

# Survey “Towards Responsible Publishing”

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Start of Block: Demographics and publishing experience

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## Welcome to the feedback survey on the “Towards Responsible Publishing” proposal by cOAlition S

cOAlition S, an international group of 28 research funders working together to promote open approaches to scientific publishing, has recently introduced its “[Towards Responsible Publishing](#)” proposal. This proposal envisages a community-based publishing system that will empower scholars to openly share their research and engage with innovative quality control and evaluation standards, thus promoting rapid and transparent dissemination of rigorous scientific knowledge.

Your perspective is crucial in shaping the direction of this proposal. The current survey offers a platform for you to express your views about the ideas presented in the proposal, and influence its further development, ensuring it resonates with the needs and aspirations of the research community.

### Confidentiality and use of data:

This survey, conducted for cOAlition S by the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS | Leiden University) and Research Consulting, adheres to ethical standards approved by the Ethics Committee at Leiden University. Your responses will be collected without personal identifiers, safeguarding confidentiality. Any subsequent publications or presentations will feature anonymised findings.

### Participation and estimated time:

Completing the survey is expected to take around 10 minutes. Your participation is voluntary, and you can opt-out at any time without any negative consequences. Responses are saved automatically, allowing you to pause and resume at your convenience using the link you received via email. The survey will be open until 22 April.

For more information or inquiries, please contact André Brasil (CWTS | Leiden University) at [a.l.brasil@cwts.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.l.brasil@cwts.leidenuniv.nl).

Your thoughts matter significantly, and we are looking forward to them - thank you in advance!

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## Section 1 of 5: Demographic information

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Q1 What is your primary field of research?

- ☐ Arts and Humanities
  - ☐ Behavioural sciences
  - ☐ Chemistry
  - ☐ Computer science
  - ☐ Earth sciences
  - ☐ Economics and management
  - ☐ Engineering
  - ☐ Law
  - ☐ Life sciences
  - ☐ Mathematics
  - ☐ Medical and health sciences
  - ☐ Physics and astronomy
  - ☐ Social sciences
  - ☐ Other
-

Q2 Which of the following best describes the organisation you are affiliated with?

- ☐ University or college
- ☐ Hospital or medical school
- ☐ Research institute (not in a university or medical school)
- ☐ Research funding organisation
- ☐ Governmental organisation
- ☐ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Industry/commercial organisation
- ☐ Independent researcher
- ☐ Other, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

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Q3 Please indicate the country where your organisation is located. If you are not affiliated with an organisation, please provide your own location.

- > Continent (1)
  - > Region (2)
  - > Country (3)
-

Q4 How many years of research experience do you have?

- ☐ Less than 3 years
  - ☐ 3-5 years
  - ☐ 6-9 years
  - ☐ 10-14 years
  - ☐ 15-24 years
  - ☐ More than 24 years
  - ☐ Not applicable
- 

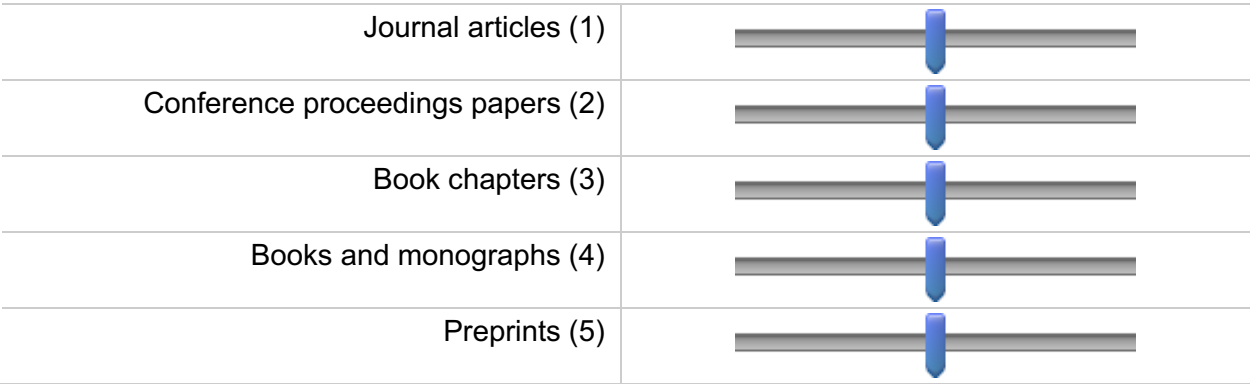
Q5 What best describes your gender?

