

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, preserving the original title and summary line. 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 COVID-19 Survey

The RSB will soon be closing its [short survey](#) on how the research community has been affected by the pandemic. If you haven't already, please do fill in the 5-10 minute survey to help inform how we support the research community now and in the period afterwards.

COVID-19 Bulletin

For further detail on COVID-19 research, news and updates, RSB has developed a periodic bulletin collating some of the bioscience behind the outbreak and response, see [our webpages](#) to read previous editions and subscribe to the next.

Main RSB webpage on COVID-19

The RSB is working to adapt and ensure our services are delivered to the greatest extent possible whilst also taking into account Public Health England and Government advice during the pandemic. We regularly update this [webpage](#) with relevant information about our activities, initiatives and community support.

Spotlight on open access debate

OpenAthens reports on impact of coronavirus crisis

According to Vee Rogacheva, UX and service designer at leading single-sign on provider OpenAthens, the impact Covid-19 is having on access to information and the role of libraries differs hugely according to institution's digital maturity. Additionally, publishers are having to adapt quickly to changing user patterns.

Open Access lessons during Covid-19: No lockdown for research results!

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world as we know it, and research is no exception. Journal editors are cooperating and becoming more flexible. Embargoes are lifted, paywalls abolished and preprint servers like MedrXiv and bioRxiv have accelerated research evaluation and discussion. Suddenly the demand for instant access to the relevant research literature has become self-evident.

Recommendations for the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement relating to Open Access

The ALPSP Copyright Committee has made a formal response to the new Model Grant Agreement (MGA). It expresses caution and highlights that some of the provisions could undermine the excellence of European research and the sustainability of a diverse research ecosystem.

[Open access: how COVID-19 will change the way research findings are shared](#)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, researchers and publishers have pulled together to publish their outputs at an unprecedented rate. So, how have they responded? And how will this change research culture and the way findings are disseminated in future? An opinion article by Robert Kiley, Head of Open Research for Wellcome.

Publication policy and debate

[Will the pandemic permanently alter scientific publishing?](#)

The push for rapid and open publishing could take off — although financial pressures lie ahead: part 4 in a series on science after the pandemic by Nature news feature.

[Publishers Invest in Preprints](#)

The Scholarly Kitchen observes that, beyond preprint communities that are typically organized around a field or set of fields, in recent years all the major publishers have made their own investments in preprint platforms.

[Books for the 2020s: The Role of Book Content in the STM Researcher Ecosystem](#)

This guest post for the Scholarly Kitchen looks specifically at the role of book content in the Science, Technical and Medical (STM) researcher ecosystem.

[The day the libraries shut: stories from the front line](#)

Jisc News describes how the early reaction to the sudden closure of libraries was shock and panic. Now librarians are not only learning to manage online but finding some benefits, though worrying about an end to free texts.

[How to Make Authors Happy: Reducing Peer Review Times](#)

This article from the Wiley Network explores how editors can keep their authors happy by reducing peer review times and what impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on editorial processes.

[Peer Review Quality in the Era of Covid-19](#)

Editors, particularly in research fields core to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic, will be all too aware of a surge in submissions relating to COVID-19. This Wiley Network article explores how, in this journal 'infodemic' of sorts, the submissions vary widely in quality; while many articles are of high quality, others may be poorly written or little more than an opinion piece.

International publishing

[Oxford University Press and National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences agree first Read & Publish deal in China](#)

Oxford University Press (OUP) and the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NSLC) are pleased to announce a landmark new Read & Publish agreement, the first of its kind in Mainland China.

[State of Open Monographs Series: Where in the World are Open Access Monographs Being Published? Part I: South Africa](#)

To better understand the international landscape of open access monographs, Peter Potter, Publishing Director in the University Libraries at Virginia Tech, will be writing occasional posts from around the world. The first is about South Africa.

Publication ethics

[Publisher Support for Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics: Wiley's Revised Best Practice Guidelines](#)

This month, the Integrity in Publishing Group at Wiley launched the third edition of Wiley's Best Practice Guidelines for Research Integrity and Publishing Ethics. This Wiley Network article describes the group and the updates they have made to further improve best practice.

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