Royal Society of Biology news

**RSB launches new Policy Resource Library for the biosciences**
The RSB has launched an innovative new library of policy resources for the biosciences, providing easy search and access to more than 800 published documents.

**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. The first draft of the RSB response to this consultation is currently in circulation with our member community. Please contact consultation@rsb.org.uk for more information on our first draft response and if you would like to contribute.  
**Closes: 29 May 2020**

**COVID-19 Bulletin**
For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB has developed a periodic bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response, see our webpages to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

**Celebrate RSB membership and get three months' free throughout Membership May**
The RSB is launching its first ever #MembershipMay campaign across social media, as part of the 10 year anniversary celebrations.

Spotlight on open access debate

**Improving open access and discovery during the pandemic**
Publishers, aggregators and libraries are helping to make research and course materials available online open access. But are there easy routes to finding them?

**cOAlition S publishes updated criteria for Transformative Journals**

**Nature to join open-access Plan S, publisher says**
Springer Nature says it commits to offering researchers a route to publishing open access in Nature and most Nature-branded journals from 2021.

**A better understanding of APC funding sources could accelerate the transition to open access**
Publication policy and debate

**VAT scrapped on E-publications**
Plans to scrap VAT on e-publications fast-tracked and will come into force tomorrow [30 April].

**Scientists cut peer-review corners under pressure of COVID-19 pandemic**
Scientists are beginning to fear an erosion of traditional safeguards against bad science under the pressing need for answers to the wave of sickness sweeping the globe.

**Publishing in English Presents Challenges for International Authors**

**AI to enable fast-track review of COVID-19 research proposals**
An Artificial Intelligence (AI) tool to help funders identify specialists to peer-review proposals for emergency COVID-19 research has been developed. It aims to help fast-track the allocation of funding, and in turn, accelerate the scientific response to the virus.

**The Society Publishers' Coalition - a year on**

**Editorially Surviving an Outbreak**

**A Day in the Life of Sophia Frentz: Fighting for Diversity and a More Inclusive Scientific World**

**Do preprints improve with peer review? A little, one study suggests**

**International publishing**

**UNC and SUNY reject Elsevier, joining academia's pushback**
Rebuffed on pricing and open access, universities refuse full-access renewals

**To Bundle or Not to Bundle? That Is the Question**

**Inside Libraries of India: Librarians Share Perspectives on How Their Libraries Have Changed**

**State of Open Monographs Series: Opening Monographs in an Age of COVID-19**
With book content being made free-to-read during the COVID-19 crisis, Charles Watkinson, Associate University Librarian for Publishing and Director of University of Michigan Press, provides a US view on the impact so far.

**Metrics**

**Sector pulls together to deliver unprecedented amount of e-textbooks to minimise impact of COVID-19**
University of Manchester and Liverpool first to provide their students with all key content online required for their coursework and Jisc tracks what measures publishers are putting in place or plan to implement in light of COVID-19.

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