

Research information

The essential link between
publishers, librarians and researchers

www.researchinformation.info

June/July 2021
Issue 114

**Measuring the
impact of open
access content**

**Interview:
Jason Priem,
Our Research**

**Addressing
cyber
security**

**Job searches
in pandemic
times**

Blank canvas?

Why open
education
resources could
paint a new
future in scholarly
communications

Media Partners to



Association of Learned
and Professional
Society Publishers

ALAANNUAL
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION
JUNE 23-25, 2021 VIRTUAL

The ISSN Portal

offers a suite of essential services to monitor continuing resources from inception to long-term archiving

Browse and download free ISSN Core data

Librarians, editors, publishers, content providers, database managers, scholars, students can access free ISSN core data through the ISSN Portal. They can make the most of this comprehensive database to identify print and online serials and continuing resources published worldwide.

Get more ISSN data by subscribing

The ISSN Portal provides more data and services to subscribers, e.g.:

- Advanced and expert search options to identify serial resources, including those to be published shortly,
- Faceted search including subject classification and index coverage
- New display features, i.e. timeline, geolocation of publications, title history and title relationships,
- ISSN data available for download in a variety of formats including MARC 21, UNIMARC, MARC XML, RDF/XML, RDF turtle, JSON
- Alerts to receive regular updates on publications;
- API downloads which can be integrated into local workflows
- Interface in the 6 official UN languages.

Stay tuned with changes in journal ownership

During their lifetime, journals and continuing resources may change publisher. ISSN IC participates in NISO Transfer Group and manages, the Enhanced Transfer Alerting Service (ETAS) that allows publishers to share information about journal transfers with librarians and researchers.

Check which serial resources are archived and by whom

The Keepers Registry aggregates preservation meta-data supplied by a dozen archiving agencies around the world. Find out if your library's electronic serial collections are at risk of vanishing or if they are properly archived.

portal.issn.org
journaltransfer.issn.org
keepers.issn.org



THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF BOOK CITATIONS

ADVANCING DISCOVERY

HISTORY

The study of book citation indices is around **10** years old.

THE SPRINGER NATURE STUDY



221,688 records



18,791 books



531,557 citations

AUTHOR PERSPECTIVES

In our survey of 4,375 book authors, the majority reported that citations as the most important indicator of a title's success.

**See the full results of the survey in 'Today's library & the future of scholarly communications'*

KEY FINDINGS

The majority of books take up to **8** years to reach peak citations

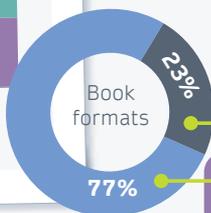
Average number of **citations** per book by discipline

Computer science	74
Earth and Planetary Sciences	73
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	67
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	50
Psychology	50

CONCLUSION

Where book scientometrics is a still relatively new area of study, more research is needed. There is also a great deal more to be known about citations themselves, for instance the intention or function of a citation, whether evidentiary, supportive, or used to refute a piece of research.

As we see more books come online, and the art and science of citation analysis further evolves.



Edited books in a series format usually come with both a greater number of chapters and an overall higher number of citations than non-series titles (Torres-Salinas, et al., 2014)

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

JUNE 23–29, 2021 **VIRTUAL**

No other event in the world offers a better opportunity to learn about current issues and trends in library and information science.

Event Highlights

- Memorable and inspiring [featured authors and celebrity speakers](#)
- [The Library Marketplace](#) with more than 250 exhibitors, Presentation Stages, Swag-A-Palooza, and more
- Networking opportunities to share and connect with peers
- More than 200 live and on-demand educational sessions
- News You Can Use sessions highlighting new research and advances in libraries
- Interactive Discussion Groups
- Access to content for a full year

View conference sessions and activities in the [Program Scheduler](#). It's consistently updated with new content, so check back often!

REGISTER TODAY



alaannual.org
[#alaac21](https://twitter.com/alaac21)

Thank you to our Sponsors

EBSCO

Infobase

中国图书进出口(集团)有限公司
CHINA NATIONAL PUBLICITY & IMPORT & EXPORT CORP. LTD.

GALE
A Cengage Company

MODERN
LANGUAGE
ASSOCIATION

OCLC OverDrive

mk
SOLUTIONS

OECD iLibrary

reading plus

SAGE
Publishing

SPRINGER NATURE

tutor.com
The Princeton Review

viz media

Research information

June/July 2021 • Issue 114

OERs: the future of education? 4

The pandemic has provided a tantalising glimpse of the potential of open educational resources. **Rebecca Pool** asks: will these freely-accessible learning materials become our new normal?

Measuring the impact of OA content 10

Tim Lloyd considers how open access agreements are critical for developing sustainable open access business models

Feature case study 11

Springer Nature reveals a more comprehensive and systematic understanding of books' role in scholarly knowledge dissemination

The hunt for equitable search 12

We should meet users' needs, no matter who they are, where they are from, or which language they speak, writes **Ashleigh Faith**

The future of library search 14

Library search tools and services have a bright future – if they support users in their preferred workflows, writes **Matthew Hayes**

Tilting the balance back towards libraries 16

Jason Priem tells of his hopes for a 'long-overdue' change in academic publishing

Riding the wave of innovation 18

Sam Herbert, co-founder of 67 Bricks, casts his eye over the industry – and tells of his early love of surfing

Addressing cyber security 20

You could do worse than to follow the advice of an iconic 90s rapper, writes **Susie Winter**

'OA should be the default' 21

Transition to open access must be made as smooth as possible, writes **Chris Banks**

How efficient tools showcase a library's impact 22

Many libraries have had to strengthen their digital presence to survive – especially over the last 12 months, writes **Cintia Dabes**

Job searches in Covid times 24

Manisha Bolina and **Heather Staines** share some insights about looking for scholarly communications positions in a pandemic

News 26

A radiance of reports from around the scholarly communications industry

Suppliers directory 33

Leader: Tim Gillett Imperfect balance?



In recent months *Research Information* has carried several reports calling for a levelling-up of the scholarly communications playing field – and this issue continues that trend.

On page 16 we carry an interview with Jason Priem of Our Research, who tells of his hopes for a 'long-overdue' change in academic publishing and a 'tilting back' of the balance towards the needs of academic libraries – and that the organisation's product UnSub will 'begin to turn off the faucet of money flowing from universities to toll-access publishing houses'.

A similar theme is explored in Rebecca Pool's feature on page 4, which explores a growing interest in the development of open education resources (OERs) as universities increasingly struggle to afford the ebooks and journals required for their students and researchers.

Rebecca's feature shows how, increasingly, since the onset of the pandemic, educational organisations are providing materials through open repositories and bespoke online publication platforms. It's an area of the industry that will no doubt provoke much further interest in the coming months and years.

This period of change has led to many new opportunities – some enforced, some as a matter of choice – and on page 24 two readers provide some excellent tips on identifying, researching, and interviewing for new roles in the scholarly communications industry. While in parts of Europe the pandemic appears to be on the wane, it seems likely that such advice might be helpful for a while to come yet.

@researchinfo

Editorial and administrative team

Editor: Tim Gillett
tim.gillett@europascience.com +44 (0) 1223 221040
Specialist reporter: Rebecca Pool
Design: David Houghton/Zoe Andrews
Partnership and events executive: Charlie Mitchell
charlie.mitchell@europascience.com

Advertising team

Advertising manager: Mike Nelson
mike.nelson@europascience.com +44 (0) 1223 221039

Corporate team

Managing director: Warren Clark

Research Information is published by Europa Science Ltd,
4 Signet Court, Cambridge, CB5 8LA • ISSN 1744-8026
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 211170 • Fax: +44 (0) 1223 213385
Web: www.researchinformation.info

Subscriptions: Free registrations available to qualifying individuals – register online at www.researchinformation.info
Subscriptions £180 a year for six issues to readers outside registration requirements. Single issue £30. Orders to Europa Science Ltd, RI Circulation, 4 Signet Court, Cambridge, CB5 8LA
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 211170 Fax: +44 (0) 1223 213385
©2021 Europa Science Ltd.

While every care has been taken in the compilation of this magazine, errors or omissions are not the responsibility of the publishers or of the editorial staff. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the publishers or editorial staff. All rights reserved. Unless specifically stated, goods or services mentioned are not formally endorsed by Europa Science Ltd, which does not guarantee or endorse or accept any liability for any goods and/or services featured in this publication.

Cover: Shutterstock.com

Subscribe online for FREE at
www.researchinformation.info/subscribe



OERs: the future of education?

The pandemic has provided a tantalising glimpse of the potential of open educational resources. Rebecca Pool asks: will these freely-accessible learning materials become our new normal?

When University College London launched UCL Press in 2015, the library services team wanted the open access university press to become the OA publisher of choice for authors, editors and readers around the world. Six years, 180 research monographs and more than four million downloads later, the press has, without a doubt, been embraced by many.

Paul Ayris, pro-vice provost and director of UCL Library Services, tells *Research Information*: 'With only 180 books, we've reached more than 240 countries and territories across the world... as the UK's first fully open access university press, we've seen the impact the press has had.'

Over this time, one of the top 10 downloads has been an e-textbook on burns and plastic surgery produced by Deepak Kalaskar, from Medical Sciences at UCL, and director of the MSc course in burns, plastic and reconstructive surgery. According to Ayris, the book's 70,000 downloads are proof that e-textbooks and open educational resources have a clear future at UCL, a point that's only been underlined by the current pandemic.

'UCL has now given us funding to produce an e-textbook service,' he says. 'We have 45,000 students at UCL, and when the libraries physically closed and students couldn't get access to physical copies... we saw that digital education and

providing open educational materials was the way to go.

'I wouldn't have said that 12 months ago, but I'm saying it now,' he adds.

Right now, UCL is piloting an open access repository, UCL Discovery, for its open educational resources, has established its online publication platform, BOOC (Books as Open Online Content) for OA ebooks and content, and expects to start its dedicated e-textbook service in a year. Work is underway to explore whether this service will have its own dedicated platform or UCL Discovery will disseminate content, with consultants also looking at the best workflows and OA business models. But whatever the outcome one year from now, Ayris is excited.

“When academics learn how ‘ruinously expensive’ e-textbooks are for students, they suddenly become very interested in alternatives”

'We're still in the advocacy stage of OERs and are encouraging lecturers to use our platform but we've had one or two expressions of interest from other universities that want to join us with this,' he said. 'I don't know of any other university in Europe that is building an OER e-textbook platform.'

Given the current industry row over e-textbook pricing, this can't come a moment too soon for Ayris. In his words, when academics learn how 'ruinously expensive' e-textbooks are for students, they suddenly become very interested in the alternatives.

'This is a critical moment in the development of OERs, as we've seen in the last 12 months that current models and provision just don't cut it with students or universities either,' he said. 'Indeed, when I took the latest bill for our commercial interests with purchasing to the Provost and Dean's faculty, they were outraged.'

Like many across the scholarly community, David Prosser, executive director of Research Libraries UK, is watching OER developments from UCL and elsewhere with great interest. And in a similar vein to Ayris, he believes the pandemic has triggered change.

'[Coronavirus] has acted as a real catalyst for OERs, especially with many institutions that, quite frankly, have had



to muddle through without access to necessary teaching materials through the lockdowns,' he said.

Similarly, Prosser also believes the pandemic has shone a light on e-textbook cost issues, throwing open the door to OA alternatives. As such, he is certain UK library communities are becoming increasingly interested in OERs. 'The current [e-textbook] pricing models have shown themselves to be so blatantly inadequate that people have had to look elsewhere,' he asserts. 'I believe that, in the long term, open educational resources could be one of the most significant solutions here... and RLUK hopes to play a co-ordinating role in bringing interested parties together.'

Still, much needs to be done. In June 2020, SPARC Europe, a Dutch advocate of OA, science, scholarship and education, released the results of its survey, *Open Education in European Libraries of Higher Education*.

It revealed that few libraries reported having the funds, grants or budgets for open educational work, while policies dedicated to OERs were sparse. Other findings included respondents split 50/50 on whether the library should take a lead in advancing OERs in their organisations and that open education was still a relatively new concept in the library. →

→ Importantly, the report also made a series of recommendations on funds, leadership, policy and how to grow resources, including earmarking library budgets and supporting internal OE champions. Prosser agrees that OERs aren't yet mainstream in terms of production and use, and reckons resources first need to find their way onto university reading lists.

For starters, he advocates a reward system being developed in institutions and departments that recognises the time and effort that an academic spends on creating a high-quality OER. 'People need kudos and could get a tick against their names that manifests itself against, say, career development – we just don't have this right now,' he said.

Prosser also points to the need for mechanisms of quality control in OERs. 'For example, it would be really interesting if scholarly societies could 'kite-mark' sets of materials, which could also serve as reward or validation.

'We're really lucky in the UK to have some very active and thoughtful societies that may have some ideas here. OERs is an area that the UK library community is increasingly interested in, and it would be interesting for us, or someone else, to convene a group that is interested in this.'

A flying start

Across the Atlantic, US colleges are ahead of UK institutions on OER adoption. Myriad OER repositories exist, including Oasis from the Commonwealth of Learning, Merlot, set up by the California State University, and OER Commons, created by Californian non-profit organisation, the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education. Indeed, rising interest in OERs at the US state level as a means to make college education more affordable prompted SPARC to set up a State Policy Tracker that tracks OER policy on a weekly basis.

So why the OER adoption gap between the US and UK? Clearly each nation's education system is based on very different models. But as Andrea Eastman-Mullins, founder and CEO of US-based West End Learning, points out: 'The UK has been a little more forward thinking, in terms of recognising teaching and the tenure promotion process, so now the US is feeling the pain of student affordability more, which has resulted in more [OER] advocacy.'

