

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

March 2021

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a spring break before returning with the next edition in May 2021. In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your readership.

This newsletter provides links to published news articles. Views or opinions presented are those of the original author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of the Royal Society of Biology.

Royal Society of Biology news

[COVID-19 Bulletin](#)

For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB produces a monthly bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response. The latest edition, published on the 1st of March 2021, includes updates on: SARS-CoV-2 viral variants; the immunology of COVID-19; public health responses and epidemiological research internationally; advances in COVID-19 treatment; and international vaccines research and roll-out. Plus, tackling misinformation on vaccinations; a new Google-funded open data repository; and funding for research into the impact of COVID-19 on UK farmer's mental health. See [our webpages](#) to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Economic impact of proposed Open Access policy detailed in new report](#)

The report, produced by FTI Consulting for the Publishers Association, assesses the impact of the policy on the UK's research ecosystem and raises a number of issues of concern for the UK research sector.

[Diamond unearthed: shining light on community-driven Open Access publishing](#)

cOAlition S and Science Europe have announced the publication of an in-depth report and recommendations arising from a study of community-driven open access (OA) journals, across the world that are free for readers and authors, usually referred to as 'OA diamond journals'.

[Building an easier path toward Open Access book publishing: support for authors](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, Christina Emery, Senior Marketing Manager for Palgrave Macmillan's and Springer's open access books programs, Springer Nature, presents an updated overview of the open access books landscape and examines the challenges of open access book publishing according to feedback from authors and researchers.

Publication policy and debate

[eLife and Stencila announce roadmap for bringing reproducible publishing to more authors](#)

eLife, in collaboration with Stencila, has announced the next phase of development for the Executable Research Article (ERA), bringing computationally reproducible research papers to more authors and publishers, says STM Publishing.

[Explaining the Rights Retention Strategy](#)

In this opinion piece for The Scholarly Kitchen, Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, Affiliate Professor in the School of Information Sciences, University of Illinois, unpacks the Rights Retention Strategy to increase understanding of this policy and how it functions within the Plan S compliance framework.

[Diversity, Equity, And Inclusion: Why Wiley? Why Research Publishing?](#)

Wiley takes an honest look into organisational strategies and the necessary actions needed to address why the publishing industry lacks diversity.

[New, more inclusive journal policies ease author name changes on published papers](#)

AAAS Science covers the work of an informal group of transgender scientists who have been pushing for changes to the scientific publishing industry to make it more inclusive.

[UK Reproducibility Network \(UKRN\) Newsletter – March 2021](#)

The March 2021 issue of the UKRN newsletter features a write-up of the recent annual meeting, the latest news, event information and tips on UKRN resources.

International publishing

[Gender publication gap ‘largely explained’ by childcare burden according to a study](#)

Times Higher Education covers how data from the study pinpoints the first years after childbirth as the biggest hit to women’s research productivity in the US and Canada.

Metrics

[Findings of most comprehensive survey of publishing workforce released](#)

The latest findings of the Publishers Association’s UK publishing workforce survey show that while publishing continues to meet its target to employ at least 50% women in senior roles within five years, there has been little progress in its other target of increasing the ethnic diversity of employees.

[Clarivate releases new visualization tool for multi-dimensional individual researcher performance](#)

Clarivate Plc, a global leader in providing trusted information and insights to accelerate the pace of innovation, has released a new interactive tool that showcases the range of a researcher’s publication and citation impact in a single visualization, reports STM Publishing.

[Opinion: What’s next for open science — making the case for open methods](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, David Crotty, Editorial Director, Journals Policy for Oxford University Press, states transparency around research methodologies is essential for driving public trust and accurate, reproducible research results.

Publication ethics

[Putting a stop to the papermills: a progress report](#)

Chris Graf, Director, Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics at Wiley, describes preventative measures publishers and others can put in place to put an end to the fraudulent activity.

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