 'Linguistica Antverpiensia Wetenschappelijke bibliografie'. The main content area features the title 'Linguistica Antverpiensia' and an 'Editorial statement' section. A vertical sidebar on the right is labeled 'Publicaties' and contains a list of links: 'Editorial statement', 'Call for papers (3-2004)', 'Call for papers (4-2005)', 'Editorial and advisory board', 'Current issue', 'Former issues', 'Orders', 'Download articles (requires password)', and 'Download the LA Stylesheet'.

New website: <https://lans-tts.uantwerpen.be>

Clone website

<https://web.archive.org/web/2020/https://hivt.be/linguistica>



The screenshot shows a clone website for Linguistica Antverpiensia. The layout is similar to the original but with a more modern, clean design. The navigation menu on the left includes 'Accueil', 'Actuel', 'Les archives', 'Comité éditorial', 'Scope', 'À propos de nous', and 'Nous contacter'. A prominent red button says 'Soumettez votre manuscrit ici' with a sub-button 'Faire une soumission'. The main content area features a header with the journal title and a description: 'Linguistica Antverpiensia, Nouveaux thèmes de séries dans les études de traduction est une publication annuelle en libre accès, révisée par des pairs, consacrée à l'étude de la traduction et de l'interprétation qui est répertoriée dans le Web of Science. La revue n'est liée à aucune école de pensée ou groupe académique en particulier.' Below this, there is an 'Articles' section listing three papers with their authors and page numbers, each with a 'PDF (English)' download button.

'Citejacked' articles

articles in **established journals**
citing
articles in **hijacked journals**

What translates big data into business value? A meta-analysis of the impacts of business analytics on firm performance

[140.] Y Alkathheeri, A Ameen, O Isaac, *et al.*
The mediation effect of management information systems on the relationship between big data quality and decision making quality
Test. Eng. Manag., 82 (2020), pp. 12065-12074
[View Record in Scopus](#) [Google Scholar](#)

[141.] N Almazmomi, A Ilmudeen, AA Qaffas
The impact of business analytics capability on data-driven culture and exploration: achieving a competitive advantage
Benchmarking Int. J. (2021), [10.1108/BIJ-01-2021-0021](#)
Ahead-of-Print

[192.] CN Nji
Big data predictive analytics and performance: the role of transformational leadership
Turk. J. Comput. Math. Educ. TURCOMAT, 12 (2021), pp. 5168-5189
[View Record in Scopus](#) [Google Scholar](#)

Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing

Journal overview

For authors


For reviewers

References

41. M. Gulhane and T. Sajana, "A study of social media data analysis for detecting the effects on human health," *Turkish Journal of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation*, vol. 32, 2015.
View at: [Google Scholar](#)
101. S. Altalhi and A. Gutub, "A survey on predictions of cyber-attacks utilizing real-time twitter tracing recognition," *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*, vol. 12, no. 11, pp. 10209–10221, 2021.
View at: [Publisher Site](#) | [Google Scholar](#)
102. A. Stephen and L. Arockiam, "Attacks against rplin iot: a survey," *Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology*, pp. 9767–9786, 2021.
View at: [Google Scholar](#)
103. M. Kolomeets and A. Chechulin, "Analysis of the malicious bots market," in *2021 29th conference of open innovations association (FRUCT)*, pp. 199–205, 2021.
View at: [Google Scholar](#)
104. J. A. Bapaye and H. A. Bapaye, "Demographic factors influencing the impact of coronavirus-related misinformation on whatsapp: Cross-sectional questionnaire study," *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, vol. 7, no. 1, article e19858, 2021.