Indeed, according to Eastman-Mullins, the early adopters of OERs in the US have been largely motivated by student affordability. 'They really see the pain of the average college student paying \$1,200



“Why the OER adoption gap between the US and UK? Each nation's education system is based on very different models”

on textbooks every year,' she says. 'In the US, deciding between buying a textbook or buying food is a real issue for some students.'

Despite advocacy, numerous OER repositories and early adopters, issues exist. For example, an ongoing survey on OERs from the Babson Survey Research Group recently put faculty awareness at less than 50 per cent.

Eastman-Mullins believes that many lecturers may be using OERs in the form of open textbooks, videos and other materials without realising, but like RLUK's Prosser she believes incentives, in the form of recognition, are needed to increase the use of OERs.

'The OER movement in the US has sustained a lot of traction by giving mini-grants or stipends to faculty that are willing to take the time to convert courses to OERs,' she says. 'But what would go even further is to recognise the time involved [in creating and using OERs] in

the tenure and promotion process. We're seeing movement in this direction but it's definitely a steeper hill to climb.'

Yet, recognition aside, Eastman-Mullins reckons one of the biggest motivating factors for academics is also inspiration. 'Introducing [lecturers] to different open materials pedagogically is very inspiring,' she said. 'For example, using Underground Comics to teach in the humanities can brighten peoples' ideas of what their course can be.'

Discovering OERs

Still, as more academics turn to OERs, more issues around discoverability are emerging. As Eastman-Mullins points out, faculty 'still has a way to go' to recognise what resources are available. And then lecturers need specific material – be it a five minute video or relevant book chapter with the necessary copyright – that fits into their existing courses.

'I've seen studies that say it takes an extra 160 hours to prepare for courses using this kind of digital content, which means people give up and revert back to the text book,' she says.

UCL's Ayris concurs but points out that the e-textbook material created at the university and deposited into UCL Discovery is primarily aimed at supporting its own students, and as such, is driven by the UCL curriculum. 'Dissemination is very straightforward through our strong team of subject liaison librarians,' he said. →



Product Spotlight



Access APA PsycTherapy® Through EBSCO

Whether remote or in-person, instructors, practitioners and therapists-in-training can leverage unscripted streaming demonstration videos for teaching and learning psychotherapy techniques. Published by the American Psychological Association (APA) and available on EBSCOhost® and EBSCO Discovery Service™, *APA PsycTherapy*® showcases authentic therapy sessions—a proven training method and invaluable tool for learning and remaining abreast of the latest therapeutic approaches.

- More than 500 videos showing various treatment approaches
- Proven methods to overcome common obstacles faced during therapy sessions
- Helpful tools that allow users to create playlists and share video clips
- Expertly tagged metadata for easy navigation to specific therapeutic techniques
- Synchronized transcripts which allow users to search for precise moments in therapy
- Access to *The APA PsycTherapy Teaching Guide*, which provides step-by-step exercises and suggested videos for the classroom and other training settings

Sessions on *APA PsycTherapy* demonstrate more than 100 different therapeutic approaches, such as cognitive behavior therapy and emotion-focused therapy.

The APA PsycTherapy Teaching Guide
The APA PsycTherapy Teaching Guide is a practical resource for instructors seeking new ways to teach concepts in:

- Psychotherapy
- Psychopathology
- Personality and psychotherapy research

Searchable Transcripts

The sessions are tagged by APA experts, and the search function is synchronized with full transcripts, ensuring that users quickly find the videos most relevant to them. Instructors can easily locate a teachable moment using *APA PsycTherapy*'s searchable transcripts.

For more information

To set up a Free Trial of *APA PsycTherapy* on EBSCOhost® or EBSCO Discovery Service™, please contact your EBSCO representative or visit Trustapa.is/22.



Introducing the Faculty Opinions Score: a radically new metric in research evaluation

Faculty Opinions is a powerful tool for the qualitative assessment of research, blending the rigor and expertise of a faculty of over 8,000 leading experts across biology and medicine with superior technology. Researchers at academic institutions around the world rely on our 230,000+ article recommendations to explore the literature and find the most important research in Life Sciences.

With over 20 years' worth of opinion and expertise shared by our Faculty, our recommendations are a remarkably strong predictor of articles that will ultimately be highly cited and have significant impact. This enables researchers to progress their careers, and institutions and funding bodies to identify rising-star researchers and future trends in research.

As an exciting next step in the Faculty Opinions evolution, we launched the Faculty Opinions Score, an innovative mark of research quality. The Faculty Opinions Score combines the qualitative assessment by the experts in our Faculty with the article's bibliometric performance, to produce a radically new metric in the research evaluation landscape. Read more about the Score here.

The introduction of the Faculty Opinions Score is the first of many new initiatives that will champion rigorous and transparent qualitative assessment of research.

For more information

Register at facultyopinions.com, or contact us at info@facultyopinions.com
Faculty Opinions, Powering the discovery of science



Do you know where your e-journals are archived? Keepers Registry helps you find out!

The Keepers Registry aggregates preservation metadata of digital journals with ISSN Portal's descriptive metadata, thus providing an accurate overview of a serial title's journey from initial publication to long-term preservation by archiving agencies.

Thirteen archiving agencies from around the world are supporting the Keepers Registry as a tool to monitor the archival status of digital content. These national libraries, non-profit organizations, and academic consortia cooperate with the ISSN International Centre to disseminate up-to-date information about archived serial titles and titles at risk.



The screenshot shows the ISSN Portal interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: "PUBLISHED TITLES", "RESEARCH SERVICES", "SEARCH", "ISSN PORTAL", "KEEPERS REGISTRY", and "ISSN INTERNATIONAL CENTRE". Below the navigation is a search bar with "All ISSN Titles" and a "Search" button. The main content area features a large orange graphic with a network diagram and the text "The Keepers" and "on the archiving agencies which act as long-term stewards of the digital content issued as continuing resources including e-journals". Below this are four vertical panels: "Keepers Registry" (with a 'K' icon), "Working Together" (with a network icon), "Contact Metadata" (with a bar chart icon), and "Learn more" (with a speech bubble icon).

For more information
<https://keepers.issn.org>
www.issn.org

→ However, materials from UCL Press have been indexed on several large-scale international platforms including JStor, as well as Google. 'This is how to make the materials from our international collaborations available and visible – from our experience with research monographs, this has been hugely successful,' he said.

For her part, Eastman-Mullins, with West End Learning, has developed the Syllect platform which screens, curates and matches resources to course topics. A first version covers entrepreneurship and

innovation, and other disciplines are going to follow. 'We make sure, for example, that [an OER] is relevant for a discipline, copyright is cleared for re-use, and links are stable,' she says. 'We've been testing this with partner institutions and faculty, and will launch this during summertime.'

Eastman-Mullins also believes the platform will help with the potential OER quality issues that concern many in academia. 'A lot of the time, quality comes by word of mouth but the challenge comes if you're tapped to teach a course that

you're not an expert in,' she said. 'So we've built recommendations into our process... and we're now thinking of building impact metrics to the platform.'

Eastman-Mullins launched West End Learning early last year, based in Winston-Salem – a North Carolina city home to six higher education institutions – well placed for hands-on development and collaborations. However, what she hadn't initially factored into her business venture was the college closures that coronavirus would bring, and she feels the pandemic has had its pros and cons.

On the downside, some local programmes from community colleges or other institutions have stalled, while staff deal with fallout from Covid-19. But on the upside, she believes many lecturers and academics are now ready for 'something different'. 'They're already over the hurdle of teaching differently and as people come back to campus, faculties everywhere know that in many ways, there's no going back to the way it was,' she said.

“Materials from UCL Press have been indexed on several large-scale international platforms, including JStor”

She highlighted how OpenStax, a non-profit Rice University initiative that publishes peer-reviewed, openly-licensed textbooks that are free online, recently received \$12.5m from philanthropic organisations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. OpenStax's goal is to ensure no student ever has to worry about textbook costs again, and intends to double the size of its library with the latest raft of grants.

'There's this new awareness coming out of the pandemic,' says Eastman-Mullins. 'I really think the OER movement will now continue to grow, even though we've had a slight lag in the past year.'

And Ayris holds similar aspirations. 'I'd like to see UCL's OER and open access e-textbook offering to be widely appreciated and used by our academic community, and all those that can benefit from resources made available in this way,' he said.

'My hope is that OERs are going to be part of the new normal.' **Ri**

A growing impact



Demand for high-quality educational materials in developing nations is constrained by sparse human resources and overwhelming financial pressures – but OERs can make the difference. Free, open and reusable learning and teaching resources can help narrow the gap between rich and poor, a fact not lost on Philippa Benson, managing editor of *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience*, an OA journal from BioMed Central.

'Open educational resources are critically important for researchers and educators in low- and middle-income countries who have to make difficult decisions about how to spend money,' she said. 'Climate change is already having a huge impact on food security, planetary health and equity, and

good-quality OERs are becoming increasingly important in helping people get basic information they need to address these issues.'

While *CABI Agriculture and Bioscience* publishes OA research on such issues, recently it has launched free webinars on how to successfully publish research. These include detail on the Chorus initiative that aims to optimise a publication's metadata in CrossRef, data repository requirements, and other practices that increase OA publications' visibility.

'Many researchers [in developing nations] don't fully understand the importance of information. It's so important we get this out there, so research is designed with open science in mind,' said Benson.

In a similar vein, *CABI A&B* has also launched its 'Meet an editor' series that provides free interviews with section editors on critical research areas, and how to get research published. 'We really need to have this global outreach,' said Benson.

Eventually, the managing director is hopeful that a new kind of open journal will emerge, where the researcher can access an article, click on a figure to reach its dataset, and then retrieve the underlying open data for his or her own work. 'This is already happening,' she says. 'A journal or top-level educational resource becomes a portal or gateway into an entire ocean of scientific information that anyone can draw on and learn about the experiences of others.'

16 - 17 NOVEMBER 2021

www.contechlive.com

ConTech.2021

The transformation of the Information Industry is accelerating

ConTech 2021 will be taking place on the 16th & 17th November as a hybrid event, both in person in London and virtually. For the very first time delegates have the option of taking part either onsite or online.

Data, technology, political, cultural and economic forces are necessitating reinvention of publishing and information organisations on a vast scale and the nature of this means that for some there are huge opportunities and yet, counter to that, some may not survive...

Core Themes:

- Putting the content consumer at the centre of the information industry
- Reinventing the value proposition, business models and revenue streams
- The technology delivering the change

ConTech 2021 will deliver an exceptional conference with thought leadership, practical tools, case studies and stories of successful transformation.

How do organisations deal with this and get things done?

ConTech 2021 will include the what, the why and the how in all sessions.

This means a format focus that allows for the high-level thinking but also makes room for real practical insights into delivery which closes the loop on execution and strategy as well as starting to show transformation insights, ROI etc.

The ConTech community will experience a blended event for the very first time. Face to face and digital delivery will be completely integrated and presents major new opportunities to learn, network and share.

Be part of ConTech this November –

The event where execution meets strategy to deliver change

Register now at <https://www.contech-event.com/ConTechWeek2021>

Fantastic early bird rates available now



Measuring the impact of OA content

Knowing how much effect agreements have is critical for developing sustainable OA business models, writes Tim Lloyd



For an increasing number of funders, an important ingredient of impact is the audience. Yet existing analytics don't do a good job of understanding how communities are engaging with OA content. With it accounting for the majority of journal articles published¹, we need a better understanding of which stakeholders rely on OA analytics, and how they want to use them.

To this end, LibLynx and PLOS partnered last year to develop the next generation of OA analytics. The first step was to engage with PLOS stakeholders – institutions, funders, and consortia – to see how they wanted to assess OA publishing's value.

The limitations of traditional approaches

Traditional quantitative metrics, such as citation analysis or the number of downloads, provide easily comparable numbers but little depth – was the usage from the communities targeted, or a bunch of bots and pirates vacuuming up free content? Altmetrics add a valuable sense of the attention that articles receive, but underplay value for communities that don't engage with media in the same way.

Counter reports seem an obvious answer, and one libraries are already very familiar with, but they are engineered for a very specific use case – helping librarians understand and compare usage of paid content to make informed decisions on acquiring content to meet learning and research goals. This traditional Counter use case rightly focuses on the aggregate numbers, as the audience is already defined as the subscribing institution.

But there is no standard for how to attribute usage more broadly, or offer alternative methods of analysing that audience. This does not mean Counter has no role. Far from it, because 'metrics are the gold nugget at the heart of Counter'². Think of Counter metrics as a defined set of lego bricks we can re-combine to create new analytics reporting.

Who needs OA analytics?

Back to our partnership with PLOS. Our research in recent months has identified a

wide range of industry stakeholders:

- Research institutions that are typically generating published research. Most obviously, we've got the traditional library role, which sits at the core of the Counter reporting use case. Librarians are already tracking usage of OA content as part of licensed collections, and those that also play a role in pure OA publishing will be equally interested in monitoring that usage. There are also institutional roles that sit outside the library and are focused on research management, such as the senior research officer³. These roles are more interested in understanding how usage of OA content ties into institutional research priorities.
- Publishers that publish OA content. These can be the same research institutions or dedicated publishing organisations like PLOS. There are

“It's clear that the value of consistent, credible, comparable underlying metrics is still important”

development roles that need to understand which organisations are getting value from OA content to identify potential future sources of funding, as well as editorial roles that want to understand the subjects and topics that are engaging the community.

