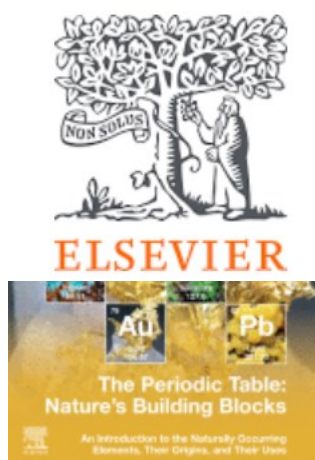


Retraction of a book



We have all heard of published papers being retracted, but in an unusual move, a complete book published by Elsevier titled “**The Periodic Table: Nature's Building Blocks**” has been retracted this year due to reports of the book’s contents being heavily plagiarised from Wikipedia.

The whistle-blower, Professor Thomas Rauchfuss from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, was tipped off about possible plagiarism by a fellow Wikipedia editor. Having failed to receive suitable clarification from the authors, he eventually reached out to the publisher who proceeded to retract the book following investigations.

In speaking to *Chemistry World*, Professor Rauchfuss expresses surprise that Elsevier did not appear to have done sufficient plagiarism checks before publishing and notes that “[The authors] may have underestimated just how closely such work is examined by nerds who are watching” [\[+Read more\]](#).

Threat of paper mills



Paper mills manufacture manuscripts for researchers for a fee. These have grown exponentially, driven by factors such as a lucrative business model, a “publish-or-perish” culture in some areas, and the use of sophisticated methods to avoid detection. This is an increasing threat and erodes trust in genuine scientific work.

In a *Chemistry World* article titled “[Publishers grapple with an invisible foe as huge organised fraud hits scientific journals](#)”, the authors uncover how such publications have infiltrated the publishing system with major publishing houses now having to step up checks to identify and retract them from circulation. A similar article in *Retraction Watch* highlights two operations that are suspected of offering authorship for sale [\[+Read more\]](#).

Observers are mindful that some measures to detect fraud, such as requirement to submit raw data prior to review, could complicate the publishing process for real research. They urge balance while also encouraging journals to take necessary measures to retain public’s trust in published data.

ERIC-Concise certification in NTU

Faculty members joining NTU are required to complete **ERIC-Concise**, which is one of two research integrity courses made available on Workday. Research staff are required to complete this course following expiry of their basic research integrity course, **RI-ERIC**.

ERIC-Concise certification validity in NTU has been increased from 3 years to **4 years**. This is to align with National Institutes of Health (NIH) policy in the U.S. which applies to all NIH funded research.



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