

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

March 2017

Publication policy and debate

[Gates Foundation announces open-access publishing venture](#)

Global health charity is latest funder to start its own publishing ‘channel’ — and the European Commission is considering its own service.

[The findings of medical research are disseminated too slowly](#)

[Doing the Time Warp: The Lag Between Publication and Discovery](#)

[EU open-access target looking wildly overambitious](#)

Even coming close to the EU's 2020 open-access target will be “very, very difficult”, a study has found.

[The starting pistol has been fired – now is the time to heed the drive towards open access books](#)

The Consultation on the Second Research Excellence Framework (REF) revealed funding bodies’ intention to extend open access policy to also include monographs by the time of the third REF in the mid-2020s.

[Transparency upgrade for Nature journals](#)

The Nature journals continue journey towards greater rigour.

[Wither Portable Peer Review](#)

On March 1st, Axios Review, a prominent upstart in providing external peer review, closed its doors. While submissions continued to grow, volume was insufficient to sustain the business, explained Tim Vines, founder and Managing Editor of Axios Review.

[Undergraduate researchers report only moderate knowledge of scholarly communication: they must be offered more support](#)

Catherine Fraser Riehle and Merinda Kaye Hensley, having surveyed and interviewed university students, reveal that undergraduate researchers have only moderate levels of confidence in their knowledge of scholarly communications, especially publication and access models, author and publisher rights, determining the impact of research, and research data management.

[Promoting your articles to increase your digital identity and research impact](#)

Authors are undoubtedly the best positioned to promote their own research.

Open data

[Open Data Day](#)

Saturday 4th March marked Open Data Day, an annual event that celebrates open data all over the world. One of the four key themes for this year is open research data, so we [BioMed Central] thought it would be fitting to mark the occasion by taking a look back over some of our most popular blogs and videos on all things open research data.

[Open-data contest unearths scientific gems — and controversy](#)

Hundreds of researchers pick through clinical trial from a major blood-pressure study, to the dismay of some who collected the information.

International publishing

[IPA bringing common sense to traditional knowledge debate at WIPO](#)

Delegates at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva are this week deliberating the relationship between copyright and 'traditional knowledge', a conversation of undervalued importance to the global publishing industry.

Metrics

[Infographic: Navigating the World of Citation Metrics](#)

[Final Report of the Expert Group on Altmetric is available](#)

The Expert Group on Altmetrics outlines in this report how to advance a next-generation metrics in the context of Open Science and delivers an advice corresponding to the following policy lines of the Open Science Agenda: Fostering Open Science, Removing barriers to Open Science, Developing research infrastructures and Embed Open Science in society. The report was presented and discussed at the Open Science Policy Platform on 20 March 2017

[Assessing the importance of scientific work](#)

Alternative metrics extend the concept of citation beyond journal mentions.

Publication ethics

[South Africa's San people issue ethics code to scientists](#)

The indigenous people — known for their click languages — are the first in Africa to draft guidelines for researchers.

[Black lists, white lists and the evidence: exploring the features of 'predatory' journals](#)

New research published today in BMC Medicine looks to identify the features of potentially 'predatory' journals: online journals that charge publications fees without providing editorial services or robust peer review. Here to tell us about their work and how it can help authors, are David Moher and Larissa Shamseer, two authors of the research.

[Predatory journals recruit fake editor](#)

An investigation finds that dozens of academic titles offered 'Dr Fraud' — a sham, unqualified scientist — a place on their editorial board. Katarzyna Pisanski and colleagues report.

Copyright and licencing

[Are universities finally waking up to the value of copyright?](#)

Whereas a large majority of universities have been proactive about claiming ownership of intellectual property such as patents or teaching materials, only a small percentage have been similarly assertive about copyright. However, amidst continued debate over the affordability of and access to scholarly communication, what practical attempts have been made to retain copyright within the academy rather than assign it to publishers?

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