- Authors of that research. Authors want to understand the impact of the research they publish. This information can influence their choice of publisher.
- Funders that pay for the research to be published. These can be institutional budgets or separate entities, such as Wellcome or the Gates Foundation. Funders also want to understand the impact of the research they funded. Did it reach the communities they were targeting, or perhaps it also got engagement from new communities that they previously weren't aware of? Various intermediaries perform a variety

of functions that support the publishing workflow, such as service providers like KU, consortia like Jisc, and distributors like JStor. Last, but not least, the broader community that is interested in reading that research – a group often overlooked, but of key importance to funders vested in delivering benefits outside of narrow research interests, such as publicly-funded institutions.

And what metrics are they interested in?

While we're still digesting the results of our research, some clear themes emerge.

Counter metrics are highly valued. While the nature of Counter reports will develop over time to incorporate OA content, it's clear that the value of consistent, credible, and comparable underlying metrics is as important as ever. Institutions want to understand the value they get from their publishing relationships, regardless of whether the content is subscription or one of the increasing flavours of OA, and across both the content they pay to publish AND the content they consume to support learning and research.

Understanding your research audience is essential. While data privacy rightly ensures individual anonymity, it's still possible to quantify usage by geography and (where IP address matching allows) by organisational name and category. This can identify new, valuable communities engaging with research that have previously been ignored.

We need to support more diverse use cases. OA stakeholders want far more granular detail, in addition to traditional aggregated reporting; visually-rich layouts that are easy to consume in addition to tabular formats, and real-time reporting plus periodic reports. **Ri**

Tim Lloyd is founder and CEO of LibLynx

References

- ¹ According to Lens.org data 51 per cent of journal articles published in 2020 are available through OA.
- ² Jeremy Morse, Director of Publishing Technology, Michigan Publishing.
- ³ Read Roger Schonfeld's fascinating December Scholarly Kitchen post to better understand this developing role.

Quest for fine details of evaluation: capturing the complete citation performance of a book

Books have served as important channels of scholarly communication for generations – however, book citation indices only came on the scene just over a decade ago.

Evaluating how books are cited can offer insights into research impact and quality, as well as into the performance of various publishing programmes. In 2019 Springer Nature ran a large, market-wide study among book authors. Two thirds of the surveyed authors use citation rates, along with other indicators such as sales, to measure the success of their own books. Among the variety of metrics available, citations were reported as the most important and most frequently enlisted metric of book performance.

Consequently, Springer Nature undertook a study of Scopus book citation data and this article provides a precis version of the resulting white paper, *The Development and Future of Book Citations*.

Ludo Waltman, professor of quantitative science studies at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS), Leiden University, said: 'The white paper can be seen as a step towards a more comprehensive and more systematic understanding of the role of books in scholarly knowledge dissemination.'

For the study Springer Nature undertook book citation analysis, alongside a survey of book authors, to better understand the trends in how books are used as vehicles for scholarly communications. Citation rates are valued by researchers, publishers, and libraries alike as key indicators of books' success, quality, and/or impact.

Findings reveal that peak citations vary across fields of study, and that fast-moving domains, such as life and physical sciences, reach their

citation half-life sooner than humanities and social science subjects. Examining citation trends by publisher shows they often follow disciplinary citation patterns which are aligned to the strengths of their portfolio.

With regards to formats, books published in thematic series often earn a greater ratio of citations over their lifetime, compared to stand-alone titles. Book citation analysis is a relatively new area of study and, aided by a variety of book citation indices, new opportunities are arising to understand how books are used in the research life cycle.

Methods and data

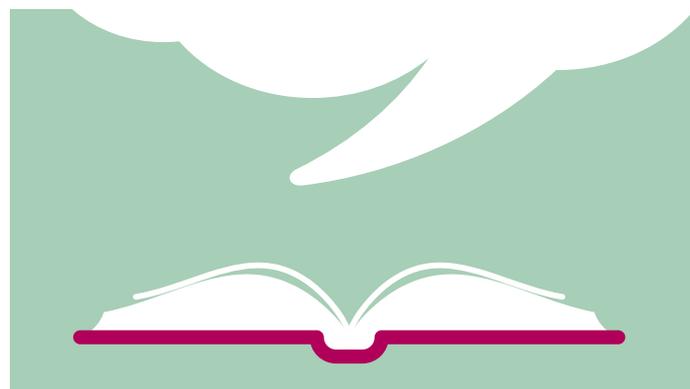
Data from Scopus was used for this citation study. It offers a slightly higher coverage of the books market than other bibliometric databases. The data was downloaded in October 2019, covering publication years from 2015 to that date, to allow enough time for books of all types and disciplines to gain citations. To capture and

"Springer Nature case study reveals a more comprehensive and more systematic understanding of the role of books in scholarly knowledge dissemination"

analyse the complete citation performance of a book as a whole, citations to the book, as well as its component chapters were combined; this follows the approach described in leading scientometric literature.

Findings

The findings of the study largely mirror trends in published literature in scientometrics and related fields – namely that, book citations take longer to reach their peak when compared to journals. In one study, a majority of books took up to eight years to see peak citations, also called a citation half-life (Zhu, et al,



2020). Applying these metrics to our dataset produced notable results in how books are cited across fields of study, publishing formats, and the publishers themselves.

When we consider the volume of citations distributed across the books in this study, all disciplines have a significant share of highly cited titles. More notably, the share of low-cited titles, from 0 to 9 citations, is significantly lower in this dataset than other studies (e.g., Zhu, et al, 2020). This speaks to the importance of the book, in

particular in advanced research subjects with specialised audiences. Our study suggests low numbers of citations in such niche areas do not indicate low impact or lack of relevance, simply a smaller amount of citations can be earned in smaller fields.

Key takeaways

- Book scientometrics is still a relatively new area of study, and as such, more research is needed and expected. There is a great deal more to be known about citations themselves, for instance the intention or function of a citation, whether

evidentiary, supportive or used to refute a piece of research.

- Scholarly books are key tools in research communications and progress, where citation rates are used by researchers, publishers and libraries alike as key indicators of books' success, quality, and/or impact in and across the disciplines.
- Books published in thematic series often earn a greater ratio of citations over their lifetime, compared to stand-alone titles.
- The overall high share of cited books highlights the importance of the book format for scientific communications across disciplines.
- Time to peak citations varies across disciplines, highlighting how fast-moving domains, such as life and physical sciences, reach their citation half-life sooner than humanities and social science fields. This emphasises the relevance of the book in disciplines beyond HSS.
- Book citation analysis is a relatively new area of study and, aided by a variety of book citation indices, new opportunities exist to understand how books are used to further the research life cycle.

Visit go.sn.pub/citations-paper to download the full paper.



The route to equitable search

We should meet users' needs, no matter who they are, where they are from, or which language they speak, writes **Ashleigh Faith**



Should libraries expect users to 'speak' library? Or should libraries 'speak' user? How effective can a library discovery service be if users are presented with this Catch-22: to access knowledge they seek, they need to know what questions to ask (and how), but can't know what questions to ask (nor how) unless they've already had some access to that knowledge.

The 'expert' researcher knows to use a discipline-specific vocabulary. But the user might type in a query in their language. Certainly, the lay-user will use their own words, especially if starting research on a topic they are unfamiliar with. It's here that a traditional discovery service might be more hindrance than help. If the search requires precise, yet unintuitive, keywords and phrases to find anything meaningful, the user might have an unnecessarily frustrating research experience.

Since the discovery service may not understand the words entered by the user, their keyword search cannot get 'through the front door' and connect to the content's preferred terminology. Since the discovery service may not know enough to attempt to search for synonyms or common phrases for the keywords, it can't offer any 'side door' options to the user either. This begs the question: how to create a discovery service that can deliver expert-level results in response to non-expert queries? Doing so would provide equitable search to all users. While approaches run the gamut, four fundamental principles must be considered:

- Smart results
- Multi-lingual resources
- Trustworthy content
- Easy search that promotes search skills

Smart results

The discovery service must be able to comprehend everyday words, synonyms and concepts across topics and subjects, so that when the user conducts a search, the service expands user queries to cover all subject synonyms. For example, if the user enters 'learning aids', the service knows that they could be asking for

'instructional materials' (from Eric, MLA International Bibliography), 'instructional resources' from (GeoRef), 'instructional media' (from APA PsycInfo), or 'teaching aids and devices', (from Education Abstracts, Education Source) and so on.

The next step is to be able to help users see how their subject is related to other topics. For instance, 'Battle of the Bulge' may also go by 'Ardennes Counteroffensive' as an alternate form.

Taking this a step further, the discovery system should also be capable of showing that 'Battle of the Bulge' can be related to the 1965 film of the same name via the subject tags assigned and retrieved in search. Enhancing connections between users' keywords and the subject tags increases search effectiveness and makes for a less daunting search experience.

“The discovery service should be able to ‘think’ in more languages than just English”

Multi-lingual resources

The discovery service should be able to 'think' in more languages than just English and have extensive international content, so anyone can comfortably search in their own language and engage in extensive, relevant cross-lingual research. Thus, if a user enters 'cat' in any language, the discovery service should understand the idea of 'cat' independent of specific languages, and then connect each individual language's words for 'cat' to their corresponding concepts, and so on.

Trustworthy content

Given that the library has a responsibility to all users – from novice to experienced – the discovery service should know how to steer clear of predatory journals. But that's just the beginning. The discovery service should also draw on journals that are indexed in subject-specific resources, university presses, and on sources that academic libraries tend to use.

Easy search that promotes search skills

As for presenting a smooth user experience that helps users hone their search skills as they search, a smart library discovery service doesn't have to reinvent the wheel when it comes to its interface.

Recognising that almost all users are already accustomed to searching on Netflix, Amazon, Spotify, and Google, the discovery service can borrow a page from those sites' use of personalised dashboards, sharing options, and recommendation capabilities, thus meeting users where they already live.

Regarding features that teach the user how to 'fish', as opposed to just 'feeding' them for a day, the ideal library discovery service can ask users about their intent. If a user enters a word like 'java', which has multiple meanings, the discovery service can ask if they meant the island, the programming language, or the colloquialism for coffee.

Once the user has selected which meaning they intended, the discovery service can display a visual representation of connections to related subjects. If the user is searching for Italy, the discovery service could visually show the connections to related subjects such as: Italy's capital 'Rome', its geographic features like the 'Alps', or that it has 'Unesco site' points of interest.

By presenting this visually, the user can browse the subject connections. This helps them find more meaningful results, since adding additional lines of inquiry and additional facets of their research topic to their search helps them frame the context, and set the depth at which they want to explore the research material.

Taken together, these four concepts, Smart Results, Multi-lingual Resources, Trustworthy Content, and Easy Search That Promotes Search Skills, are the main ingredients for Equitable Search. And with Equitable Search, a library can fulfil its mission by finally 'speaking' user, and therefore empowering any user from any background to perform expert level research. **Ri**

Ashleigh Faith is the director of EBSCO Information Services' platform data and visualisation team

VIEW
FOR
FREE*

ON-DEMAND WEBINAR: Searching to Engage: Teaching with the MLA International Bibliography

Sign up to watch



Hear from two professors who are using the MLA International Bibliography in their teaching of literature to engage students in the research process and to deepen their understanding of the scholarly conversation. Learn about a free, self-grading online mini-course and other free teaching materials created by the Modern Language Association (MLA) for librarians and faculty who want to help students improve their research skills and appreciate the value of specialised online resources.

Sponsored by



Research
information

www.researchinformation.info/webcasts

Presenters

Tamara F. O'Callaghan

Professor, Northern Kentucky University

Tamara F. O'Callaghan is a professor of English at Northern Kentucky University where she teaches medieval literature and historical linguistics as well as digital humanities approaches to literature.

Angela Ecklund

Thesaurus Editor and Tutorial and Instructional Technology Producer, MLA International Bibliography

Angela Ecklund has been the names and works authority editor for the MLA International Bibliography for seven years and produces tutorials and other educational materials for users of the Bibliography.

Farrah Lehman Den

Associate Index Editor and Instructional Technology Producer, MLA International Bibliography

Farrah Lehman Den is an associate index editor for the MLA International Bibliography and produces educational materials for users of the Bibliography.

Dan Connor

Associate Editor, MLA International Bibliography & Adjunct Professor at the University of Scranton

A multilingual professional with two decades of experience in academic, reference, and trade publishing, Dan Connor joined the MLA as an indexer in 2002 and has since played a critical role in the Bibliography's evolution.

Moderator

Tim Gillett

Editor, Research Information

*Registration required



The future of library search

Search tools and services have a bright outlook – if they can support users in their preferred workflows, writes Matthew Hayes



Most students and researchers now begin their discovery process outside the library – on open discovery tools like Google Scholar. A study of patron practices among OhioLink libraries found that six per cent of discovery journeys begin on the library's discovery service, with more than 40 per cent beginning on Google or Google Scholar.

This does not mean library search tools and services will become redundant, but it does mean striving to put the library 'in the life of the user', by taking services such as library search to 'where users actually are, rather than where libraries would like them to be' (Pinfield et al., 2017). It also means recognising the value libraries bring to patrons' discovery – and amplifying it.

Library search: much more than a search engine

Library search encompasses much more than the library search engine. I'd like to suggest three core areas: access, curation and discovery.

Despite rapid growth in OA, substantial variation by discipline and region suggests access to paywalled content will remain a concern for libraries and their patrons over the next few years – it is estimated that 72 per cent of scholarly publications are not yet OA (Day et al. 2020). Covid, and the rapid shift to remote access it necessitated, further highlighted the cumbersome, time-consuming and often confusing access workflow users have to go through – often giving up or moving to Sci-Hub (Bohannon, 2016). Access workflows remain largely IP and token based, and both methods have been increasingly problematic in times when the library's physical availability has been compromised. Additionally, it is assumed that the library portal is the starting point when, as we have seen, it invariably isn't.

