

Publication strategies of paper mills: a case-study from the Tanu.pro paper mill/brokerage company

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10 FACTS ABOUT THE TANU.PRO PAPER MILL:

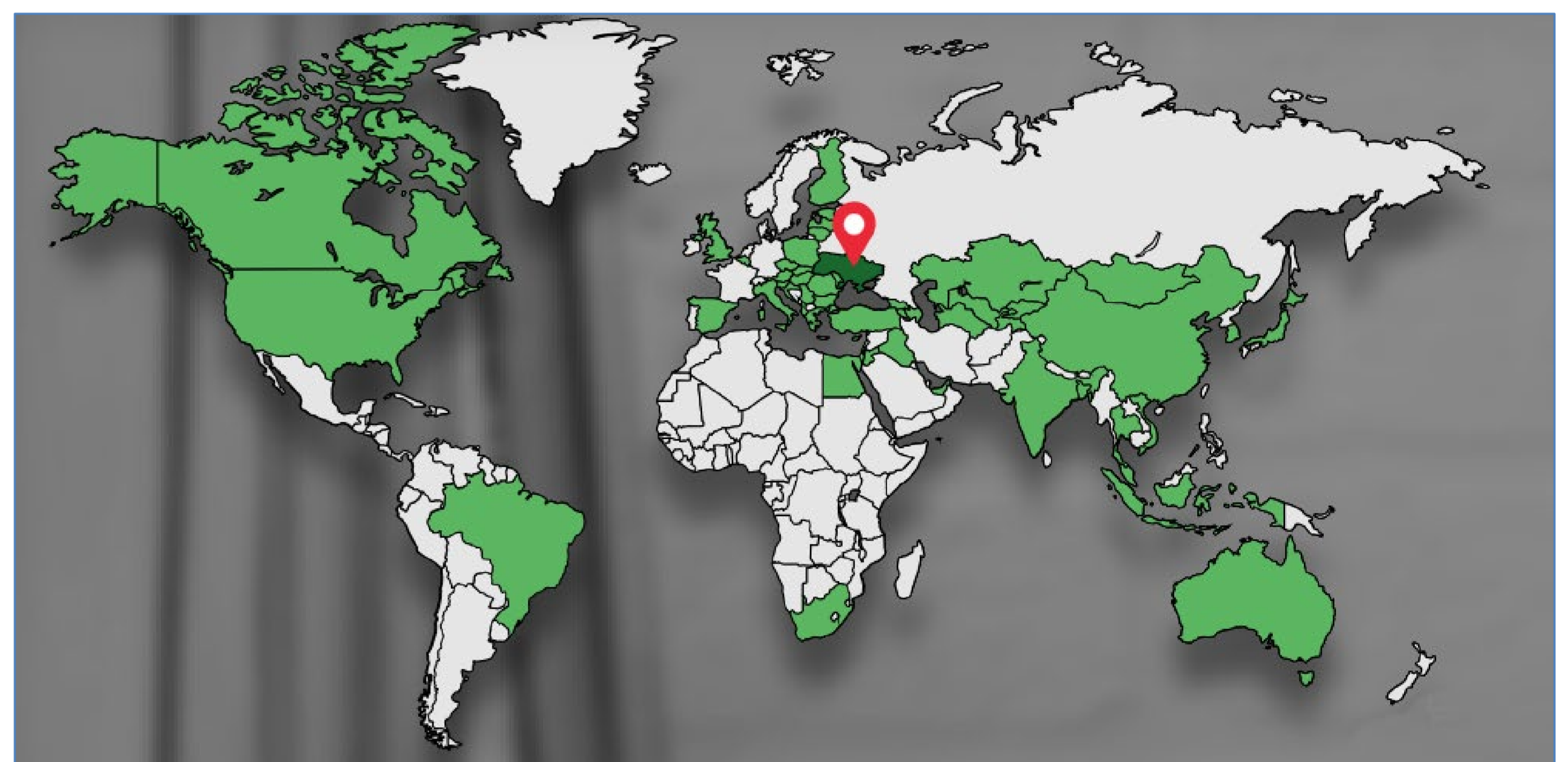
1. One of the **largest paper mills** in Eastern Europe and Central Asia
2. Operates as a **legal entity**, concludes contracts with clients and receives business awards
3. Weird (suspicious) **emails**
4. Translation **plagiarism**
5. Standard **template** across papers
6. Dozens of **special issues** with editors without PhDs
7. **Violation of the peer review process**
8. **Fake identities** of peer reviewers
9. **Citations** to problematic papers
10. **Falsification/fabrication**

