

Fake Conferences for Earning Real Money

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Researchers have always considered conferences as scientific societies and many conferences on different subjects are held annually which will lead to the development of the countries. Moreover, conferences provide researchers with the newest advances in their field of study on the one hand, and on the other hand gives them new ideas for their coming researches. Newly, virtual conferences have come into existence and removed physical distances and cut down on expenses and attracted the attention of researchers. The problem which may rise here is that some of these conferences have no intention, but to make money and no scientific information is presented there. In this article we will introduce these conferences.

Holding virtual conference means to provide conferences online. Webinar is an example of these conferences. The advantage of virtual conferences is that they do not need any special fundamental necessities and may be held using online applications (Der Krans, 2007). Researchers may communicate through internet using applications such as Skype. In fact, virtual conference is a subdivision of virtual education which are known as virtual classes. In this situation, some jobbers hold virtual conferences with no article presentation merely to earn money. These people send emails to researchers to ask them to participate in their virtual conferences. They promise to publish papers in authentic journals especially journals which are indexed in Thomson Reuters. When the paper acceptance deadline is met, results are announced and researchers paid the charges, an announcement which asks researchers to upload their articles' files or power point presentation files so that other researcher may have access to them. No face to face contact is provided and it is similar to article sharing. Moreover, abstract verification is mostly done automatically and all articles are verified after a period of time. Then articles may be published in indexed journals if the researcher asked. It should be mentioned that most of the journals are hijacked (Jalalian, 2014), (Jalalian and Mahboobi, 2014) or has been transformed to paper-publishing machines which publish papers for the mere intention of earning money. Additionally, the information of the researchers, especially their email addresses, are sold for advertising purposes such as sending call for paper from forgers of Hijacked journals or other invalid conferences. These conferences are held in numerous quantities in developing countries by companies instead of scientific institutes or universities. In many cases, these conferences, better to be called "fake conferences", abuse the names of professors and famous researchers or announce some scientists with glorious background to be in their verification committee. This happens while such a person either does not exist or have not participated in the committee. Table 1 which is provided here present useful information for researcher to distinguish a valid virtual conference from an invalid one. These criteria have been extracted by comparing valid conferences and fake ones.

Table 1: Different Between Valid Conferences and Fake Conferences.

Features	Valid Virtual Conference	Fake Conference
Number of Conference	Over A Period	Between 1 To 3
Scientific Committee	Introduced In Detail and The Profile of The University	Mention The Name and Picture
Conference Contact Email	Official Email Address	General Mail Service Such as Yahoo, Gmail and Etc.
Organizer	University or Scientific Institute	Company
URL of Website	Placed in University URL or Similar	Independent URL
Aim And Scope	A Field of Science for Example Software Engineering	General for Example Engineering

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