Setting aside the substantial work at the library to train, guide and support students and researchers through the access workflow, there are a number of sector-wide initiatives underway to improve the access experience. The big discovery services – EBSCO, OCLC, ExLibris and

Andrew Krasovtchik/Shutterstock.com



“There are a number of sector-wide initiatives underway to improve the access experience”

others – are working directly with key parts of the discovery process, such as Google Scholar, Wikipedia, reading list software and learning management systems, to improve access workflows by embedding their link resolvers into discovery starting points outside the library. Publisher and other community stakeholder initiatives, such as GetFTR, are working on the means of authentication itself, proposing new ways such as federated authentication.

Then there are browser plug-ins such as Lean Library and Clarivate's EndNote Click, which improve access workflows by sitting in the user's workflow, working

behind the scenes by integrating with library systems.

Libraries have a crucial role to play in mediating these initiatives, ensuring questions of user experience, privacy, security and insights are addressed, and designing the specific access workflows that best serve the needs of their users.

Libraries should not lose sight of curation of external content

Libraries have put increased resources into the development of institutional repositories and other parts of what Dempsey calls 'the inside-out collection' (2016) – the output of the university's own researchers. Commercial discovery services have made moves in this space, launching new software tools to manage the inside-out collection, whether special collections showcases or preprint servers. Efforts are also being made to embed this institutional content into the workflow. Examples include thesis and

“Can a new stage emerge? One where the library goes to the user”

special collection records piped directly into Google search results. As less time is spent managing pay-to-read subscriptions and more time managing pay-to-publish deals, it seems natural that libraries would shift focus from the former to the latter.

However, the same market forces that have enabled OA to grow (article processing charges) have also enabled a dramatic rise in predatory publishing. Estimates track a rise from just under 2,000 predatory journals in 2010 to more than 13,000 in 2020 (Linacre, 2020).

Set alongside the broader diffusion of disinformation in the post-truth era, information literacy among students and researchers is more important than ever. As patrons continue to favour open discovery tools, it will be important that libraries find ways of taking their curation and information literacy expertise to preferred workflows. Not hosted in a detailed library guide on their website, but embedded at critical intervention points.

Such developments would be key to address the reproducibility issue – ensuring, for example, that retracted papers do not continue to be unknowingly cited and built upon (Schneider, 2020).

Libraries must continue to support quality discovery

I began using Google Scholar for my literature review, supported by manually tracking references in key texts in my field. But, as with other early-stage researchers, I soon moved on to library search, and other index-based discovery tools like Web of Science and Scopus, for precision-searching and curated browsing. The article-level metadata such tools use, combined with the qualified nature of the index behind them, are essential for in-depth research. There is also greater exposure to your library’s print collection in the library’s own discovery service. But need there be such a stark dividing line between open search tools such as Google Scholar and library discovery services like those from EBSCO, ExLibris and OCLC? Lean Library is exploring this by integrating major library discovery services with Google Scholar via our browser plug-in, so patrons can see search results side-by-side for ease and quality.

Embedding library search in preferred user workflows

It is possible to chart two stages in the development of the library experience for patrons. The first was the library as a physical building and curated collection. In the second the library digitised a platform of resources and services. Both were predicated on the library as a destination, as somewhere a user must go to.

Can a new stage emerge from the accelerating forces of the Covid experience? One where the library, and its services, such as library search, goes to the user – in their workflow – allowing students and researchers to access library services and resources at the point of need?

Achieving this practically will require new innovations, but it begins with the effort to, in the words of Lisa Hinchliffe, Professor for Information Literacy Services at the University of Illinois, ‘operate in the online environments where users work’ (Linacre, 2020). Achieving this could both accelerate learning and discovery, and the library’s impact. **Ri**

Matthew Hayes is managing director of Lean Library and a doctoral researcher at University College London



Book your place!

ALPSP Annual Conference and Awards 2021 • 15-17 September



Great day with thought-provoking sessions. Good to have voices and perspectives from around the world.



Fantastic! Very impressive speakers and some excellent initiatives put forward.

Thanks to our sponsors

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Tilting the balance back towards libraries

Jason Priem, of Our Research, tells of his hopes for a 'long-overdue' change in academic publishing

Tell us a little about your background and qualifications...

I was a middle-school teacher for five years, teaching language arts, social studies and media. As a teacher, I started to realise how big an influence the Web was going to have on learning and knowledge, so I taught myself to code and dove in!

I worked on an information science PhD for four years at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. My work there got me interested in how social media activity might open a new window on scholarly impact, leading me to coin the word 'altmetrics' and co-author an 'Altmetrics Manifesto'.

As an academic, I learned about the open access and open science movements, and got really excited... I felt like I had to build something to help!

What is the history of Our Research?

Heather [Piwowar, co-founder of Our Research] and I met one another when I peer-reviewed one of her papers; later we met in person as part of an open science hackathon. The hackathon ended in the evening, but we went out in the hall of the hotel and kept working all through the night. I remember being surprised when the hall started getting crowded by waiters serving breakfast the next morning!

That hackathon project went on to become Impactstory Profiles, our first big website. From there, we built Unpaywall, a free and open index of all the world's OA articles. Many libraries asked us to build a subscription analysis tool using Unpaywall data, so we did. That became Unsub, which launched (as Unpaywall Journals) in November 2019. Now, hopefully, we still have a lot more history left to write!

Our non-profit mission has remained the same throughout: we build tools to help further the progress of open science, because we believe research progress is more efficient and effective when it's open.

In the UK, Jisc has just signed up to your Unsub service. Can you explain it?

Certainly. Unsub is an analytic dashboard that helps academic librarians cancel their subscriptions to 'big deals'. These 'big deals' bundle up thousands of toll-access journals from a single publisher into a single, massive subscription. They have become the central pillar of the entire toll-access publishing apparatus, because they are highly profitable – a single deal for a US R1 university is generally several million dollars – and libraries have increasingly felt 'locked in' to these deals due to a perceived lack of alternatives.

The growing prevalence of open access (OA), however, offers a solution to the captivity of libraries at the hands of these big deals. Because much of the content of the big deal is now available as OA, there is now a smoother 'off-ramp' to cancellation than ever before. That is, after cancellation, faculty can still access a large percentage of the relevant literature. Librarians are increasingly aware of this.

However, there has been no way to quantify the exact percentage of post-cancellation access that OA is able to provide. Although a growing number of libraries have cancelled, the lack of hard numbers has made most librarians unwilling to upset the status quo.

This presents a compelling opportunity for us as OA advocates: by helping libraries quantify the alternatives to toll-access publishing, we can empower

librarians to cancel multi-million dollar big deals. This, in turn, will begin to turn off the faucet of money flowing from universities to toll-access publishing houses. In short: by helping libraries cancel big deals, we can make toll-access publishing less profitable, and accelerate the transition toward universal OA.

Unsub is designed to do this. It creates a set of forecasts, customised to a given library, that the library can use to understand the impacts of cancellation. This requires the creation of a usage model for a given scenario. The usage model incorporates library-specific data for citation, faculty authorship, campus downloads and pricing information. It also includes global data on interlibrary loan rates, OA, disciplinary readership patterns and many other factors. Libraries can copy, tune and customise this model in many ways, creating a reliable and objective plan for their future, without toll-access big deals. This post-big-deal future is generally quite a bit rosier than they expected... this, in turn, gives them the confidence to cancel.

What led you to develop the product?

Well, it would be nice to say we came up with the idea because we were very clever... but I'm afraid that's not it. In reality, libraries just kept asking us to build it, and finally we did!

As I mentioned, many libraries are under intense and growing budget pressure (which the pandemic has not improved). And for the last 20 years, the balance of power in the relationship between libraries and publisher has tilted ever more toward the publishers. So there is a lot of demand out there for a tool like Unsub that can help tilt the balance back toward libraries.



‘We believe research progress is more efficient and effective when it’s open’

The tool offers three main advantages for libraries over current workflows:

- Unsub is more comprehensive. Our model accounts for the effect of OA (green, hybrid, bronze and delayed), Counter downloads, previously-purchased backfile, interlibrary loan, document delivery, faculty citation and authorship patterns, journal readership decay curves, and then shows how that all affects fulfilment rates and costs. It’s just a more complete picture.
- Unsub forecasts the future. Instead of just looking at the current state of a library’s collection, Unsub uses a forecasting model (trained on millions of data points) to simulate the future. Users can experiment to see how their plans will affect costs and fulfilment rates

for the next five years – it’s kind of like playing SimCity with a serials collection.

- Unsub saves time. For most users, it takes just hours to set up an Unsub profile; they just upload your Counter report, perpetual access status, and price lists. After that, it’s all gravy: Unsub replaces annoying and time-consuming spreadsheet-juggling with a simple UI. By lightening the analytics workload, Unsub gives institutions the ability to take a much deeper look into their options. We’ve had many users tell us that it feels great to walk into negotiations more prepared and data-informed than they’ve ever been.

It’s now been about 18 months since we launched, and we’re used by roughly 400 libraries worldwide, including a lot of the most prominent institutions.

That’s a credit to our terrific user community, which has done a lot to spread the word for us.

What are your hopes for the future of scholarly communications?

That’s a great question, but a tough question to answer briefly! In fact,

I’ve written at some length about this elsewhere, and I still hold to most of that.

Our goal at Our Research is to accelerate the transition toward universal Open Science. That means we want a world where the default is set to open for all research products, including papers, preprints, datasets, source code, protocols and more.

This world isn’t one of openness for its own sake, but one where all these delightful open products of research can be processed, remixed, distributed, summarised, annotated, text-mined and used by an open ecosystem of automated tools.

Scholars invented the Web for scholarship. But 25 years later, we still don’t really use it! Or when we do, we use it in simple, unimaginative ways. That’s largely because we just don’t have access to scholarship on the open web – it’s siloed and Balkanised and paywalled by a clumsy swarm of for-profit publishers (as well as, increasingly, for-profit social networks like ResearchGate).

The world of ideas is a singular one – every idea can be viewed in the context of any other idea. The scholarly communication system is the humble substrate of this process, the infrastructure, the subway where all these ideas and data can ride around and get to know one another. Let’s make that subway as well-connected and cheap and easy-to-use as we possibly can. Today’s world is asking a lot from the research community. We owe it to them to build on the best system we can.

Do you have any hobbies or interests you want to tell us about?

I really enjoy what we are doing at Our Research... I’m very fortunate that it still feels like a fun hobby, as well as a job. So I spend a lot of time on that. I also like to hit the gym, play volleyball and jiu jitsu (when there’s not a global pandemic on, anyway), relax at the beach, play Dungeons & Dragons, hang out with friends, and of course waste time in front of Netflix :) **Ri**

Interview by **Tim Gillett**

Riding the wave of innovation

Sam Herbert, co-founder of 67 Bricks, casts his eye over the industry – and tells of his early love of surfing

Tell us a little about your background and qualifications...

I was born in Iran, where my father was a hydrogeologist, but we moved back to the UK when I was two.

I love sport and was a good all-rounder as a kid; competing at county and regional levels at squash, football, tennis, badminton. In my late teens, I got into surfing and chased waves all around the world – El Salvador, Indonesia, New Zealand.

But I've always loved tech and gaming; I'm intrigued by what you can and can't do with software. In my mid-teens, I joined an international peer counselling organisation. It taught me a great deal: how important empathy is; that listening to people and hearing the back story is



so important; and that when people are behaving oddly, there is always a good reason.

After graduating, in physics and digital electronics at Swansea, I worked client-side, running digital applications at Cancer Research UK, and supplier-side at Digitas, PWC and Marketing Net. It was at the latter where I met Inigo Surguy (67 Bricks co-founder), who has the best technical mind I have ever worked with. We realised we had great complementary skills and we started 67 Bricks.

Your company has been going great guns in the last few years. Tell us about that...

The shift from traditional publisher to digital product company has been a long time coming in scholarly publishing.

Our early clients talked to us about how the value hidden in their content was going to waste, back in 2007. They could see that a massive shift was coming, in terms of the world going digital, and that simply providing access to long-form content was not a sustainable business model.

But nothing happens fast in the sector, and it's only now, accelerated by Covid-19, that publishers are really starting to transform away from the traditional books and journals business models and diversify.

How do you do that? You go back to that valuable raw content and data, combine it with your user needs and build new products with it. Luckily, traditional platform vendors have not wanted to work with and understand the complexities of each publisher's unique content, data and users. This has left a gap for companies like 67 Bricks, who aren't afraid to get into the nitty gritty of specific data challenges.



As the realisation that digital transformation wasn't going away has hit, that space has grown and the value we deliver to the client has soared. Building new modern digital platforms and capabilities for Emerald and De Gruyter were turning points for the business. Everyone knows each other, and word of good work gets about.

What is the biggest issue facing the scholarly communications industry at the moment?

It's two things; organisations deciding where they truly add value in the scholarly eco-system as we move into a digital age, and accepting that they need to quicken their pace when it comes to change.

Lots of the valuable services publishers used to provide are now something that anyone with good technology capabilities can do.

Google Scholar and SciHub have levelled the playing field further. With this value in transition, publishers need to go back to the drawing board.

But it doesn't all need to be shiny and brand new, sometimes it is about extending the products you already have



'I got into surfing and chased waves all around the world – El Salvador, Indonesia, New Zealand'

or making basic things work better. For example, most publisher's online search functions still offer bad user experiences. This is often because they haven't really understood their specific researcher's expectations and needs, and where the actual value lies in the content. They need to use these insights to develop a tailored search experience. If you can get that right, imagine the digital products publishers could provide with the complex, scientific facts and information!