■ Paper mills are international business

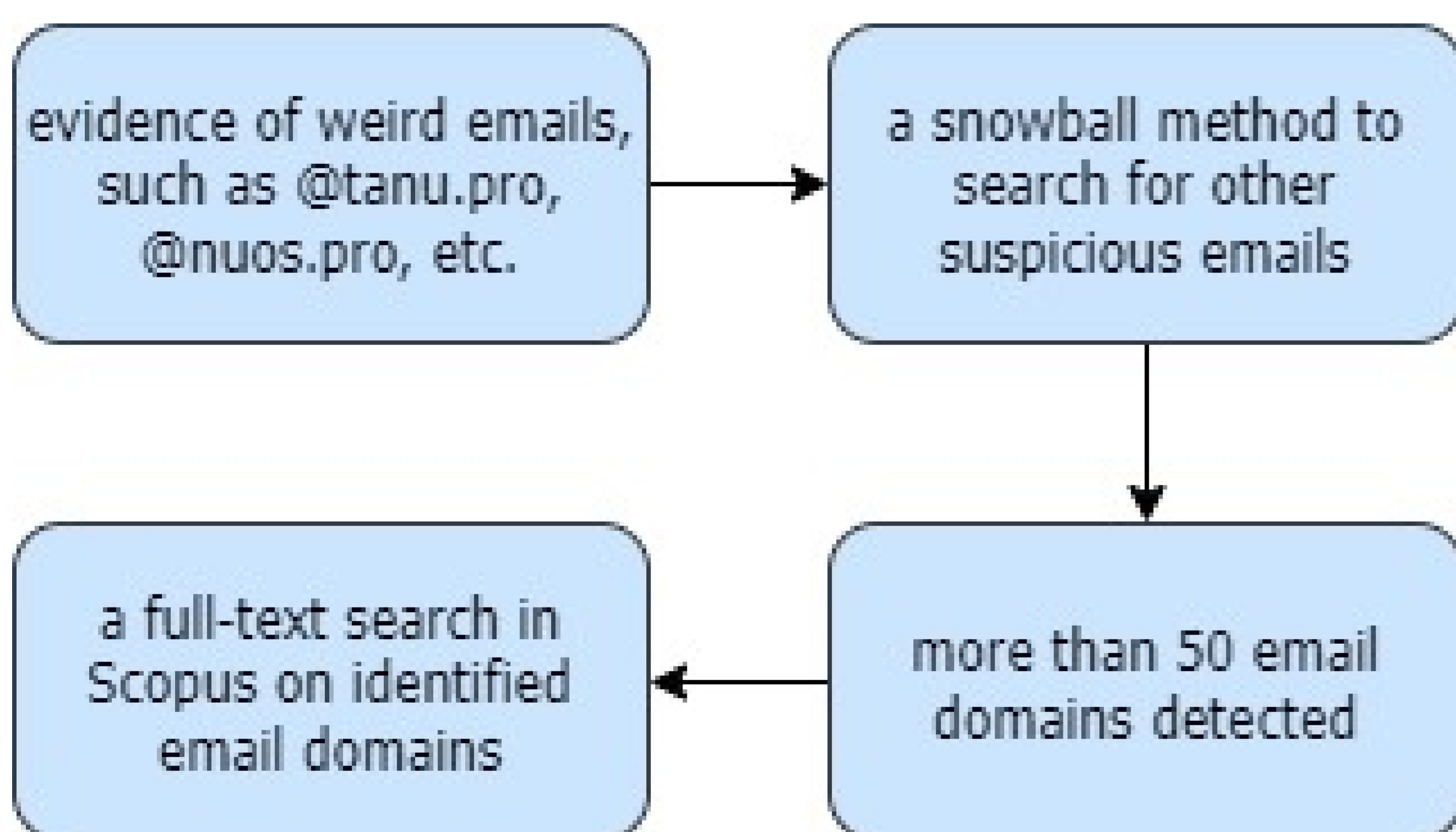


■ Clients from 40+ countries

Source: <https://spubl.com.ua/ru/about>



■ METHOD



■ RESULTS

Feature	Number
Papers	1,397
Retracted	64
Erratum	14
Journals	310
Universities	460+
Countries	43

CHALLENGES FOR THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

1. Challenges of **retraction**
2. Challenges of **detection** due to submission with common commercial emails since 2023
3. Official **collaboration** with dozens of universities which is perceived as legitimate
4. **Retraction vs punishment for authors** who believed that retraction is a unfortunate misunderstanding from the side of a journal (Shakirova, 2023).

FIND AN ISSUE GAME!



CONCLUSIONS:

1. Current knowledge of paper mills is very **fragmented**. This study adds another **piece to the puzzle**
2. The **disparate size** of paper mill activities and available resources make it challenging to investigate and retract on-demand papers
3. **Further actions** are necessary to reduce the demand for fabricated papers

List of selected Tanu.pro papers