<https://doi.org/10.1155/2022/2975033>

Design

- Analysis of 12 **hijacked journals** erroneously indexed in international scientometric databases
 - New detector designed for the *Problematic Paper Screener*
 - Fingerprints: **hijacked journal**'s title submitted to Dimensions.ai as query
 - The logo for Dimensions, featuring a colorful geometric shape (a cube-like structure) to the left of the word "Dimensions" in white text on a dark blue rectangular background.
 - Time period: Jan 2021 – Jan 2022
 - Doctype: article
- Manual check to exclude false positives

Problematic Paper Screener

<https://www.irit.fr/~Guillaume.Cabanac/problematic-paper-screener/citejacked>



PUBPEER
The online Journal club

Detector	Year	Doctype	Publisher	Venue	Title	Authors	Countries	Citations ↓	Altmetric	Tips	Fingerprints	Assessor	PubPeer Users	Status
citejacked	2021	article	Springer Nature	Wireless Personal Communications	Intelligent Secured Two-Way Image Transmission Using Corvus Corone Module over WSN	Bilal Alhayani • Sara Taher Abbas • Husam Jasim Mohammed • Hemant B. Mahajan	India • Iraq • Turkey	156	0	1	International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology	Magazinov	Alexander Magazinov, N. H. Wise, Plenodomus Inffluorescens	Problematic
citejacked	2022	article	World Scientific Publishing	Journal of Interconnection Networks	Privacy Preserving with Modified Grey Wolf Optimization Over Big Data Using Optimal K Anonymization Approach	S. Sai Kumar • Anumala Reethika Reddy • B. Sivarama Krishna • J. Nageswara Rao • Ajmeera Kiran	India	108	0	2	International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology • Turkish Journal of Computer and Mathematics Education	Abalkina	-	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	Elsevier	International Journal of Information Management	The strategic use of artificial intelligence in the digital era: Systematic literature review and future research directions	Aline F.S. Borges • Fernando J.B. Laurindo • Mauro M. Spinola • Rodrigo F. Gonçalves • Claudia A. Mattos	Brazil	95	1	1	Test Engineering and Management	Magazinov	Alexander Magazinov	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	Springer Nature	Journal of Computing in Higher Education	The COVID-19 pandemic and E-learning: challenges and opportunities from the perspective of students and instructors	Abdelsalam M. Maatuk • Ebitisam K. Elberkawi • Shadi Aljawameh • Hasan Rashaideh • Hadeel Alharbi	Jordan • Libya • Saudi Arabia	72	4	1	International Journal of Control and Automation	Magazinov	-	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	Hindawi	Journal of Food Quality	Application of Blockchain and Internet of Things in Healthcare and Medical Sector: Applications, Challenges, and Future Perspectives	Pranav Ratta • Amanpreet Kaur • Sparsh Sharma • Mohammad Shabaz • Gaurav Dhiran	Ethiopia • India	66	0	2	TURCOMAT • Turkish Journal of Computer and Mathematics Education	Magazinov	-	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	MDPI	Processes	A Novel Evolutionary Arithmetic Optimization Algorithm for Multilevel Thresholding Segmentation of COVID-19 CT Images	Laith Abualigah • Ali Diabat • Putra Sumari • Amir H. Gandomi	Australia • Jordan • Malaysia • United Arab Emirates • United States	42	1	1	TURCOMAT	Magazinov	-	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	Elsevier	Technology in Society	Information technology and Gen Z: The role of teachers, the internet, and technology in the education of young people	Andrzej Szymkowiak • Boban Melović • Marina Dabić • Kishokanth Jeganathan • Gagandeep Singh Kundi	Croatia • Montenegro • Poland • United Kingdom • United States	39	0	1	International Journal of Advanced Science and Technology	Magazinov	-	Problematic
citejacked	2021	article	Wiley	Strategic Change	COVID-19: Small and medium enterprises challenges and responses with creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship	Esha Thukral	Australia	35	2	1	Test Engineering and Management	Abalkina	-	Problematic