As for a change in pace... we live in a digital world now and tech advances fast. Scholarly has to catch up and stay agile. Users and competitors will continue to disrupt the market and dictate the change if they don't.

How do you see the industry landscape shifting over the next 10 years?

Publishers have some soul-searching to do. I expect to see organisations having to undo a lot of the work and mindset that got them to where they are today. They need to unpick the past and this traditional mindset, and then use the best of what makes them valuable to unlock their digital future. Things like peer review, for example, is something really valuable that only the publisher can bring.

How do you optimise that? We will also see some rebranding and restructuring as more publishers become content technology and product companies. As part of that, the sector is likely to welcome people too, possibly with a non-publishing, more digital background, to shake things up and bring a blast of fresh air.

Are the days of the traditional academic publisher numbered?

If they don't move and figure out what's valuable to their user now, then yes. Revenues for some traditional services are flat-lining or reducing – and that cannot continue indefinitely without some firms going under. OA is having a major impact

too, and undermines many publishers core business models, subscriptions etc. The big players such as Wiley and Elsevier won't disappear for a while yet; but we can expect plenty of mergers, acquisitions and new ventures while they try things out.

There are still opportunities for those medium players who are willing to commit to change; a company like British Medical Journal, with all of that rich healthcare content and user knowledge, can offer valuable products to users and keep (and grow) their market. But publishers who don't pivot quickly are at risk.

Any final interesting facts you want to tell us about?

I heard an interesting fact about the automotive sector recently, which is known for its commitment to innovation. Global sales of electric cars at present are just 2.6 per cent. But Mercedes-Benz has committed 100 per cent of its R&D expenditure to electric. Why? It can see where the future is going, and it doesn't want to be left behind. **Ri**

Interview by
Tim Gillett



How should we address cyber security?

You could do worse than to follow the advice of an iconic 90s rapper, writes Susie Winter



The Scholarly Networks Security Initiative (SNSI) brought together an expert panel at this year's STM Spring Conference to discuss the threat that cyber crime is posing to universities and research institutions, individuals and the wider scholarly ecosystem; the conclusion of the discussion being neatly summed up by panellist Dan Ayala's final words: to 'stop, collaborate and listen'.

Often seen or portrayed as a publisher problem (perhaps because of Sci-Hub, the largest pirate website which uses, among other methods, stolen or shared library log-on credentials to illegally harvest research articles and books), the panel, which consisted of a librarian, a publisher, a higher education chief information security officer and a network security provider, exposed how the threat of pirate websites goes far beyond facilitating illegal access to licenced e-content.

Don Hamparian, from OCLC, explained that when a library customer's log-in details are stolen and shared, a lot more than licensed e-content can be accessed. Personal email accounts, personal financial information, university research, department budgets and confidential information about personnel all become accessible using these stolen credentials. Tips to mitigate this security risk and protect patrons included having (and enforcing) password policies, making security information and education readily available, having secure remote access options set up for staff, and robust IT and vendor policies.

The panel was equally clear that such wide-ranging threats make cyber security a matter of concern to many audiences across higher education, so it is only via collective action, with librarians, information security officers and publishers working together, that these threats can be effectively combatted.

However, to do this, a number of challenges were identified. Daniel Ayala, a strategic information security and privacy consultant and former chief information security officer at higher education institutions, provided a useful overview of

the challenges inherent to securing the research lifecycle.

Areas identified included the on-going relationship building between IT, security, libraries, researchers, publishers; the tug between security and privacy requirements and ideologies; significant outside 'interests' in accessing and disrupting research, and the data that comes out of it; completeness and ease of use of illicit tools versus approved tools, including those used for search and discovery. Dan was clear that as none of these challenges were in the hands of information security officers to be able to solve on their own, working in partnership had to be the way forward.

This theme of collaboration for solutions was brought to life in Syracuse University librarian Juan Denzer's presentation. While at Binghamton University Libraries, Juan worked on developing an EZproxy

“Such wide-ranging threats make cyber security a concern to many audiences across higher education”

script to combat breaches from Sci-Hub users. This worked to provide librarians with a better, more supported workflow, helping them to identify breaches so publishers were not required to suspend content access – a benefit, Don explained, OCLC has now embedded in its latest version of EZproxy. This new version positions librarians as security leaders and provides them with a plethora of new tools and dynamic workflow, which will allow them to detect and disable compromised credentials in real time.

Working together to find solutions for what is clearly a collective problem goes to the heart of what SNSI is seeking to do.

Elsevier's Sari Frances co-chairs SNSI's university relations group, which brings together publishers, librarians and solution providers to raise awareness of threats

caused by sites such as Sci-Hub and promote new ways of partnership working. Like Dan, Sari pointed to the recent City of London Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (Pipcu) statement warning universities of the threat from Sci-Hub.

According to Pipcu, Sci-Hub obtains academic papers through a variety of malicious means, such as phishing emails to trick university staff and students to divulge login credentials. Given this threat, they went advised IT departments to block the website on their network to mitigate the security risk. A number of them, The University of Manchester and University College London included, have acted on this and issued such warnings.

With publishers and librarians having successfully worked together before, for example on Crossref and most recently GetFTR, SNSI believes that such collaboration could reap benefits here too. But to do that, all need to work together to bridge what can be seen as a clash of priorities. According to the panellists, information security officers worry about being left out of conversations. Librarians are hesitant to speak up in conversations about phishing emails, for example, as it is out of their core area of responsibility.

How can this be addressed? Juan's final advice was to encourage librarians to get involved in organisations such as SNSI with Sari echoing this call to publishers. Dan urged institutions to go from 'no' to 'know' and help facilitate, rather than block – in addition, of course, to 'stop, collaborate and listen'.

• SNSI brings together publishers and institutions to solve cyber-challenges threatening the integrity of the scientific record and scholarly systems. By working sustainably and effectively together, we believe we can achieve our shared mission – the safety and security of personal data. Members include large and small publishers, learned societies, university presses and others in scholarly communications. Visit www.snsi.info for more information. **Ri**

Susie Winter is director of communications and engagement at Springer Nature and co-chairs the SNSI communications working group



'OA should be the default'

Transition to open access must be made as smooth as possible, writes Chris Banks



In March 157 UK universities started negotiations with Elsevier, the world's largest academic publisher. In these negotiations, universities, on behalf of their researchers and students, have two core objectives: to reduce costs to levels they can sustain, and to provide full and immediate open access to UK research.

One of the main channels through which the increase in open access (OA) to UK research is being achieved is through transitional OA agreements. Major publishers – such as Springer Nature, Wiley and Taylor and Francis Group – already offer such agreements, increasing the amount of research published OA year-on-year, with support from the sector. These agreements now cover more than 50 per cent of UK research output.

Sector mandate

Jisc is supporting the negotiations and has spent the past nine months consulting with each of the 157 institutions involved. My fellow library directors and I have made it clear that the sector wants an agreement with Elsevier that supports full and immediate OA to research, and that reduces expenditure with Elsevier to levels universities can sustain, with a competitive cost-per-article.

This isn't going to be easy to achieve. We are a very diverse consortium, and large-scale, multi-institution transformative agreements are notoriously complex. However, we want to make things easier for our academics, and make the transition to OA as smooth as possible.

Impenetrable walls

The internet ought to have made it easier for researchers to make their work available and discoverable but, somehow, huge complexity has been introduced into these publishing deals. It's time to unravel these interdependencies to the benefit of more open research.

Elsevier's current contract has a baseline that is set in historic print spend, and is entirely irrelevant in this day and age. We're paying a lot of money to have



"The internet ought to have made it easier for researchers to make their work available and discoverable"

impenetrable walls put round our content. It is bizarre that our investment goes into shielding content, rather than paying for that knowledge to be open and free.

Covid research effort

This last year, the global effort to resolve the pandemic as quickly as possible, and to further our understanding of the disease, has relied on openly available research. We need shared, accessible information to make fast progress. But why is this open approach reserved just for Covid? Why not for other diseases, or global warming, or any other international issue? If we can make research openly available to the benefit of academic progress, why not do so for all challenges facing humanity?

The question is, what should we be monetising? With academic publishing,

the difficulty is that, for most, the default position is effectively a monopolistic acquisition of copyright, to the detriment of others and open knowledge. In our negotiations with major publishers, we're seeking to move towards paying to make knowledge as widely and openly available as possible, rather than hide it behind paywalls. That's a far better investment than paying to put gates around it.

Solving real-world problems

One in five (22 per cent) UK research articles is published by Elsevier and, in 2021 alone, total spend with Elsevier is likely to reach £50m. Yet we estimate less than 25 per cent of the articles will be published OA. These costs put increased pressure on institutional subscription and OA funds.

We want to renegotiate the contract with Elsevier, so that more research funding can be invested in research and less funding is needed to support full and immediate open access of research. The more that funding goes to continued and repeated access to paywalled scholarly content, the less is available to tackle the global problems humanity is facing. **Ri**

Chris Banks is assistant provost and director of library services at Imperial College London. She is also a member of the UUK/Jisc content negotiation strategy group



How efficient tools showcase a library's impact

Many libraries have had to strengthen their digital presence to survive, especially over the last 12 months, writes **Cintia Dabes**



The digital revolution has changed the relationship between libraries/librarians and end-users.

Part of making libraries accessible and effective is to install tools that allow them to demonstrate and monitor the library's impact on its users. Whether reporting is a monthly, quarterly or annual requirement, having clear and consistent metrics offer clear insight into usage patterns and behaviours.

OpenAthens' Reporting API is just one example. This new feature allows librarians to easily extract their patron-usage data into existing data visualisation software, such as Tableau or Power BI, enhancing their capabilities to make data-based decisions for the benefit of their organisations.

The reporting tools help information managers and librarians easily demonstrate the value of the library to internal stakeholders in a visual format. By generating customisable reports on usage and access, these features help highlight relevant data to the institution and showcase the impact of the library in a clear, concise way.

Key benefits of using a reporting tool for tangible metrics

A library that invests in a reporting tool will instantly be able to present reports with enhanced visual graphics that communicate value with internal stakeholders in a more effective, accessible format. This type of highly customised reporting allows librarians and information managers to focus on specific data that is relevant to their institution.

There is also the option to integrate reporting tools with other data analytics software, such as Tableau, for a seamless experience with other systems used in the organisation.

Some of the key benefits for measurement include:

- Customisable reporting;
- Reports in an easy to digest/visual format for all stakeholders;
- Reports can be scheduled for certain times/dates;

- Data attributes;
- Account reports; and
- Resource access reports.

Challenges libraries and librarians are facing

With all implementation efforts there are bound to be some hiccups along the way. Firstly, it is best to acknowledge them so you are better prepared to face whatever might happen.

The OpenAthens team talked to some library customers and asked about the challenges they are facing while using or implementing reporting tools for clearer metrics and results. Overall, feedback showed that organisations using the features find it useful.

However, some librarians had found it difficult in getting detailed patron usage stats on specific data to negotiate better deals with publishers, as well as gathering specific data to understand which subscriptions deliver most value for money, so that informed decisions on budget allocation could be made.

OpenAthens is currently working through these challenges with customers.

Leeds Beckett University

One organisation that brought on-board OpenAthens' reporting tool to enhance reporting and metric usage was Leeds Beckett University. Samantha Heeson, electronic and data services librarian, explained the process that the organisation had to go through.

Leeds Beckett University has two library sites; one in Leeds city centre the other at its Headingley campus. The library has almost 100 staff across the locations, facilitating library services for more than 19,000 students. The analytics development process was iterative, consisting of several soft launches rather than a main one. The library was initially a little overwhelmed with the possibilities that the data insight brought, and what they could do with it.

Heeson, therefore, set to work on a proof of concept tying together OpenAthens and university data using Excel data models and pivots. Her team were excited to see the results.

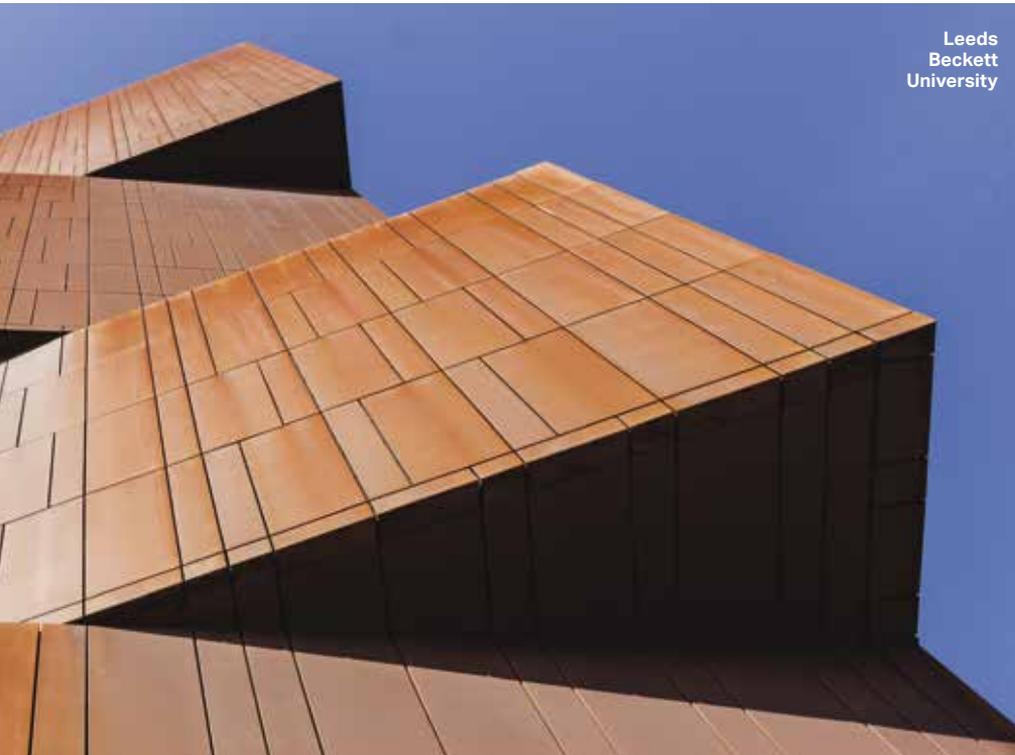


“These features help highlight relevant data to the institution”

Library inductions were used as an opportunity to track the impact on resource usage for a particular course. As the data received from OpenAthens was at that stage monthly, the impact of the induction was hard to see, as it needed a longer time span. Still, the exercise was helpful to pull data in an applied scenario.

