

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communications Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

March 2022

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a spring break before returning with the next edition in May 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.

Royal Society of Biology news

[Tackling challenges together at the MO Twilight Meeting on Research Integrity](#)

Representatives from the RSB'S Member Organisations came together via Zoom in February 2022 to discuss research integrity.

Spotlight on open access debate

[Opinion: Plan S and scholarly publishing: some lessons learned](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, Sally Ekanayaka, scholarly communications manager, MyScienceWork, reviews a webinar featuring several key players in implementing Plan S and asks: what lessons have been learned?

[Opinion: Accelerating open research: a multi-stakeholder discussion](#)

Writing for The Scholarly Kitchen, Robert Harington, associate executive director of publishing, American Mathematical Society, reports on the recent SSP Publisher-Funder Task Force, who met to discuss how collaboration among stakeholder groups may accelerate a transition to open research.

[A new approach to supporting scholarly communications: announcing the open access community framework \(OACF\)](#)

Supporting the transition to open access requires a multi-pronged approach. A key consideration for Jisc and UK institutions, is how to put into practice the commitment to a diverse scholarly communication ecosystem.

[Open access policy update](#)

UKRI has published updated information to support funded research organisations and researchers to be ready for UKRI's new open access policy.

Publication policy and debate

[Opinion: Nature is trialling transparent peer review — the early results are encouraging](#)

Last year, nearly half of Nature authors agreed to publish anonymous referee reports. They hope that more will consider doing so this year, writes this Nature Editorial.

[The future of peer review is open](#)

A trial shows researchers' growing acceptance of transparency, and its benefits, says Simon Harris, managing editor, IOP Publishing, in a post for Research Professional News.

[Opinion: Should peer reviewer identities be revealed?](#)

Disclosing reviewer identities can improve peer review transparency, but its risks and benefits remain unclear, writes The Publication Plan.

[Opinion: Is it time to rewrite the rules on duplicate submission in the age of preprints?](#)

As the use of preprint servers increases, the way we think of duplicate submission and peer review may need to change, reports The Publication Plan.

International publishing

[Ukrainian researchers pressure journals to boycott Russian authors](#)

Most publications are still considering manuscripts irrespective of nationality - but Russia plans to remove a requirement for scientists to publish in foreign titles, reports Nature News.

[Open-access publishing fees deter researchers in the global south](#)

Authors in low-income countries rarely published free-to-read papers, even when they qualified for publication-fee waivers, reports Nature News.

[Transformative agreement signed between the Microbiology Society and Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences](#)

The Publish and Read model will allow researchers at affiliated institutions to publish an unlimited number of Open Access (OA) articles in hybrid and fully OA titles, as well as having full read access to the Society's journals portfolio, reports STM Publishing News.

[IOP Publishing strikes a transformative deal with CRKN: some questions for Julian Wilson](#)

The Scholarly Kitchen interviews Julian Wilson, sales and marketing director, IOP Publishing, about IOP Publishing's new transformative agreement with the Canadian Research Knowledge Network.

[Sci-Hub downloads show countries where pirate paper site is most used](#)

Researchers worldwide are accessing papers using the site - but China tops the chart, with more than 25 million downloads over the past month, reports Nature News.

Copyright and licencing

[ResearchGate dealt a blow in copyright lawsuit](#)

The court ruling says that the academic-networking website is responsible for papers uploaded by its users - but ResearchGate plans to appeal the decision, according to Nature News.

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