

The Royal Society of Biology Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

September 2021

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.

Top story(ies)

[Major funding boost for UK's open research agenda](#)

A consortium of 18 universities – members of the UK Reproducibility Network – has received significant funding to drive uptake of open research practices across the sector, furthering the UK's position at the forefront of rigorous and reproducible research.

[More than 200 health journals call for urgent action on climate crisis](#)

The British Medical Journal said it is the first time so many publications have come together to make the same statement, reflecting the severity of the situation, writes the Guardian.

Spotlight on open access debate

[UKRI announces Open Access Policy](#)

UK Research and Innovation states the new policy will increase the opportunity for the findings of publicly funded research to be accessed, shared and reused.

Among other [RSB Consultation responses](#), you can read the RSB response to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Open Access Review consultation [here](#).

[ALPSP Copyright Committee responds to UKRI Open Access Policy](#)

The Association of Learned & Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) has published the response sent to the UKRI Chief Executive.

[cOAlition S statement on Open Access for academic books](#)

Rather than decree a uniform policy on OA books, cOAlition S have formulated a set of recommendations regarding academic books – in line with Plan S principles – that all cOAlition S organisations will seek to adopt within their own remits and jurisdictions.

[Transformative Journals: an initial assessment](#)

Some 16 months on from publishing the formal Transformative Journals (TJ) criteria, 14 publishers – large and small, for-profit, not-for-profit, society publishers and university presses – and some 2275 journals, have enrolled in this programme. This blog provides a summary of the uptake of the programme by publishers and an analysis of the initial data TJ publishers have provided.

Publication policy and debate

[100 members and counting: a snapshot of the Society Publishers' Coalition](#)

This blog from the Society Publishers' Coalition celebrates reaching 100 members, reflecting upon how the coalition was founded, and highlighting shared commitments.

[Antiracism Toolkit for Organisations now available to help build equity and promote antiracist workplace culture in scholarly publishing](#)

The Coalition for Diversity and Inclusion in Scholarly Communications (C4DISC) have published a new diversity, equity, and inclusion resource for scholarly publishing professionals.

[Opinion: When researchers sound the alarm on problematic papers](#)

Finding and reporting an irregularity in a published study can lead people down an unexpected path, reports The Scientist.

[Autocorrect errors in Excel still creating genomics headache](#)

Despite geneticists being warned about spreadsheet problems, 30% of published papers contain mangled gene names in supplementary data, reports Nature News.

[Opinion: A surge in pandemic research shines a spotlight on preprints](#)

Many scientists have turned to preprints to rapidly disseminate their research on COVID-19, but some disagree with this approach, writes The Scientist.

[Health researchers report funder pressure to suppress results](#)

According to Nature News, a small study hints that interference from bodies funding research into public-health issues such as nutrition and exercise might be more common than realised.

International publishing

[IOP Publishing's 'top-cited paper awards' celebrate the most influential Chinese research papers](#)

For the fourth consecutive year, IOP Publishing (IOPP) is celebrating the significance of Chinese research with its 'top-cited paper awards', writes STM Publishing News.

[Opinion: The north is drawing the south closer, but, this is not the whole picture of geographical inclusion](#)

Geographical inclusion in scholarly publishing needs to do more than just drawing the Global South closer to the Global North, writes Haseeb Irfanullah, a biologist-turned-development practitioner, in a post for The Scholarly Kitchen.

[Opinion: Best practices and innovative approaches to peer review in Africa](#)

A pilot series of community peer review events from four organisations (AfricArXiv, Eider Africa, TCC Africa, and PREreview) have been developed to enable equitable practices of research evaluation and review, reports The Scholarly Kitchen.

[African languages to get more bespoke scientific terms](#)

Many words common to science have never been written in African languages. Now, researchers from across Africa are changing that, says Nature News.

[Preprint ban in grant applications deemed 'plain ludicrous'](#)

Nature News covers how the Australian Research Council's decision to reject early-career funding applications that mention preprints is hopelessly outdated, according to scientists.

[Hijacked journals 'siphon millions of dollars' from research](#)

Times Higher Education covers how international action is needed to eliminate 'cloned journals' that prey on early career researchers.

Metrics

[Cabells' predatory reports passes 15,000 predatory journals listed](#)

This represents a nearly fourfold increase in the number of predatory journals listed since the resource launched in 2017 with 4,000 titles, showing consistent growth to keep pace with the ever-expanding universe of predatory publishing operators, reports STM Publishing News.

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