Heeson then shifted her focus to annual reporting. She was able to produce tables and charts showing which resources were used, how often, at which part of the year and how many students were interacting with them. The data showed immediate trends, matching the academic year and pattern the university would expect. It also revealed anomalies that could be taken away and investigated. The exercise also suggested where more promotion

“Library inductions were used as an opportunity to track the impact on resource usage for a particular course”



Leeds
Beckett
University

PhilMacDPhoto/Shutterstock.com

of certain resources may be needed to improve student interaction.

A lot of work was undertaken on the visualisation of the data to present it in an easily digestible format, and clearly highlight trends and anomalies so that academic support and learning resources colleagues could better understand resource usage and student engagement.

Benefits and results

Heeson described the positive outcomes and important success points for her organisation's use of OpenAthens data: 'As a library, we are very much involved in the discussions on academic support and what academics can do to enhance the user-learning experience from a resource perspective.

'With OpenAthens data, we can provide real evidence on resource usage and user engagement, not just counts or anecdotal insight. We've been able to both corroborate and challenge existing perceptions. Often, the data supports the perception, but it has also revealed

instances where they may be wrong – when a certain resource is not essential, but it is one favoured by the students and vice versa, for example.

'The data comes at a level I can work with, and any problems or queries are dealt with thoroughly and responsively. My colleagues have also been extremely positive. They have been given insights that they have wanted for a long time – enabling decisions on budgeting and effective resource provision to support students based on digestible evidence.'

Anglia Ruskin University

Another example of an organisation that has taken advantage of OpenAthens reporting tools to measure engagement is Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge.

Alex Collins, application analyst at ARU, explained that the university had been using OpenAthens for a while. The relationship with the OpenAthens team was quite strong, as they had originally implemented OpenAthens Valet, which is

when they first started using reporting of any kind. Reporting was implemented into ARU's library because they wanted metrics on basic statistics and resource usage, to see what was and was not being used.

Fast forward to today, and ARU now uses OpenAthens reporting API to monitor a variety of library outputs, including the potential to flag misuse of data to librarians. The reporting API tool from OpenAthens that ARU is now using has massively helped the university with student retention.

'Using the reporting from OpenAthens means we have no concerns – no concerns with the way it works, with the product or with the data it produces. The project to implement OpenAthens reporting API kicked-off in November 2019 and completed in January 2020. We had noticed that students were finding knowledge resources online and we needed to cater for this.

'The specific benefit of implementing a reporting tool was to save time, as the reporting API meant we did not have to manually generate reports. It did it for us with specific data the teams can review and use to enhance services if needed. Ultimately, the API has enabled ARU to automate the feed into our student dashboard and work with the students who are not engaged with their course, or manage resourcing levels through interrogating the data produced.'

He continued: 'We have been using OpenAthens products for 20 years, if they didn't work and provide precise data to review, we wouldn't use them, it is as simple as that. We get great support when we need it, and it pairs with the great service that is provided by OpenAthens and the reporting tools.' **Ri**

To find out more about OpenAthens' Reporting API and how it can benefit libraries across the globe, you can register for its free-to-attend webinar on Thursday 10 June at 4pm at the link below: https://jisc.zoom.us/webinar/register/1916196894686/WN_XoXSGr-vRqGvQSCyWpZefg

Cintia Dabes is a product marketing executive at OpenAthens

Job searches in Covid times

Manisha Bolina and Heather Staines share some insights about looking for scholarly communications positions in a pandemic



Manisha: changing things up

Towards the end of 2020 I found myself thinking about a new job. Some people would think I was crazy to look for a job during a pandemic – especially when I already had one that was amazing. However, I started to think about the companies I had always had at the back of my mind that I wanted to work for. Digital Science was one of them, a hub of cutting-edge technology for academia, and a place where innovation happens from a needs-driven environment.

Curiosity drove me to the LinkedIn page, where I saw a role for a dimensions product solutions specialist – driving AI solutions for libraries and the research office. Perfect! My background with AI discovery tools at Yewno and 10 years experience selling to libraries globally would hopefully get me an interview.

Now, I have been the interviewer and the interviewee and usually it starts with a short phone call and then one to three face-to-face interviews. I always liked the phone interview as, being a sales person, the phone has always been a 'comfort zone'. But with the pandemic in play, all parts of the interview process have become virtual. After sending my

Uu777/Shutterstock.com



application in I had three virtual interviews at Digital Science before the job was offered to me.

I recall that a few years ago I was invited to interview for a very prestigious publisher, I remember having to think about one of the most important issues – what am I going to wear? I needed to book an eyebrow and nail appointment asap! In a virtual interview, these were two things I didn't really need to think about (not that I

was going to turn up in Zoom with my PJs on, but you catch my drift). I also realised that, though small considerations, they actually resulted in increased levels of pent up anxiety – not needed when you are going for an interview with your dream employer. All this meant was I was able to spend way more time practising my demo of dimensions and learning about Digital Science. Result!

I do not live in a publishing hub like

Tip-top tips from the top

In your home there is so much you have control over, so use it to your advantage. Here are a few tips:

- **No travelling to and from locations means you have more control over what time and date your interview is. You can better organise your diary and potentially not interview after a fully-loaded day at work – or not take a day off!**

- **Have your comfort items with you – your favourite**

mug, water bottle, or a cute pic of your pet or loved one on your desk. Or how about some aromatherapy oils diffusing to keep you zen?

- **For you instagrammers, if you have a ring light, this might be good if the light in your room is a bit dim. If you don't normally use the camera function on your PC, be sure to check how the room looks and give it a tidy if you need to. If all else fails, see if you can use a suitable background filter.**

- **Close extra windows on your computer and switch off unneeded programs – this will make sure your machine has the power it needs to function at its best. Turn Slack and emails off.**

- **Always have phone numbers handy in case your internet fails – but a big plus from the pandemic workarounds, is that people are now more understanding around technology failures.**

Oxford, London or Cambridge. This meant if I had to go for interviews it would mean a long car ride or train journey. Car journeys can be infuriating; either if you get stuck in traffic, or if you arrive too early and have to sit in your car for ages, or go to a pub (eek, no wine!) for revision. This results in more anxiety and potentially forgetting things I definitely know!

The best thing about the virtual experience of interviews was that I was in my comfort zone; I was in my house with my favourite cup, my own computer, my own space and no technical glitches due to hardware/software not being compatible. My feet were not aching from wearing heels running from platform to platform. Nor was I drenched from the 'short walk' from the station to the offices if it was raining. I didn't have the dreaded wait in the reception area, or fear of being too late or too early. No need for last-

“I had three virtual interviews before the job was offered to me”

minute bathroom visits where I may forget my way back to the reception waiting area. Nothing that could lead to more anxiety for my interview with my dream employer.

Digital Science uses Zoom – brilliant! I don't have to download any new weird software, and I was using my own computer. I also didn't have to worry about having a USB stick with me, back-ups on a cloud or on my phone, just in case I had a technology meltdown.

The truth is, I felt at ease. I didn't have people physically looking at me, it actually felt more like my day job – which at the moment is Zoom meetings with web

demos. Sure, I was still nervous as I met the C-level management at Digital Science but I didn't have all the other worries on my mind, I could just focus on the interview.

So would I go back to in-person interviews? Never say never. There is something about noticing body language, and the 'chit-chat' pre- and post-interview, which I think is rather nice. A day out to London is always a treat, especially when you can roll in a lunch or drink with a friend. I know for some, interviews at home can be hard with so many distractions – kids and pets making an appearance, or Amazon coming to deliver at an awkward time. But I would encourage people to embrace the Zoom interview and enjoy how much control you have, because it can work in your favour. I'd like to think I would still have the job even if I had the in-person interview, but I definitely performed better without it. That's my two-pence worth.



Heather: when you find yourself out of a job

Changing jobs in the middle of an already scary time certainly adds additional complexity. The good news is that companies are continuing to hire, and I'm noticing an additional willingness to consider employees who live too far away to be always on site. Like Manisha, I don't live in a publishing hub, and I've done the commute into New York city (spoiler: It wasn't fun).

Some job changes can be planned, but others can't. Reorgs, pivots and economic crises can be unwelcome surprises. The lesson I take from this is that you always need to be working on your network, so it will be there when you need to rely on it. It's possible to play catch-up, but networks are valuable for so many things, not just a job search.

Make a list of the folks you want to talk to first, then contact people in groups. Let them know that you'd like to have a chat about trends they are seeing in the

industry. (Don't email 100 people all at once, as you won't be able to schedule those calls in a timely manner.) Setting up catch-up calls can provide structure to your day. Take notes on folks your contacts suggest you reach out to, and follow them up.

One benefit from the impact of Covid was conferences moving online. I took advantage of this shift to attend my usual meetings (many of which had free registration or reduced prices for those unemployed due to the pandemic) and try some new ones. While it's harder to network given the restrictions of many platforms, it is still possible. I continued to submit proposals for panels and accept speaking engagements to remain visible. I also kept up writing articles and blog posts for the same reason.

One thing that really helped me was a Job Council group started by my friend Tommy Doyle, who was also looking for a new gig. The weekly meetings included about a half dozen folks from scholarly communications and adjacent industries. We shared leads, asked for intros and talked through options. It was so useful to bounce ideas of folks and even practice presentations. I always knew there was a core group I could turn to for feedback. I highly recommend this process!

I was fortunate to pick up some consulting during my search – nearly all of which resulted via leads from my network. It's a great way to showcase your strengths and build skills in new areas; in my case around data. Not finding something permanent right away gave me

time to think about what I wanted to do and, most importantly, what I didn't want to do. Did I want to stay in the non-profit space or return to commercial ventures? Did I want to remain in scholcomm or take a detour to another industry? I wouldn't have predicted how much I would like the variety of the projects I was able to work on. From research interviews to writing to business development, I enjoyed meeting people and reconnecting with old friends.

I ultimately decided to stay in the consulting space, but to join an established consultancy, Delta Think. It's great to be part of a team again, and working with the Open Access Data

“You always need to be working on your network, so it will be there when you need it”

Analytics Tool ticked the 'open' box and let me start to flex my data skills! Just a few weeks in, I'm already learning a lot. Some projects go on indefinitely, and other jobs are always on the horizon. Every day can bring something new.

I wouldn't have chosen to do a pandemic job search, but I'm thrilled with how it turned out. Our industry has always been fluid, and the impact of Covid-19 has changed us in unexpected ways. I hope that virtual interviews and more openness to remote work are here to stay. **Ri**

Springer Nature and UC Berkeley sign OA books deal

The University of California, Berkeley Library has signed an open access book agreement with Springer Nature.

The agreement will cover a broad range of book titles across all disciplines — from humanities and social sciences to sciences, technology and mathematics and, starting in 2021 and running for at least three years, will provide open access funding to University of California (UC) Berkeley affiliated authors.

The OA book titles will publish under Springer, Palgrave and Apress imprints, with initial publications later this year.

This agreement follows the UC system-wide agreement with Springer Nature last year to enable UC authors to publish research articles OA in more than 2,700 Springer Nature journals.

While the transformative deal covers the publication of journal articles, books are the common or expected publishing format in some disciplines. The need to account for a variety of scholarly outputs prompted UC Berkeley Library to sign a new agreement providing direct assistance to book-publishing authors.

The books will be published under a CC BY licence and readers around the world will have free access to the books via Springer Nature's content platform SpringerLink.

With research showing that OA books are downloaded 10 times more often and cited 2.4 times more, the agreement will significantly enhance the visibility, dissemination and impact of important academic research, the publisher says.

Niels Peter Thomas, managing director for books at Springer Nature, said: 'We



videohouse/Shutterstock.com

are delighted to be partnering with UC Berkeley Library in what is our first ever institutional partnership for open access books and our first US agreement for open access books. This represents a big step towards ensuring access to funding for book authors.

'By utilising our experience as the largest academic book publisher and expertise in enabling the transition to open access, we look forward to increasing the impact and reach of book authors at UC Berkeley and their research.'

Jo Anne Newyear-Ramirez, UC Berkeley Library associate university librarian for scholarly resources, said: 'UC Berkeley Library has been working with publishers to create sustainable and inclusive paths to open access, for both scholarly articles and books.

'For the past several years, through our Berkeley Research Impact Initiative, we have covered a significant portion of book processing charges for any open access book our authors publish, but this agreement with Springer Nature takes an even bigger leap forward.

'Under this agreement, we will cover 100 per cent of standard publishing costs for open access books that UC Berkeley authors publish with Springer Nature for at least the next three years. This will help yield important progress on our journey to advance knowledge, by making more UC Berkeley-authored books open to the world.

'We're equally thrilled to be pioneers among US academic institutions in entering into this type of agreement with Springer Nature.'

New IOPP policy allows author name changes

IOP Publishing (IOPP) has implemented a policy to allow authors to change their name on previously published research.