- ☐ Woman
  - ☐ Man
  - ☐ Prefer not to say
  - ☐ Prefer to self-describe \_\_\_\_\_
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Q6 How many of the following have you published in the past three years, approximately?

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40+



End of Block: Demographics and publishing experience

Start of Block: Reaching relevant audiences

**Section 2 of 5: Reaching relevant audiences and determining what research is pertinent to you**

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Q7 As an author, how useful do you think the following methods are in helping your research reach its intended audience?

	Not useful	Slightly useful	Moderately useful	Very useful	Extremely useful	Unsure
Publishing in journals read by relevant audiences (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing in journals with a strong reputation (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing in journals indexed in Web of Science or Scopus (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing in journals with a high impact factor (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publishing open access (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sharing your work in preprint form (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting your research via email or other forms of personal connections (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting your research via social media or other public dissemination channels (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q8 What other ways you use to help your research reach its intended audience? [Optional]

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Q9 As a reader, it may not be possible to read all research that could be of relevance to you. You may want to focus your attention on the highest-quality research.

In your opinion, how effective are the following criteria to identify high-quality research?

	Not effective	Slightly effective	Moderately effective	Very effective	Extremely effective	Unsure
The reputation of the authors (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The reputation of the journal (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether the journal is indexed in Web of Science or Scopus (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The journal's impact factor (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The number of citations received (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Publicly available peer review reports (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Whether authors adopted open science practices (e.g., preregistration, data sharing, code sharing) (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q10 Do you use any other criteria to identify high-quality research? [Optional]

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**Section 3 of 5: The efficiency of the publishing system, with a particular focus on peer review processes**

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Q11 In your experience, what is the average duration from submission to publication in a journal, including resubmissions? (in months)

- ☐ Under six months (1)
  - ☐ Between 6-12 months (2)
  - ☐ Between 12-18 months (3)
  - ☐ Between 18-24 months (4)
  - ☐ Between 24-30 months (5)
  - ☐ Between 30-36 months (6)
  - ☐ More than 36 months (7)
- 

Q12 How satisfied are you with the speed of the journal publication process in your field of research?

- ☐ Extremely dissatisfied
  - ☐ Somewhat dissatisfied
  - ☐ Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
  - ☐ Somewhat satisfied
  - ☐ Extremely satisfied
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Q13 Preprint publishing can be used to expedite the dissemination of scientific knowledge. How effective do you think preprints are in the following areas?

	Not effective	Slightly effective	Moderately effective	Very effective	Extremely effective	Unsure
Providing early access to new research (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Receiving early feedback on new research (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Enhancing research accessibility and visibility (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accelerating academic discourse (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increasing research transparency (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q14 As an author, do you make use of preprints to invite early feedback on your research (where feedback may be provided by email or on preprint servers, peer review platforms, social media, etc.)?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ About half the time
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Always

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*Display This Question: If As an author, do you make use of preprints to invite early feedback on your research (where feedb... != Never*

Q15 How useful do you find feedback on your preprints?

- ☐ Not useful
  - ☐ Slightly useful
  - ☐ Moderately useful
  - ☐ Very useful
  - ☐ Extremely useful
-

Q16 To accelerate the dissemination of research, a journal could publish an article as a preprint at the start of the peer review process. When the journal receives revised versions of the article during peer review, it could update the preprint.

