

The Royal Society of Biology

Research Communication Newsletter

A collection of online information and opinion pieces.

December 2019

Dear readers, the newsletter team will be taking a break for Christmas, and we will return with the next edition in January 2020. In the meantime, may we send you our very best wishes.

Royal Society of Biology news

[RSB Questionnaire: Publication policy, Open Access and You](#)

We are interested in your experience and views related to academic publication policies, and the transition to open access. Please fill out this survey to give your input, and help inform our work on this area. The survey should take around 20 minutes, and will be open for responses until 20 December 2019.

Spotlight on open access debate

[New Read & Publish pilot agreed with Jisc](#)

The Biochemical Society and [Portland Press](#) are delighted to announce an agreement with [Jisc](#) for a 'Read & Publish' transition pilot spanning all Portland Press journals over 2020 and 2021.

[Jisc secures two-year pilot transitional open access agreement with Microbiology Society](#)

Jisc and the Microbiology Society have sealed a two-year pilot transitional open access (OA) agreement.

[Guest Post — The Future of Open Access Business Models: APCs Are Not the Only Way](#)

[Knowledge Unlatched and ScienceOpen cooperate for better Open Access Analytics](#)

[The Crick Institute Are on a Pathway to Open Research with Richer Research Profiles](#)

[Open Access Journals of De Gruyter, Journal-Level Influence Index Presence and Coverage Variation Across Metrics](#)

The inclusion of the Open Access journals of De Gruyter into external influence ratings has been found to consistently increase between 2014 and 2018.

[If we choose to align open access to research with geo-political borders we negate the moral value of open access](#)

It has recently been suggested that to support the development of open access (OA) in Europe, access to open research might be 'geoblocked', or limited, to those countries that were involved in funding the research and its publication. In this post, Martin Paul Eve, argues that to do this is not only technically and practically very difficult, but would also fundamentally undermine the moral imperative of open access to enable widest possible level of engagement with research.

[Can Geowalling Save Open Access?](#)

Publication policy and debate

[Action plan to eliminate gender bias from research publishing](#)

We are calling on all scientific publishers to join us in transparently reporting gender statistics in a move towards equality in research and academia.

[Octopus: a radical new approach to scientific publishing](#)

[Move by journals to 'seamless' off-campus access raises privacy concerns](#)

[Springer Nature first publisher to implement SeamlessAccess.org service](#)

[Citation Contamination: References to Predatory Journals in the Legitimate Scientific Literature](#)

[Managers who 'fetishise' certain journals warp incentive culture](#)

UK research culture likened to 1970s car industry, with individuals ignoring quality concerns

[Peer Review: Final results from a trial at eLife](#)

A new approach to peer review resulted in a moderately higher acceptance rate, with all the issues raised by reviewers addressed by the authors in the vast majority of revised submissions.

[The Second Wave of Preprint Servers: How Can Publishers Keep Afloat?](#)

[Megajournal editors 'swapped acceptances for citations'](#)

Analysis of highly prolific Plos One editors finds evidence for 'editor-author backscratching'

International publishing

[Big variation across Europe in cost of publishing with 'big five'](#)

Analysis of publishing deals across Europe highlights different costs faced by country-level consortia

[South African Medical Research Council to champion Open Access through cOAlition S](#)

[Western Australian university press slated for closure](#)

Outrage over move to replace in-house publishing with 'open and digitised access to information'

Publication ethics

[In decision certain to draw fire, journal will publish heavily criticized paper on gender differences in physics](#)

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