The move is part of IOPP's stated commitment to ensuring an open, supportive and inclusive research environment. It says people change their name for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to gender identity, marriage, divorce, or a change in religion – and that, in many

cases, particularly for trans and non-binary authors, changing names needs to be approached with discretion and sensitivity.

The policy was developed in consultation with the research community, applies to all content published including journal articles, conference proceedings and ebooks. It covers changes to names, pronouns, author photographs and contact details.

Respecting the authors right

to privacy is a key tenet, IOPP says, with assurance of full confidentiality and the option to change a name with or without a public notice. There is no requirement to disclose the reason for the request, nor the need to provide name change proof.

Kim Eggleton, IOPP integrity and inclusion manager, said: 'We wanted to ensure authors could change their name on already published research without a cumbersome

process. Engaging with the research community in the development of the policy helped us understand the experiences and frustrations that researchers had previously faced and we have built their feedback into our approach.

'A big thank you to all those who took the time to help us shape our approach. Creating a more inclusive and equitable publishing environment is important to us.'

Viewpoints available online

Have an opinion?
Now you can share it with the
Research Information community

How have Libraries and Archives changed in the Digital Age?

Springer Nature

The Digital Age has significantly increased the amount of information that is produced on a daily basis.

The Modern Language Association Releases 'Literary Topics'

EBSCO, MLA

The Modern Language Association (MLA) is pleased to announce the release of "Literary Topics," the fifth subject-area module for use in conjunction with our free teaching resource Understanding the MLA International Bibliography: A Free Online Course.

Skills need an upgrade as digital techniques take hold

Royal Society of Chemistry

By Richard Kidd, Head of Chemistry Data at the Royal Society of Chemistry

Our understanding of the universe and scientific research are inexorably linked, of that there is no debate. As we improve our knowledge in one area, the other inevitably benefits.

Springer Nature Education Podcast Series

Springer Nature

Author Insights: The Future of Education with Professor Rupert Maclean

Education and schooling is always a hot topic, but particularly at the current time during the COVID-19 pandemic, which has had a profound impact on the ways in which education and schooling is delivered to learners.

Best practice for effective searching for literature reviews

EBSCO, IFIS Publishing

In a webinar with Research Information, given in November 2019, Rhianna Gamble and Carol Hollier of IFIS presented on the topic of literature reviews in food science.

Indexed by Experts, MLA International Bibliography is a Global Collaboration

EBSCO, Modern Language Association

The MLA International Bibliography is known around the world for the quality of its indexing. Mary Onorato, Director of Bibliographic Information Services and Publisher, MLA International Bibliography, shares the secrets of its success.

The role of health care professionals in a changing sector

Springer Nature

The health care sector is undergoing a significant change, moving away from a system of caring for the sick to early intervention, prevention and supporting of wellbeing.

The Importance of MathSciNet to Mathematicians

EBSCO, Mathematical Reviews, MathsSciNet

Leading subject indexes provide critical information to academic researchers, enabling them to conduct a thorough review of literature with speed and efficiency.

Using the MLA International Bibliography to Guide the Research Process

EBSCO

In a recent webinar presented by Research Information, Angela Ecklund and Farrah Lehman Den of the Modern Language Association (MLA) shared an overview of the free online teaching tools developed for use with the MLA International Bibliography. Claire Buck, Professor of English at Wheaton College, also described how she integrates the Bibliography into the curriculum to engage students in the research process.

Deal will evaluate UK journal subscriptions

Jisc has announced that it will be using Unsub, an analytics dashboard, to help evaluate journal agreements that UK universities hold with publishers.

The dashboard, created in 2019 by not-for-profit software firm Our Research, can forecast different journal subscription scenarios, giving Jisc insight into the costs and benefits of subscription packages for each university and across the consortium.

Unsub is used by more than 400 research libraries worldwide, with Cambridge University and Lancaster University the latest UK institutions to subscribe.

The partnership will allow Jisc to extend Unsub's data-driven insights beyond these universities, to encompass the entire UK higher education sector. In doing so, Jisc will join other consortia Unsub users, including CRKN (Canada), CAUL (Australia/New Zealand) and Lyrasis (US).

Caren Milloy, Jisc's director of licensing, said: 'In this period of financial uncertainty, it is essential we support our members in evaluating agreements they subscribe to. The new dashboard enables us to look at the value derived across all participating members, and assess the impact of different collection models. We are really pleased to support members with centrally co-ordinated data provision, to provide insights to inform institutional decision-making.'

Jason Priem, co-founder of Our Research, added: 'We're thrilled to help Jisc continue its tradition of information leadership. This new partnership helps further Unsub's goal of supporting libraries in re-evaluating their big deals, giving them the opportunity to focus spending in support of the transition to open access.'

Jisc says the Unsub dashboard will streamline workflows and add data to its ongoing analysis efforts. Of particular value is Unsub's ability to estimate the extent that OA scholarly articles can replace existing subscription access. Due to growth of OA, more than half of newly-published articles are free to read.



Framework to support researchers launched by STM

A framework that helps online platforms determine in real time whether journal articles can be legally shared has been devised by experts at STM.

The Article Sharing Framework announced at the STM Spring Conference will help platforms and publishers comply with new obligations from Europe.

The new EU Copyright Directive, which comes into effect in June, requires online content sharing platforms to seek permission from publishers when providing access to content uploaded by their users, and for publishers to provide the information necessary to determine if, or under which conditions, the sharing of content is permitted.

To make complying with this as easy as possible, STM – working with NISO (National Information Standards Organization) and Crossref – has developed an innovative solution, which allows platforms to automatically identify article versions, and their associated sharing permissions. This will allow them to determine in real-time if the uploading of an article is allowed. There is no cost associated with using the framework.

James Milne, chair of the STM board and president of the publications division of the American Chemical Society,

said: 'The Article Sharing Framework removes the burden on researchers of having to check compliance, and instead encourages publishers and platforms to work together to facilitate sharing in ways that are respectful of publisher policies.'

STM CEO Ian Moss added: 'The Article Sharing Framework is a great example of how we, and our members, support the work of researchers to ensure they are able to focus on their day jobs of making new discoveries, and enjoy a smooth workflow in relationship to the sharing of content against a background of complex legislative changes.'

Todd Carpenter, executive director of NISO, said: 'The Article Sharing Framework is built on two existing and adopted standards, the NISO Journal Article Versions and the NISO Article License Indicators Recommended Practices, which should ease the challenges of implementation. Working collaboratively across the community, we were able to find an elegant solution to a complex problem, without having to build a new infrastructure stack.'

Resources for integrating with the Article Sharing Framework for publishers and platforms are being made available on the STM website.

Jisc toolkit helps university presses publish OA

Jisc is launching a toolkit that will help new university presses find sustainable ways to publish open access.

Funder policies surrounding OA have led to a revival in university presses in the UK and overseas. A 2017 report found in the prior five years, 21 new university presses (NUPs) became operational, and this number may rise to 30 within five years.

Graham Stone, subject matter expert on OA monographs at Jisc and co-developer of the toolkit, said: 'A growing number of universities and academics have set up their own presses in an attempt to take back control and autonomy from the large commercial publishing houses.'

'Most of these new presses are faced with the challenge of making open access publishing a reality.'

'This toolkit will support new and existing university and library OA publishing ventures, as well as those with a hybrid model.'

The toolkit has its roots in the 2017 Landscape study of NUPs and academic-led publishing, *Changing publishing ecologies*. One of the report's recommendations was to create a best-practice toolkit to assist with the planning and establishment of new university and library-led presses publishing OA material.

It was developed with the input from an international editorial advisory board

Viktoria Kurpas/Shutterstock.com



consisting of university presses from Liverpool, Stockholm, Westminster, White Rose and University College London, and other experts in the field.

Depending on the maturity and size of the press, this toolkit will help existing NUPs, as well as those planning to launch or investigate whether to establish a new press, to better understand the following key questions:

- How to get institutional buy-in, and understand resource and budget requirements to justify the start-up of a press;
- How to achieve sustainability and define what it is – e.g., service to researchers and/or growing prestige; and
- How to attract and support authors.

The toolkit is structured into 11 main

sections and is provided with a CC-BY licence so that the content can be shared, reused and re-purposed.

Although the Jisc toolkit is initially aimed at UK institutions, it draws on international best practice and case studies making the content applicable to a global audience.

Support for individual researchers who wish to understand more about open access for books is available via the OAPEN Open Access Books Toolkit, which was developed at the same time but covers slightly different issues around open access publishing.

The toolkit will be reviewed regularly, and the editorial advisory board will commission new work in response to changes in the publishing landscape and user feedback.

European expansion continues for ISSN network

The ISSN International Centre is moving from strength to strength with two national centres recently opened.

The 92nd national centre in the ISSN Network opened in Austria on 1 April, after the launch of the ISSN National Centre for Ukraine in mid-March.

The Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels (the Austrian Publishers and Booksellers Association), in Vienna, hosts the ISSN National Centre for Austria.

Gaëlle Béquet, director of the ISSN International Centre, described the move as 'a great

achievement for the ISSN Network to welcome Austria as a new member country and the Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels as a new ISSN Centre'.

She continued: 'Our Austrian colleagues are seasoned professionals who work closely with publishers and show great interest in serial identification activities.'

'The ISSN International Centre stands by ISSN Austria to achieve a smooth transition for the benefit of the publishing, scholarly and library communities of this country.'

Benedikt Föger, president of the Hauptverband des Österreichischen Buchhandels, added: 'When looking at the way the Austrian Booksellers Association has professionally operated the Austrian ISBN Agency for years, our association becoming the Austrian ISSN National Centre feels almost predestined.'

'So I was all the more pleased to learn that we meet all the criteria for joining the ISSN Community.'

Since 1975, the ISSN International Centre (ISSN IC) has co-ordinated the activities

of the ISSN Network of 92 member countries, and is responsible for maintaining and publishing the ISSN International Register and its associated services available on the ISSN Portal (portal.issn.org).

The Austrian Publishers and Booksellers Association has been representing the interests of booksellers, publishers, delivery agents, publishing house representatives and antiquarian booksellers at home and abroad in a non-partisan and objective manner since 1859.

New metric 'leverages opinions of 8,000 experts'

Faculty Opinions has introduced a metric in the research evaluation landscape, leveraging the opinions of more than 8,000 experts.

The Faculty Opinions Score is designed to be an early indicator of an article's future impact and a mark of research quality. The company describes the implications for researchers, academic institutions and funding bodies as 'promising'.

Tiago Barros, managing director of Faculty Opinions, said: 'The vision behind Faculty Opinions has always been to offer fairer and more transparent evaluation at article level, and to shift an over-reliance on flawed citation metrics towards greater use of transparent expert opinion.'

'We are delighted to introduce the new Faculty Opinions Score, which combines the predictive power of our expert recommendations with an article's bibliometric performance.'

With more than 20 years' of opinion, comprising more than 230,000 recommendations shared by Faculty Opinions, the company's analysis says the recommendations are a strong predictor



NicoElNino/Shutterstock.com

of articles that will ultimately be highly cited and have significant impact.

Data scientist Matias Rodriguez, who led the development of the Score, said: 'The Faculty Opinions Score assigns a numerical value to research publications in biology and medicine, aimed at quantifying their impact and quality compared to

other publications in their field.

'The Faculty Opinions Score is derived by combining our unique star-rated recommendations on individual articles, made by world-leading experts, with bibliometrics to produce a radically new metric in the research evaluation landscape.'

Jisc/Taylor & Francis deal 'truly transformative'

Taylor & Francis Group and Jisc have signed a three-year transitional agreement combining access and open access publishing to Taylor & Francis Group's portfolio of journals.

The agreement provides participating Jisc members with an OA allowance that covers 100 per cent of the current UK research Taylor & Francis Group has been publishing on a subscription basis.

As the largest humanities and social sciences (HSS) publisher, publishing 9 per cent of UK research, the deal is particularly important as a route to OA for HSS researchers who do not regularly benefit from the same funding as their peers in science, technology and medicine (STM) disciplines.

The partnership recognises

the goals of research funders and Jisc to transform access to UK research output, so the impact derived from research can be increased. Researchers will be provided with frictionless OA publishing at no cost to them, with a streamlined and optimised workflow. To ensure that the deal continues to reflect researchers' needs over time, participating members are invited to sign up for an initial three-year period, with an option to extend by two years.

Annie Callanan, CEO of Taylor & Francis, said: 'We are delighted to be working with Jisc and UK universities to advance open research in the UK. This deal provides author choice across the spectrum of journals published by Taylor & Francis Group, and underscores the commitment to supporting

UK research excellence and impact. Beyond this deal, we are keen to explore ways to work collaboratively with Jisc to encourage good open research practices: whether that be via a traditional journal article in front of the paywall, through to sharing all research data, methodologies and associated research. This deal is the first step on that path.'

Anna Vernon, Jisc's head of licensing, said: 'This agreement is a vital step towards making OA the default for UK research, and we are very pleased to open up publishing opportunities to all Taylor & Francis Group journals. We are delighted that the agreement limits costs to subscription expenditure only.'

The deal includes:

- OA publishing for UK authors, up to an agreed cap, in Taylor & Francis Open

Select journals, on a first-come first-served basis, at no cost to the author;

- Reading access to subscription content based on current holdings; and
- Provision of fully integrated library and author OA infrastructure to ensure smooth implementation and workflow, including the Taylor & Francis Research Dashboard, allowing participating members to monitor their institution's OA output simply and effectively.

Christoph Chesher, chief commercial officer at Taylor & Francis, said: 'The agreement is part of Taylor & Francis' wider commitment to open research and will accelerate OA transition in the UK. We look forward to working with Jisc in supporting the needs of UK researchers.'



