

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communication Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

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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 18th of January 2021, includes epidemiological updates and assessment of public health strategies; updates on testing, on new drugs, and on vaccine development, roll-out and communications; looking back on how science rose to the challenge through 2020 and into 2021; and a discussion on ways you can look after yourself and others in 2021. See [our webpages](#) to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Open Access and Global South: It is More Than a Matter of Inclusion](#)

In this opinion piece for The Scholarly Kitchen, Haseeb Irfanullah, an independent consultant on the environment, climate change, and research systems, discusses how we can overcome the barriers blocking global participation in open access publishing.

[BMJ and Jisc collaborate to support open access publishing across the UK](#)

New transitional agreement will make UK research more accessible and sustainable, reports Jisc News.

[Publishers claim Plan S' repository rules will bankrupt journals](#)

Times Higher Education covers how major scholarly publishers warn that some titles will become unviable unless open access scheme changes tack on compliance.

[Covid-19 drives surge in open-access publishing](#)

In 2020, a total of 292 articles were published on Wellcome Open Research, a 40% increase compared to 2019, reports STM Publishing.

[Flipping from Subscription to Open Access: A Case Study](#)

Johan Nilsson, Associate Director in Oikos' Editorial Office, told Wiley the story of how they flipped one of their most prominent journals from a subscription model to open access.

Publication policy and debate

[Hundreds of 'predatory' journals indexed on leading scholarly database](#)

Scopus has stopped adding content from most of the flagged titles, but the analysis highlights how poor-quality science is infiltrating literature, reports Nature News.

[Elite scientists increase stranglehold on academic publishing](#)

Growth in collaboration and larger teams could mean that PIs and senior researchers reap citation rewards, writes Times Higher Education.

[The Cell Press Inclusion and Diversity Statement — An Interview with Deborah Sweet](#)

In a conversation with The Scholarly Kitchen, Deborah Sweet, Vice President of Editorial, Cell Press, discusses what the Statement is, how it's being implemented, what they hope to achieve, and how it's been received in the Cell Press community and beyond.

[Citing Software in Scholarly Publishing to Improve Reproducibility, Reuse, and Credit](#)

Daniel Katz, Chief Scientist at National Center for Supercomputing Applications and Hollydawn Murray, Research Manager, Health Data Research UK, present the FORCE11 Software Citation Implementation Working Group's guidelines for citing the software used in research publications.

[Journalists 'gloss over' preprints' unreliability](#)

Study says academics should highlight unreviewed papers' uncertainty, reports Times Higher Education.

[Launch of the UKRN Newsletter](#)

The first issue of the new UK Reproducibility Network (UKRN) Newsletter was published in January 2021, providing subscribers with the latest news, event information, publications and more from UKRN.

International publishing

[The Royal Danish Library and Elsevier agree to four-year contract for reading and open access publishing](#)

This is the first time the Danish consortium led by the Royal Danish Library has signed an open access transformative agreement with any publisher. This agreement complements Elsevier's transformative agreements across many European countries, according to STM Publishing.

[PLOS and the Canadian Research Knowledge Network \(CRKN\) announce community action publishing deal](#)

STM Publishing covers how the new collective action publishing model from PLOS, is enabling 19 participating CRKN institutions to publish fee-free in PLOS Medicine and PLOS Biology.

[Portugal's national funding agency for science, research and technology joins cOAlition S](#)

cOAlition S has announced that the Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal (FCT) has demonstrated its commitment to the realisation of full and immediate open access.

Metrics

[Clarivate Report Highlights Importance of Evolution in Data Categorization to Promote Responsible Research Metrics](#)

New citation-based, dynamic classification scheme developed in collaboration with the leading academic scientometrics team at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

[You've tweeted about your hot new paper! Don't expect many clicks](#)

AAAS Sciences covers how a review of 1.1 million Twitter links to scholarly articles found that half drew no clicks, and an additional 22% attracted just one or two.

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