

The Royal Society of Biology Research Dissemination Committee

Research Communication Newsletter

March 2018

Top story(ies)

[Europe set to miss flagship open access target](#)

Despite some progress, researchers are still reluctant to switch journals because of fears it could hinder their careers

Publication policy and debate

[Despite Divided Opinions on their Practices and Prospects, Open Access Mega-Journals Command Significant Presence](#)

A recent meta-analysis of mega-journal-related qualitative and quantitative findings by Valerie Spezi et al. (2017) indicates that Open Access mega-journals have become an established part of the scholarly publishing market, in spite of diverging views on their long-term effect on the marketplace.

[‘Bronze’ open access supersedes green and gold](#)

Publishers can deny access to the majority of open-access articles at their discretion.

[A Curious Blindness Among Peer Review Initiatives](#)

The world of scholarly communications is awash with innovation around peer review.

[Preprints and Citations: Should Non-Peer Reviewed Material Be Included in Article References?](#)

While the use of preprints (public posting of an early draft of a paper before it's submitted to a journal for formal review) has long been established in fields like physics and the social sciences, recent uptake in the biomedical world has raised some concerns.

[The end of an error?](#)

Open data

[Wellcome is going to review its open access policy](#)

We're going to do the first full review of our open access policy. Robert Kiley, Head of Open Research, explains the motivation behind the review, and how and when it will happen.

[Data management made simple](#)

Keeping your research data freely available is crucial for open science — and your funding could depend on it.

[What factors do scientists perceive as promoting or hindering scientific data reuse?](#)

Increased calls for data sharing have formed part of many governments' agendas to boost innovation and scientific development.

International publishing

[Scholarly Initiatives Use Open Access to Primary Data to Stimulate Scientific Collaboration with and between Developing Countries](#)

Global scholarly portals in areas as different as African poetry and disease epidemiology plan to utilize Open Access to original texts and health-related data sets respectively, in order to support data sharing and research collaboration across international borders.

[Scientists beware: The price is high, the payoff uncertain at glossy publications aimed at Europe's decision-makers](#)

Last July, Marcel van der Heyden, a molecular biologist at University Medical Center Utrecht in the Netherlands, got a cold call with an intriguing offer.

Metrics

[A researcher's perspective on the recent event 'The turning tide: A new culture of responsible metrics for research'](#)

We [HEFCE] asked Imperial College's Professor Christopher Jackson about his experiences as a researcher and the metrics culture, and his impressions of the February 2018 event on the responsible use of metrics.

[Looming REF deadlines lead to a rush in publication of lower quality research](#)

The increased significance of research assessments and their implications for funding and career prospects has had a knock-on effect on academic publication patterns.

[The gendered impact agenda – how might more female academics' research be submitted as REF impact case studies?](#)

As the impact agenda increases in importance, appropriate consideration should be given to its effects on female academics.

Publication ethics

[The undercover academic keeping tabs on 'predatory' publishing](#)

Following the shutdown of Beall's list, blacklists that warn against questionable publishers are in demand.

[False investigators and coercive citation are widespread in academic research](#)

A recent study has revealed widespread unethical behaviour in academic research.

[Transparent author credit](#)

Authorship on papers is one of the major currencies of the scientific enterprise.

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