'Seismic shift' in research across Menat region

Clarivate has released a report that explores the 'seismic shift' of the research landscape in 19 countries across the Middle East, North Africa and Turkey (Menat) region over recent decades.

It presents an international success story, with the region's global share of research output rising from 2 to 8 per cent over the last 40 years, and papers from 22 million individual researchers identified in the region between 2008 and 2017.

The latest Global Research Report from the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) uses data from the Web of Science to demonstrate how Menat research is growing in volume and impact, driven by increased participation in international research networks.

One example is Egypt, which has achieved rising impact at scale, with 60 per cent international collaboration and a Category Normalised Citation Impact (CNCI) above world average.

The report also points to a changing regional balance over time; for example finding that Iran has surpassed Israel and Turkey to become the largest research producer among Menat countries, increasing its world share of the Web of Science literature from 0.2 per cent in 2000 to 2.3 per cent in 2019.

To put the region's research contribution into global context, ISI conducted a special analysis of Menat research output mapped against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Out of 819 SDG-related topics identified, Menat countries have authored at least one paper in 253 topics (31 per cent). For most of the Menat countries, public health and epidemiology is the most frequent topic for publication, and accounts for more than a quarter of their SDG-related papers. However, there are also visible regional sustainability priorities: sustainable economic growth and biogas are hot topics in Turkey, while soil erosion is especially strong in Iran.

The increasingly international scope of the Menat regional research base is seen in its researcher mobility and collaborations. The report analyses researcher mobility in the region and globally, finding there is a significant outward flow of talent, with North America and Europe the most popular destinations.

It draws attention to the opportunity for more local collaboration in the region, where domestic mobility is relatively low and purely domestic papers currently account for about 5 per cent of total output. The findings highlight how

collaboration within the region, as well as with the rest of the world will enhance the quality of scientific research, accelerate access to new markets and allow the financial costs of research to be shared – more effectively meeting the economic and societal challenges the region faces.

Martin Szomszor, director at the Institute for Scientific Information at Clarivate said: 'The data indicate that Menat research shows high levels of global collaboration, resulting in diverse and high-quality output with rising impact. However, regional collaboration remains relatively low and fragmented, and our analysis suggests that a collaborative regional network could improve competitiveness between the region and the rest of the world, by focusing on shared needs and international priorities.'

Joel Haspel, SVP Strategy for Science at Clarivate, added: 'At Clarivate, we know the trusted insights and analytics we provide will help accelerate the pace of innovation, and our Global Research Reports are a key part of that for the international research community. The period of exceptional growth and impact that this report examines is unsurprising, given the Menat region's history of deep commitment to knowledge and learning.'

OCLC grant award 'to help improve library practices'

OCLC has been awarded a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to convene a diverse group of experts, practitioners, and community members to improve descriptive practices, tools, infrastructure and workflows in libraries and archives.

In consultation with Shift Collective, a consulting group that helps cultural institutions build stronger communities through lasting engagement, and an advisory group of community leaders, OCLC will:

- Convene a conversation of community stakeholders about how to address systemic issues of bias and racial equity in its current collection description infrastructure;
- Share with member libraries the need to build more inclusive and equitable library collections and to provide description approaches that promote effective representation and discovery of neglected or mis-characterised peoples, events, and experiences; and
- Develop a community agenda in clarifying issues for those who do knowledge work in libraries, archives, and museums; identifying priority areas of attention from these institutions; and providing valuable guidance.

OCLC occupies a critical place in the bibliographic ecosystem for library technical services and global discovery. OCLC staff and thousands of member libraries produce and maintain WorldCat, a comprehensive global network of data about library collections.

'As a steward of the world's library data, OCLC has an important role to play to help create inclusive descriptions,' said Mary Sauer-Games, OCLC vice president for global product management. 'We are honoured to work with community partners to examine and address obsolete, discriminatory and harmful language in bibliographic descriptions.'

The convening is part of an eight-month project, Reimagine Descriptive Workflows.



F1000 working on 'digital twin' platform launches

F1000 is collaborating with two Chinese customers to develop open research publishing platforms dedicated to the research and application of collaborative robots and 'digital twin' technologies. Both will be the world's first open publishing platforms in their fields, and launch for submission in July.

The platforms will use F1000's open research publishing model, enabling all research outputs to be published OA, and combine the benefits of pre-printing with mechanisms to assure quality and transparency (invited and open peer review, archiving and indexing). They also offer researchers an open and transparent peer review process and have a mandatory FAIR data policy to provide full and easy access to the data underlying the results.

Managing director Rebecca Lawrence said: 'The vision behind F1000 has always been to develop approaches to scholarly publishing that better support the needs of today in communicating new findings, regardless of output format. We have made significant traction and seen strong growth and uptake, especially in Europe and the US, but much less so in one of the other most significant markets, China.'

She said collaborating with their first partners in China would 'build two open research publishing platforms that will help accelerate the reach of innovative technologies'. 'By opening up all aspects of the research from article, to data, to peer review, these platforms will create a transparent, open and fair environment for research and innovation to flourish.'

Collaborative robots

The contract signed with AUBO (Beijing) Intelligent Science and Technology aims

to provide a communication outlet of innovative technologies for technicians, researchers, scholars and experts, who are engaged in the interdisciplinary research field of collaborative robots.

Collaborative robots, or cobots, are robots intended to work side-by-side and in collaboration with humans. These machines focus on repetitive tasks, such as inspection and picking. They help workers focus more on tasks that require problem-solving skills and enable industries to achieve better efficiency, flexibility and production capability.

Hongxing Wei, professor at Beihang University and president of AUBO (Beijing) Intelligent Science and Technology, said: 'It's our pleasure to co-operate with the world leading publisher Taylor & Francis Group and its partner F1000, to set up Cobot, the first academic and technological communication platform in the field of collaborative robots. Cobots are a kind of new versatile robots widely applied in industrial production and social services. The birth of Cobot will surely promote the scientific research and technical developments in related fields.'

The scope of the platform includes scientific and technical research topics in intelligent robots, AI, human-machine collaboration and integration, machine vision, intelligent sensing and smart materials.

It will also include the design, development and testing of collaborative robots and relevant software, as well as case studies focused on their wide-ranging use and applications. The platform will also feature a variety of article types, including method articles, study protocols, software tools, systematic reviews, data notes, brief reports and opinion articles.

Suppliers' Directory

Association for Computing Machinery



1601 Broadway, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10019-7434
dl-info@hq.acm.org
<https://libraries.acm.org/acmopen>

ACM is introducing a new model for Open Access Publication. Developed in collaboration with leading academic libraries, ACM OPEN has the potential to make all new research articles published by ACM accessible without paywalls. Visit <https://libraries.acm.org/acmopen> for more information.

Digital Science



6 Briset St, Farringdon,
London EC1M 5NR, UK
digital-science.com

Digital Science is a technology company working to make research more efficient. We invest in, nurture and support innovative businesses and technologies that make all parts of the research process more open and effective. Our portfolio includes admired brands including Altmetric, CC Grant Tracker, Dimensions, Figshare, Gigantum, ReadCube, Symplectic, IFI Claims, GRID, Overleaf, Ripeta, Scismic and Writefull. Digital Science's Consultancy group works with organisations around the world to create new insights based on data to support decision makers. We believe that together, we can help researchers make a difference. Visit digital-science.com and follow @digitalsci on Twitter.

Figshare



6 Briset St, Farringdon,
London EC1M 5NR, UK
<http://figshare.com>

Figshare is a web-based platform to help academic institutions manage, disseminate and measure the public attention of all their research outputs. The light-touch and user-friendly approach focuses on four key areas: research data management, reporting and statistics, research data dissemination and administrative control. Figshare works with institutions globally to help them meet key funder recommendations and to provide world-leading tools to support an open culture of data sharing and collaboration. Figshare is part of the Digital Science portfolio of companies. For more information, visit <http://figshare.com> and follow @figshare on Twitter.

Clarivate



Friars House,
160 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8EZ, United Kingdom
+44 2074334000
clarivate.com

Clarivate™ is a global leader in providing solutions to accelerate the lifecycle of innovation. Our bold mission is to help customers solve some of the world's most complex problems by providing actionable information and insights that reduce the time from new ideas to life-changing inventions in the areas of science and intellectual property. We help customers discover, protect and commercialize their inventions using our trusted subscription and technology-based solutions coupled with deep domain expertise. For more information, please visit clarivate.com.

EBSCO



10 Estes St, Ipswich,
MA 01938, USA
Tel: +44 20 8447 4200
information@ebSCO.com
www.ebSCO.com

Research includes data, code and methods, but how do faculty and researchers discover and use these outputs? How do you collect and preserve output and keep them with the institution when researchers leave?

Code Ocean and protocols.io help the library and researchers manage, share and discover code, data and methods. Learn more at www.ebSCO.com

ISSN



45 rue de Turbigo,
75003 PARIS - France
Tel: 00331 44882220
Fax: 00331 40263243
sales@issn.org
www.issn.org
<https://portal.issn.org>

The ISSN is the international identifier for serials and other continuing resources, in the electronic and print world. The ISSN Register is the worldwide bibliographic database which contains more than 2,5 million ISSN bibliographic records created and updated for the identification of the serials.

MyScienceWork



101 rue de Sèvres 75279
Paris Cedex 6 - Siret : 52435158200027
carolina.sanchez@mysciencework.com
+33 6 69 25 46 94
www.mysciencework.com

AI powered Polaris OS by MyScienceWork is a completely new repository approach. Designed using the latest technologies, this cutting-edge Research Information System supports complex functions for users with little to no programming skills and was developed to enable computational systems to practice FAIR data management.

OpenAthens



Jisc Services Ltd
4 Portwall Lane, Bristol BS1 6NB, UK
T: +44 (0) 20 3880 2626
contact@openathens.net
openathens.net

We make it easy for people to access knowledge through single single-on. We strive to be the world's most user-friendly remote access experience. More than 2,600 organisations world-wide use OpenAthens to provide users with simple, secure access to online resources.

Get in touch!

ARPHA Platform



12 Prof. Georgi Zlatarski Street
1700 Sofia, Bulgaria
info@arphahub.com
https://arphahub.com

ARPHA is a multi-purpose publishing platform for journals, books, conference materials, and preprints. ARPHA supports submission, peer review, production, publishing, hosting, indexing, archiving and dissemination. ARPHA offers flexible operating and business models, automated and human-provided services, as well as consultancy and support.

Royal Society of Chemistry



Thomas Graham House, 290 Cambridge Science
Park Milton Rd, Milton, Cambridge CB4 0WF
publishing@rsc.org
www.rsc.org

Since 1841, we have worked to advance the chemical sciences. We champion our profession: setting standards and celebrating excellence. We share chemical knowledge: publishing the best research and helping scientists to connect and collaborate. We use our voice for chemistry: speaking up to influence decisions that affect us all. The chemical sciences are at the heart of human progress.

Research
information

Subscribe for free*

Researcher?
Publisher?
Librarian?

Research Information is the essential link
between publishers, librarians and researchers



Register for your free subscription now!
researchinformation.info/subscribe

The ISSN Portal

offers a suite of essential services to monitor continuing resources from inception to long-term archiving

Browse and download free ISSN Core data

Librarians, editors, publishers, content providers, database managers, scholars, students can access free ISSN core data through the ISSN Portal. They can make the most of this comprehensive database to identify print and online serials and continuing resources published worldwide.

Get more ISSN data by subscribing

The ISSN Portal provides more data and services to subscribers, e.g.:

- Advanced and expert search options to identify serial resources, including those to be published shortly,
- Faceted search including subject classification and index coverage
- New display features, i.e. timeline, geolocation of publications, title history and title relationships,
- ISSN data available for download in a variety of formats including MARC 21, UNIMARC, MARC XML, RDF/XML, RDF turtle, JSON
- Alerts to receive regular updates on publications;
- API downloads which can be integrated into local workflows
- Interface in the 6 official UN languages.

Stay tuned with changes in journal ownership

During their lifetime, journals and continuing resources may change publisher. ISSN IC participates in NISO Transfer Group and manages, the Enhanced Transfer Alerting Service (ETAS) that allows publishers to share information about journal transfers with librarians and researchers.

Check which serial resources are archived and by whom

The Keepers Registry aggregates preservation meta-data supplied by a dozen archiving agencies around the world. Find out if your library's electronic serial collections are at risk of vanishing or if they are properly archived.

portal.issn.org
journaltransfer.issn.org
keepers.issn.org



THE DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF BOOK CITATIONS

ADVANCING DISCOVERY

HISTORY

The study of book citation indices is around **10 years old.**

THE SPRINGER NATURE STUDY



221,688 records



18,791 books



531,557 citations

AUTHOR PERSPECTIVES

In our survey of 4,375 book authors, the majority reported that citations as the most important indicator of a title's success.

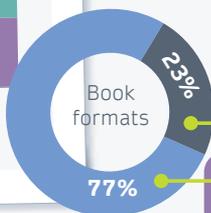
**See the full results of the survey in 'Today's library & the future of scholarly communications'*

KEY FINDINGS

The majority of books take up to **8 years** to reach peak citations

Average number of **citations** per book by discipline

Computer science	74
Earth and Planetary Sciences	73
Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology	67
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	50
Psychology	50



Edited books in a series format usually come with both a greater number of chapters and an overall higher number of citations than non-series titles (Torres-Salinas, et al., 2014)

CONCLUSION

Where book scientometrics is a still relatively new area of study, more research is needed. There is also a great deal more to be known about citations themselves, for instance the intention or function of a citation, whether evidentiary, supportive, or used to refute a piece of research.

As we see more books come online, and the art and science of citation analysis further evolves.