

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

April 2018

## Top story

### [Springer Nature, Cambridge University Press, Thieme and ResearchGate announce new cooperation to make it easier to navigate the legal sharing of academic journal articles](#)

In a cooperation agreement announced today [19 April], three publishers and ResearchGate will work together on the sharing of articles on the scholarly collaboration platform in a way that protects the rights of authors and publishers.

## Publication policy and debate

### [What I'd like to see scientists share on ResearchGate](#)

#### [Is peer review bad for your mental health?](#)

Amidst fears of a mental health crisis in higher education, to what extent is the peer review process a contributing factor?

#### [Preprints: An underutilized mechanism to accelerate outbreak science](#)

#### [Frontiers in Blockchain: First journal dedicated to blockchain from scientific publisher](#)

New journal to be led by Professor Olinga Ta'eed, Director, Centre for Citizenship, Enterprise and Governance (CCEG), and Dr. Christopher Clack, financial computing expert and founder of the Thomson Reuters laboratory, University College London.

#### [Open access is the future? Views from the library community](#)

A small survey of global library staff reveals that respondents view open access as the future of academic and scientific publishing, and many are not satisfied with the current speed of the transition.

#### [Though Overall Global Open Access Levels Declined in 2017, Gold and Hybrid Open Access Follow Upward Trajectories](#)

## Open data

[We need more carrots: give academic researchers the support and incentives to share data](#)

## International publishing

[Though Open Access to Publicly Supported Reports is Increasingly Anchored in Policy, It Still Divides Scholars' Opinions](#)

As the United States' Congress writes into law Open Access to federally funded research findings, recent survey results indicate that Open Access continues to be misunderstood in the scientific community.

[Dutch Universities, Journal Publishers Agree on Open-Access Deals](#)

Despite some difficult negotiations, academic institutions in the Netherlands have been securing subscriptions that combine publishing and reading into one fee.

[Often sidelined by Western journals, African scientists get their own peer-reviewed publication](#)

Scientific African, a new pan-African journal will provide a voice for African scientists.

## Metrics

[Impact is crippling higher education. But it is still part of the solution](#)

## Publication ethics

[Uncovering new peer review problems – this time at The BMJ](#)

## Copyright and licencing

[Maintain and export our 'gold standard' IP rights regime to support world-leading UK publishing industry after Brexit, publishers urge](#)

The Publishers Association launches blueprint for UK publishing with 10 priorities for government at The London Book Fair.

[ACS and Elsevier ask court to clarify ResearchGate's copyright responsibility](#)

Two members of the Coalition for Responsible Sharing, ACS and Elsevier, have taken legal action to clarify ResearchGate's responsibility for copyright infringements on its site. The court case began today, 18 April, with a public hearing before the Regional Court in Munich, Germany.

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