

The Royal Society of Biology Research Dissemination Committee
Research Communication Newsletter

February 2017

Publication policy and debate

[Triple impact' for researchers in English-speaking countries](#)

Being based in an English-speaking country is the most significant factor in boosting a researcher's likelihood of being published in a high-impact medical journal, a study has suggested.

[Heavyweight funders back central site for life-sciences preprints](#)

Coalition of scientists and research agencies argue for a one-stop shop server.

[Preprints – what's in it for me?](#)

A preprint is a scientific manuscript uploaded by authors to an open access, public server before formal peer review. With the rising popularity of preprint servers enabling fast and direct distribution of knowledge across the world, and plans underway to establish a 'Central Service for Preprints', Isabel Baker asked some converts across the MRC community why they've jumped on board.

[Scientist tested, kid approved: Peer review from a child's point of view](#)

It's often hard to find easy-to-read articles about cool scientific findings that are written in a clear way - let alone articles that are understandable enough to use as bedtime reading with your child. But, here's a little secret: there are articles out there that are actually written by scientists and approved by children before they are published.

[Tracking the digital footprints to scholarly articles: the fast accumulation and rapid decay of social media referrals](#)

Academics are increasingly encouraged to share their scholarly articles via social media, as part of a wider drive to maximize their dissemination and engagement. But what effect does this have?

[Scientific Publishing in a Time of Political Assaults](#)

[More research made accessible with figshare](#)

[Supply, Demand, and the Subscription Model in Scholarly Publishing — An Analysis](#)

At this year's Professional and Scholarly Publishing (PSP) meeting in Washington, DC, a panel of publishers from AAAS, ACS, and Wiley, with a moderator from Silverchair who works across many publishers, discussed the subscription model and its future.

[Education publisher Pearson reports biggest loss in its history](#)

Pre-tax losses soar to £2.6bn as group – planning to sell its Penguin Random House stake – is hit by slump in US textbook sales.

Open data

[Big and open data are prompting a reform of scientific governance](#)

Data-centric science is emerging in concert with calls for increased openness in research, says Sabina Leonelli.

[What the Acquisition of Meta Means for Scholarly Publishers](#)

[Metadata: the key to collaboration and a national bibliographic knowledgebase](#)

A new partnership puts the UK one step closer to a shared digital library collection.

International publishing

[The developing world needs more than numbers](#)

Policymakers should read the contents of published papers and not just count them, says Dyna Rochmyaningsih.

[German scientists regain access to Elsevier journals](#)

Publisher restores access as negotiations for a nationwide licence continue.

Metrics

[How Many Grains of Salt Must We Take When Looking at Metrics?](#)

Publication ethics

[COPE guidance](#)

Best Practices for Ensuring Consent for Publishing Medical Case Reports

[Science, lies and video-taped experiments](#)

Too many researchers make up or massage their data, says Timothy D. Clark. Only stringent demands for proof can stop them.

Consultation

[Consultation on the second Research Excellence Framework \(REF 2021\)](#)

The four UK funding bodies for higher education have published a joint consultation on the arrangements for research assessment in a second Research Excellence Framework. The RSB response to this consultation is currently in draft. We would welcome any comments from RSB members in relation to this consultation. Please send them to us at policy@rsb.org.uk.
Closes 17 March 2017

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