The Royal Society of Biology
Research Communication Newsletter

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Royal Society of Biology news

UKRI Open Access Review Consultation
UKRI is reviewing its open access policies for peer-reviewed research articles and academic books that result from research supported by UKRI. UKRI will review and develop its open access policies to ensure policy is joined up across UKRI constituent bodies, encourage the development of new models of open access publishing and support the adoption of open access through collaboration and alignment with national and international partners. The RSB response to this consultation is currently in draft. Please contact consultation@rsb.org.uk for more information and if you would like to contribute.
Closes: 17 April 2020

Spotlight on open access debate

Not yet the default setting – in 2020 open research remains a work in progress.

Report on the data needed to identify Plan S compliance

UKRI wants monographs to be open access by 2024
Proposals are likely to raise concerns over the future of longer-form academic publishing

Guest Post: A Plea for Fairer Sharing of the True Costs of Publication

Revisiting — Transformative Agreements: A Primer

Open data ‘tougher’ than open access and needs ‘mindset change’
Huge rewards could ensue if governments bankroll the systematic sharing of research data, but experts warn of unintended consequences

Publication policy and debate

Nature will publish peer review reports as a trial
Research involves deep discussions between authors and reviewers. Starting this week, readers of some Nature Research journals will be able to see this up close.
IOP Publishing and Publons partner to tackle challenges in peer review

Results released of biggest publishing workforce survey ever conducted

Springer Nature’s research sharing initiative SharedIt expanded to include conference proceedings

CRediT Check – Should we welcome tools to differentiate the contributions made to academic papers?

PLOS ONE Offers New Article Type

International publishing

Popular preprint servers face closure because of money troubles
Repositories like INA-Rxiv and IndiaRxiv boost regional science, but finding cash to run them is proving difficult.

India’s Fight Against Predatory Journals: An Interview with Professor Bhushan Patwardhan

Highly cited researcher banned from journal board for citation abuse
Investigation finds that biophysicist Kuo-Chen Chou repeatedly suggested dozens of citations be added to papers.

Scientists offered €1,000 to publish null results
German research institute aims to reshape academic incentives with cash bonuses

Metrics

Data Analysis: How Effective Is TrendMD?

Software searches out reproducibility issues in scientific papers
Papers are getting more rigorous, but progress is slower than some researchers would like.

Journal transparency index will be ‘alternative’ to impact scores
Center for Open Science project will pass judgment on journals’ commitment to research transparency
Research intelligence: how to sniff out errors and fraud
A growing number of data detectives are on the hunt for sloppy science and dodgy statistics. Jack Grove examines the methods they use

Check for publication integrity before misconduct
A tool that focuses on papers — not researcher behaviour — can help readers, editors and institutions assess which publications to trust.

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