Results

1,421

articles featured
the name of a
hijacked journal

828

(58,3%) **cited**
unreliable articles
from **hijacked**
journals

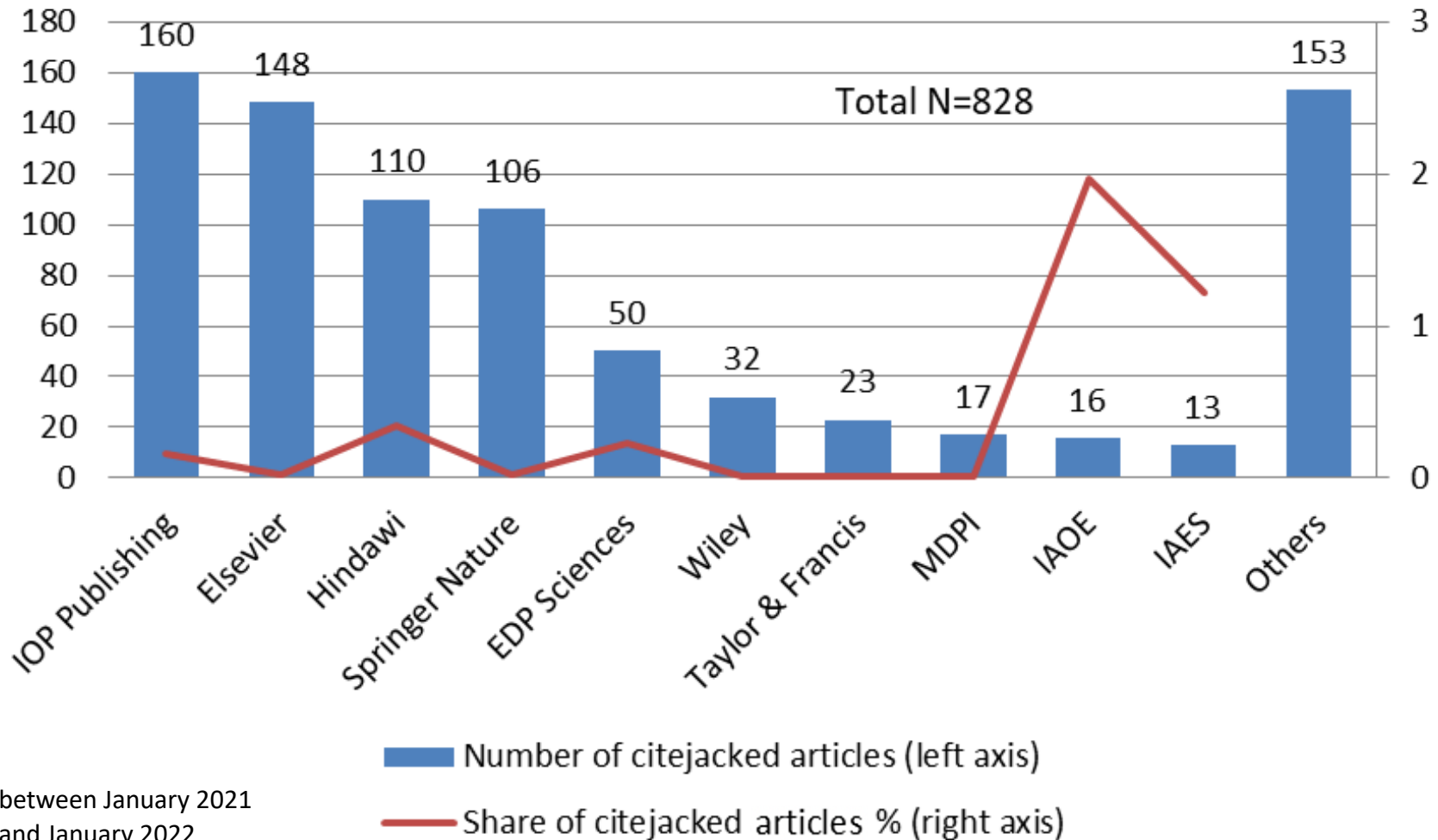
67

publishers
published
citejacked articles

Reminder:

- 12 hijacked journals tracked
- Articles published between Jan. 2021 and Jan. 2022 (N ≈ 5,000,000)

Number and share of citejacked articles per publisher (top 10 only)



between January 2021
and January 2022

Conclusions

- Two **citejacked articles** were published daily in **established journals** over 2021 (tracking 12 hijacked journals only)
- Some **hijacked** journals get more cited than their **original** counterparts
- Such references (**citejacked**):
 - legitimize articles in **hijacked** journals
 - are hints of articles that might be problematic and should be re-assessed

Thanks to  for their support

Thank you for your attention

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 <https://twitter.com/gcabanac>