

The Royal Society of Biology **Research Communications 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

RSB Technical Skills courses 2024

Learn new skills or refine your laboratory techniques with the Royal Society of Biology's laboratory-based courses. Currently available to book are the brand new [ELISA](#) and [Polymerase Chain Reaction](#) courses at Keele University, and [Aseptic Techniques](#) and [Cell Culture: The Basics](#) at the University of York. Visit [our training events webpage](#) for full details and to book your place on these courses.

Spotlight on open access

[Journal Comparison Service: Analysis of the 2022 data](#)

The Journal Comparison Service was developed by cOAlition S to shed light on publishing fees and services. In this blog post, cOAlition S provides an overview of the data held within the system, before looking in more detail at the 2022 data.

Publication policy and debate

[UK and USA physics publishers say they'll put 'purpose before profit'](#)

A newly announced coalition of three nonprofit physics society publishers has announced its intention to support science, reports Publishing Perspectives. This coalition is formed of the American Institute of Physics' publishing arm AIP Publishing, the American Physical Society, and the Institute of Physics' IOP Publishing.

[EPSRC to explore potential bias in peer review of grants](#)

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council is set to explore potential bias in its peer review processes as part of an independent investigation of its portfolio of research grants, according to Research Professional News.

[Launch of Scopus AI to help researchers navigate the world of research](#)

Publishing giant Elsevier has announced the launch of Scopus AI – a generative AI product intended to help researchers and research institutions get fast and accurate summaries and research insights that support collaboration and societal impact.

[Opinion: How efforts to assess university contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals fall short](#)

The UN Sustainable Development Goals are widely used by research institutions and metrics providers as a mechanism for assessing the impact of universities on the wider world. Writing on the LSE Impact blog, Elizabeth Gadd argues attempts to quantify academic contributions to these goals can miss the mark.

International publishing

[UK and EU science chiefs urge British researchers and businesses to work together with European colleagues through Horizon](#)

The government has announced that the European Commissioner for Research and Innovation, Illiana Ivanova, and the UK Science and Technology Secretary, Michelle Donelan, have met leaders from across the UK's science, business and research communities to make a united call to seize the opportunity of Horizon Europe funding.

[An interview with Stephanie Orphan of arXiv](#)

In this interview, The Scholarly Kitchen discusses research infrastructure with Stephanie Orphan, Program Director of arXiv, the e-print repository that serves a number of scientific and quantitative fields.

[What the EU's tough AI law means for research and ChatGPT](#)

European Union countries are poised to adopt the world's first comprehensive set of laws to regulate artificial intelligence (AI), reports Nature. The EU AI Act puts its toughest rules on the riskiest AI models, and is designed to ensure that AI systems are safe and respect fundamental rights and EU values.

[Australian Research Council skips Senate inquiry on proposed defence law](#)

The Australian Research Council has defended its decision not to make a written submission about a law that would force researchers to obtain government permission before entering into some overseas collaborations, reports Research Professional News.

Publishing ethics

[Study to look at ethical risks of AI in research](#)

A new 10-month project led at the University of Strathclyde aims to help researchers and their institutions make informed decisions on how they use generative AI with participant data, in order to protect the privacy of those who participate in research. As part of the work, Research Information reports, the team will gauge the views and concerns of University Research Ethics Committees around the UK.

[How journal communities can ensure reproducible social science](#)

In 2019 the journal Management Science introduced a policy requiring authors to make their study materials available. Writing for the LSE Impact blog, an international team took this as an opportunity to judge the policy's impact by analysing findings from over 500 reproducibility studies to assess the state of reproducibility in their field.

[How journals are fighting back against a wave of questionable images](#)

Publishers are deploying AI-based tools to detect suspicious images, but generative AI threatens their efforts, reports Nature.

[Attempts to bribe journal editors a "very real concern"](#)

Research Professional News reports that two major scholarly publishers have confirmed that so-called 'paper mills' make regular attempts to subvert their journals' academic and editorial standards by offering editors bribes to accept substandard papers. Paper mills are a long-standing problem for academia, but a report that paper mills have been attempting to bribe journal editors has added a new concern.

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