

The Royal Society of Biology Research Dissemination Committee
Research Communication Newsletter

September 2018

Publication policy and debate

[Radical open-access plan could spell end to journal subscriptions](#)

Eleven research funders in Europe announce 'Plan S' to make all scientific works free to read as soon as they are published.

[European countries demand that publicly funded research be free](#)

The S-Plan diet

[The European Plan S Can Speed Up the Gradual Progress of Open Access, Despite Divided Opinions on its Effectiveness](#)

Whereas the latest Scopus data show a significant increase in the number of scholarly articles published in Gold Open Access in the last decade, the promises to revolutionize the scientific journal publishing that the Plan S of European research foundations apparently makes also meet with skepticism as to whether it can reach its goals on time.

[Plan T: Scrap APCs and Fund Open Access with Submission Fees](#)

The announcement of Plan S by 11 European funding agencies has rocked the scholarly publishing community.

[Scientific publishing is a rip-off. We fund the research – it should be free](#)

Those who take on the global industry that traps research behind paywalls are heroes, not thieves.

[Why a Society Publisher is Moving Toward Read and Publish Models](#)

[How Traditional Publishing Works](#)

With so much current talk about new business models in publishing, and a series of announcements that may make it appear that we are headed toward a fulfillment of Open Access (OA) millenarianism, whether of the Gold or Platinum variety, it seems useful to describe how traditional publishing works, if only for reasons of nostalgia.

[Scientific Facts — Are they like Myths, Told through Fairytales and Spread by Gossip?](#)

Today's [27 September] post is by Anita de Waard. Anita is Vice President Research Data Collaborations for Elsevier. This blog discusses her research in new forms of publishing, sponsored by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, and is a writeup of her presentation at the EuroScience Open Forum held in Toulouse, this July.

[The “problem” of predatory publishing remains a relatively small one and should not be allowed to defame open access](#)

A recent investigation led by an international group of journalists raised concerns over the scale of the problem of deceptive publishing practices, with many researchers of standing and reputation found to have published in “predatory” journals.

[In a globalised and networked world, what is the unique value a university can bring? Introducing Open Knowledge Institutions](#)

Digital ubiquity has disrupted the traditional university model. The internet has shifted the balance of a tension between control and disorder in knowledge production, with many of the opportunities the web brings leading directly to many of the challenges we now need to address.

[Not all academics are comfortable with the idea of open peer review](#)

There are many arguments in favour of open peer review, from anticipated improvements to the speed and quality of reviews brought about by the greater accountability, through to the likely reduction in unfair or illogical decisions because of the system’s transparency.

Open data

[Google unveils search engine for open data](#)

The tool, called Google Dataset Search, should help researchers to find the data they need more easily.

[Does Adopting a Strict Data Sharing Policy Affect Submissions?](#)

International publishing

[Rapid growth in high-quality research outputs shows China is consolidating position as scientific powerhouse](#)

The Nature Index 2018 Rising Stars supplement (attached) shows that Chinese institutions are leading the world in rapidly increasing high-quality research outputs.

[India targets universities in predatory-journal crackdown](#)

But academics say government incentives to publish are part of the problem.

Metrics

[While Inclusion into Citation Indices Can Indicate Open Access Journal Quality, Its Impact on Visibility May Be Uncertain](#)

Though scientific databases, e.g., the Web of Science, make an extensive use of citation indices, such as the Social Sciences Citation Index, into which Open Access journals are increasingly included, whether these journal and paper indices are effective may be less certain than assumed, as recent empirical data cast doubt on the impact of Open Access on citation rates.

Publication ethics

[Huge peer-review study reveals lack of women and non-Westerners](#)

Analysis of thousands of submissions to eLife journal shows that these groups are also under-represented as senior authors and editors.

[Eight Ways to Tackle Diversity and Inclusion in Peer Review](#)

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