Would you support this way of accelerating the dissemination of research?

- ☐ Definitely not
  - ☐ Probably not
  - ☐ Might or might not
  - ☐ Probably yes
  - ☐ Definitely yes
- 

Q17 In addition to publishing intermediary versions of an article as a preprint, a journal could also publish the peer review reports for these versions. This gives readers information about the preprint's strengths and weaknesses. Review reports would be published regardless of whether the journal accepts or rejects the article.

Would you support this way of informing readers?

- ☐ Definitely not
  - ☐ Probably not
  - ☐ Might or might not
  - ☐ Probably yes
  - ☐ Definitely yes
- 

Q18 Feel free to use this space to share any thoughts regarding preprinting or the disclosure of peer review reports within journals. [Optional]

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End of Block: Efficiency

**Section 4 of 5: Recognition and rewards**

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Q19 Do you feel that the researcher recognition and reward mechanisms take into account emerging publishing methods, like preprints?

- ☐ Never
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ About half the time
  - ☐ Most of the time
  - ☐ Always
-

Q20 How likely are the following issues to negatively impact your career development?

	Extremely unlikely	Somewhat unlikely	Neither likely nor unlikely	Somewhat likely	Extremely likely	Unsure
Lengthy peer review times (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low journal acceptance rates (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Low quality peer review (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lack of recognition of non-traditional research outputs, such as preprints, reports, policy briefs, etc. (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q21 How important do you consider preprints for timely recognition of research in your field?

- ☐ Not important
- ☐ Slightly important
- ☐ Moderately important
- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Extremely important

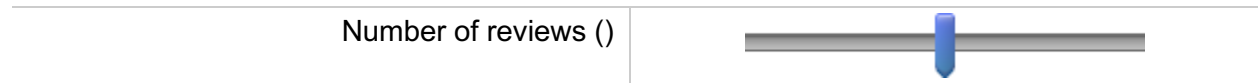
End of Block: Recognition and reward

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Start of Block: Experience in performing peer review

Q22 How many times have you performed peer review in the past three years, for publishing purposes, including journal articles, books, and conference proceedings?

0 10 20 30 40 50+



End of Block: Experience in performing peer review

Start of Block: Efficiency and Recognition/Reward

**Section 5 of 5: Efficiency of peer review and recognition of your efforts**

Q23 Do you feel that the amount of peer review requests you receive is

- ☐ Far too little
- ☐ Too little
- ☐ About right
- ☐ Slightly too much
- ☐ Far too much

Q24 Do you feel that the current researcher recognition and reward mechanisms motivate you to undertake peer review?

- ☐ Never
  - ☐ Rarely
  - ☐ Sometimes
  - ☐ Often
  - ☐ Always
-



Q25 To what extent would the following practices encourage you to participate more actively in peer review.

	Strongly discourage	Discourage	Neutral	Encourage	Strongly encourage	Unsure
Having my reviews published anonymously (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having my reviews published non-anonymously (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making my reviews citable (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Building reputation based on my reviews (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Being recognised for my peer review activities in hiring and promotion processes (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q26 Publishing peer review reports may help to improve the efficiency of peer review. For example, if an article is rejected by a journal and then submitted to a different journal, the latter journal may reuse (parts of) the previous review reports in its decision-making, thereby reducing the need to find new reviewers.

As a reviewer, would you support the publication of your peer review reports?

	Definitely not	Probably not	Might or might not	Probably yes	Definitely yes	Unsure
As anonymous peer review reports (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As non- anonymous/attributed peer review reports (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Efficiency and Recognition/Reward

Start of Block: Open question

Q27 As we come to the end of this survey, we invite you to share any final thoughts or opinions you may have on the topics covered. This is your opportunity to highlight any issues not sufficiently addressed by previous questions and to offer insights you believe are significant for understanding these issues. [Optional]

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End of Block: Open question

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