

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

November / December 2017

The Research Communication Newsletter will return in January after a short Christmas break.

### Top story

#### [Funding bodies confirm shape of REF 2021](#)

Decisions on the Research Excellence Framework provide clarity to the sector on implementation of Lord Stern's review, following extensive consultation.

#### [A Turbulent Year in the Publishing World](#)

In 2017, scientists, regulators, and publishers clashed in a series of lawsuits, boycotts, mass resignations, and more.

### Publication policy and debate

#### [Monitoring the transition to open access: December 2017](#)

The proportion of UK research which is available via open access is increasing at a considerable rate, with 37% of research outputs freely available to the world immediately at publication.

#### [Learned societies and open access](#)

#### [Open-access books are downloaded, cited, and mentioned more than non-OA books](#)

#### [Open access and development: Research findings](#)

#### [Ever so slow maturation for the Open Access sector](#)

#### [Open access: reflections on change](#)

Sally Rumsey shares her reflections on the changing open access environment and experiences from the University of Oxford.

#### [Open Pharma: a publisher's perspective](#)

#### [PhD students should be taught more about research impact and engagement](#)

### [Peer review is not broken](#)

Despite regular claims to the contrary, our peer review systems are not fundamentally broken, but they do suffer from stresses and strains that require journals to undertake ongoing maintenance, by trialling and adopting new practices while ensuring continued rigor.

### [Peer review: Credit where credit is due](#)

### [Peer Review - reviewed: Phil Hurst, Royal Society](#)

### [Make reviews public, says peer review expert](#)

### [Peer reviewers need more nurturing](#)

Richard Catlow explains why three national scientific societies are calling for research evaluators to be highly valued and trained.

### [Conflicts of interest in scientific publishing](#)

## Open data

### [Open science: enabling a more inclusive, collaborative, transparent world of research](#)

Gemma Hersh, VP of Open Science at Elsevier, shows how Elsevier is laying a foundation.

### [Early career researchers want Open Science](#)

### [Greater London Authority team launches City Datastore](#)

Secure data sharing platform set up as a 'private twin' of London DataStore for open data.

## International publishing

### [African scientists get their own open-access publishing platform](#)

Venture will launch next year and seeks to strengthen continent's science by helping academics share work more quickly.

### [Hundreds of German universities set to lose access to Elsevier journals](#)

Negotiations to reduce journal prices and promote open access are progressing slowly.

## Copyright and licencing

### [The university, its open access policy, the academics and their freedom](#)

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