

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

November 2021

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a winter break before returning with the next edition in January 2022. 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.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Opinion: Five things you need to know about UKRI's new Open Access policy](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, Victoria Ficarra and Rob Johnson, Research Consulting, offer insights into the new UKRI Open Access policy.

[Opinion: Why I'm optimistic about the Open Access movement](#)

Ashley Farley, Program Officer of Knowledge and Research Services at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, reflects on the Open Access movement for cOAlition S.

[Opinion: How Jisc marked Open Access Week 2021](#)

To ensure equity is at the centre of the path to Open Access, we must work together as part of a global research community, writes Jisc.

[New resource: Checklist for an Open Research Action Plan](#)

The Checklist provides a structured framework to define the scope of a cultural change programme, identify key stakeholders, and develop, secure buy-in for and implement a strategic plan, reports UK Reproducibility Network.

Publication policy and debate

[New report: The art of publishing reproducible research outputs](#)

UK Reproducibility Network covers the latest report from Knowledge Exchange on research reproducibility.

[Giant, free index to world's research papers released online](#)

Nature News describes a catalogue of billions of phrases from 107 million papers that could ease computerised searching of the literature.

[Opinion: Actions on retractions: an interview with Jodi Schneider](#)

The Scholarly Kitchen interviews Jodi Schneider of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign about the work she's leading to reduce the inadvertent spread of retracted research.

[Opinion: The problem with preprints](#)

Preprints can be valuable additions to the scientific literature, but we must start seeing them as perishable commodities rather than akin to peer-reviewed, published studies, writes The Scientist.

[Opinion: UK universities could easily cope without Elsevier access for lengthy period, says Berkeley librarian who led system through two-year cut-off](#)

Times Higher Education covers how talks continue between Elsevier and UK universities about a new five-year deal.

International publishing

[Opinion: Pandemic Disruptor: Canadian Perspectives on how COVID-19 is Changing Open Access \(Part 1\)](#)

The Scholarly Kitchen looks at Open Access policies and developments in Canada, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Part 1 of a 2-part post.

[Opinion: Pandemic Disruptor: Canadian Perspectives on how COVID-19 is Changing Open Access in Canada \(Part 2\)](#)

Part 2 of The Scholarly Kitchen series looking at Open Access developments in Canada, examines the changing processes and infrastructure needed for open science.

[Editorial favouritism unpopular with China's junior scholars](#)

Times Higher Education covers a study that has cast doubt on the idea that a journal's research quality can be undermined by editorial favouritism, although some editors admitted that they 'loosened standards' for colleagues and junior scholars expressed particular resistance to the practice.

[Open Access switch picks up pace in Australia and New Zealand](#)

Springer pact follows agreement with Cambridge University Press, as other big publishers prepare to follow suit, reports Times Higher Education.

[Opinion: Pandemic underlines need for 'radical transparency'](#)

Times Higher Education covers how an Australian forum has heard peer review is not enough to protect people from potentially lethal misinformation in an age of coronavirus.

Metrics

[Using data to drive journal strategy](#)

Dave Speare, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Fish Disease, Mike Dawson, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Biogeography, and Emily Davies, Journals Publishing Manager at Wiley, discuss how they use data to develop the journals that they work on.

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