

## The Royal Society of Biology Research Dissemination Committee **Research Communication Newsletter**

April 2017

### Top stories

#### [Unpaywall finds free versions of paywalled papers](#)

New tool joins a growing collection of software for accessing fee-for-view scientific literature.

#### [Initiative aims to break science's citation paywall](#)

Publishers agree to release proprietary data on references in millions of papers.

#### [Announcing Unpaywall: unlocking #openaccess versions of paywalled research articles as you browse](#)

[4 April 2017] marks the official launch of Unpaywall, a web browser extension that links users directly to free full-text versions of research articles. Heather Piwowar and Jason Priem of Impactstory, the team behind Unpaywall, report on the successful pre-release phase, and explain how two decades of investment, a slew of new tools, and a flurry of new government mandates have helped build a powerful momentum behind green open access.

### Publication policy and debate

#### [Rather than simply moving from “paying to read” to “paying to publish”, it’s time for a European Open Access Platform](#)

Open access is here to stay. Massive support from academic institutions and research funders makes it the likeliest future scenario for scholarly publications, leaving only the question of how the transition is made. Benedikt Fecher, Sascha Friesike, Isabella Peters and Gert G. Wagner argue that current policy efforts do not go far enough. Scholarly publishing in a digital age would benefit if European research infrastructure providers pooled their collective efforts into a public publication infrastructure.

### [Five ways consortia can catalyse open science](#)

An analysis of more than 50 collaborations shows the secrets of success, write Joel Cutcher-Gershenfeld and colleagues from the Stakeholder Alignment Collaborative.

### [It's not just you: science papers are getting harder to read](#)

Papers from 2015 are a tougher read than some from the nineteenth century — and the problem isn't just about words, says Philip Ball.

### [What are the barriers to post-publication peer review?](#)

Post-publication peer review emerged in response to increased calls for continuous moderation of the published research literature, consistent questioning of the functionality of the traditional peer review model, and a recognition that scientific discourse does not stop at the point of publication. However, uptake remains low overall. Jon Tennant sets out what the barriers to more widespread adoption of post-publication peer review have been and proposes potential solutions for each.

### [Female scientists are considerably more likely to be mistakenly cited as if they were males than vice versa](#)

Gender stereotypes appear so enduring that certain prestigious professions continue to be almost exclusively associated with the male gender. Michał Krawczyk sought to discover if scientist was one such profession by studying the citations to a large sample of academic publications and identifying cases of gender misattribution of the cited author.

### [Publicity without scrutiny: journals' media embargoes under fire](#)

Issuing press releases without allowing access to the original research criticised by UK politicians.

### [When is a Preprint Server Not a Preprint Server?](#)

### [The Importance Open Access in Creating a Sustainable Society](#)

Daniela Thrän, the Editor-in-Chief of Energy, Sustainability and Society shares her thoughts on finding sustainable solutions for the next generations and how open access helps spread research on maintaining a sustainable society.

## Open data

### [All take and no give? Many scientists resist shift to open data](#)

Most academics are keen to access other researchers' material but a third are yet to share their own.

### [What Is The Most Important Data For A Publisher To Capture?](#)

There are so many types and uses of data, that it's hard to pin down what is most important. What one organization might consider the bar of entry in data collection and curation might be beyond the capabilities of another organization.

### [BioMed Central and SpringerOpen: an open environment for environmental research](#)

To celebrate World Earth Week, Journal Development Editor, Chris McEntee, highlights some of the journals in BioMed Central and Springer Open's ever growing portfolio of environmental science journals.

### [Data sharing hobbled at grassroots level](#)

Despite high expectations for open data among policymakers, there are not enough incentives or rewards to encourage researchers to share, a report has concluded.

## Metrics

### [It Takes a Village: One Year of Journals Requiring ORCID iDs](#)

## Publication ethics

### [Stop binning negative results, researchers told](#)

Code of conduct frames non-publication of unexpected results as an issue of research integrity.

### [Publicity without scrutiny: journals' media embargoes under fire](#)

Issuing press releases without allowing access to the original research criticised by UK politicians.

### [With great power comes great responsibility: crowdsourcing raises methodological and ethical questions for academia](#)

Crowdsourcing offers researchers ready access to large numbers of participants, while enabling the processing of huge, unique datasets. However, the power of crowdsourcing raises several issues, including whether or not what initially emerged as a business practice can be transformed into a sound research method.

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