Author's response to reviews

Title: "Predatory" Open Access - A longitudinal study of article volumes and market characteristics

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Rebuttal letter to the second review round

We again thank the three original reviewers for their comments, and are pleased that the revision on the whole gets their approval, including that the language now is acceptable. We have made corrections based on all the remaining minor issues they note but have not started to add new text at this late stage (couple of comments by Broome).

As for the statistical review we have now included all the required data and analysis (standard errors as well as the statistical tests). As discussed informally with the editor we prefer to report these in two separate tables in an appendix rather than in the main figures and tables. For some of our result presentations (for instance the longitudinal charts in Figures 2, 3 and 5) it would be virtually impossible to include this data visually. Also we suspect that many readers in the OA and scholarly publishing environment would like to reuse our figures in PowerPoint presentations etc, which they can easily do and simplicity is to be preferred.

We do recognize that some of the errors (due to our rather complex sampling method) are rather high. But given the descriptive and preliminary nature of this research the key issue is to know that the number of articles is around 400,000 rather than 40,000, the possibility of an error even in the range of say 100,000 is not crucial to the main message of our article. And the statistical reviewer explicitly says that the sampling method seems appropriate.

We are quite excited about getting this article finished and published, because we think it provides long needed empirical data about a controversial phenomenon discussed in the OA world.