



What Early Career Researchers Need to Know about Open Publishing and Peer Evaluation

Katie Corker - Sept 5 2025

What's Wrong With Research Publishing?



Slow

Paywalled

Quality
issues

Equity
issues

A Better Way Forward with Preprints and Open Evaluation

Preprints are a low cost, simple way to improve publishing.

- **Fast** - days, not months/years
- **Open** - free to post and free to read
- **Fair** - Globally accessible, open to all
- **Rigorous** - Transparent evaluation can be layered on top

What are preprints?

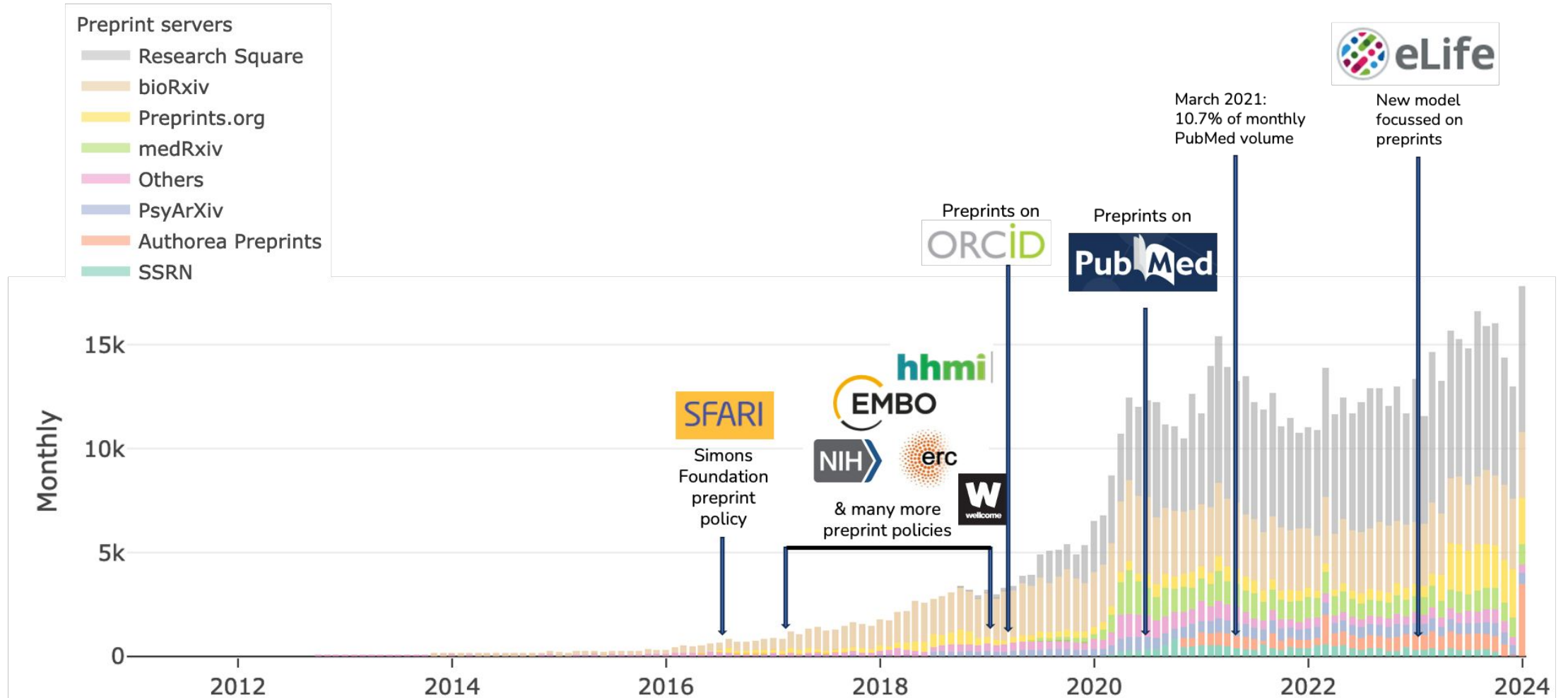
Author version of a paper

Shared publicly on a
preprint server

Permanent (DOI), indexed,
versionable



Over 700,000 life sciences preprints +millions more in other disciplines & other repositories



Over 50 Preprint Servers with Life Science Scope



Image modified from a compilation by Jeroen Bosman (@jeroenbosman) via Bianca Kramer (@MsPhelps)

Preprint FAQs

- Are preprints compatible with journal publishing?
- When are preprints typically shared?
- Do I need to worry about scooping?
- What are the main benefits of preprinting?
- How should I choose a preprint server?

What is open evaluation?

Review of a paper or other output

Shared publicly on a review service

Permanent (DOI), indexed, linked to reviewed object



The preprint feedback ecosystem

Linking
and
discovery

Search
tools



Early Evidence Base
Navigating and Assessing Preprints



DOI
registries



Protocols &
frameworks



>35
Preprint
feedback
initiatives



Comments on
preprint servers



MBoC Preprint Highlights



Social media
posts



Minimalist or
freeform

Over 35 platforms reviewing preprints

Journal-like

Preprints



Why open evaluation?

- Timely feedback: Help authors improve their work
- Demonstrate engagement: Reviews are scholarship
- Transparency: Strengths and weak spots uncovered for all
- Increase efficiency: Avoid the “rinse and repeat” cycle of journal resubmissions

Publish



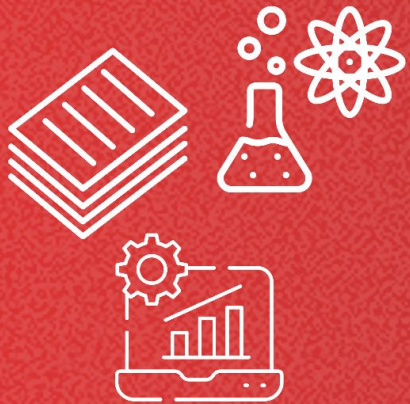
Review



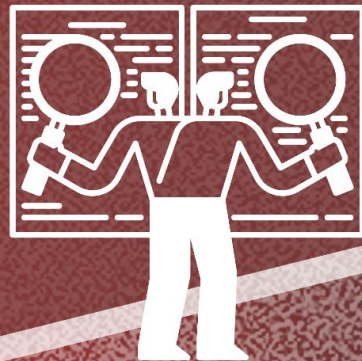
Curate



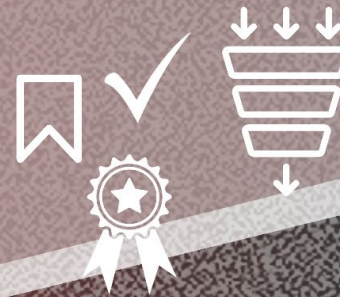
Publish



Review



Curate



Flips the order of
traditional publishing

Combines the strengths of
preprinting and open
evaluation

Decentralized

Embracing a Community-Led P-R-C System Solves a Lot

Overwhelm of the
traditional peer review
system

Inappropriate use of JIF
and flawed metrics in
researcher assessment

Equity problems caused
by APC-funded OA

Inability of traditional
publishing to handle
threats to academic
integrity (e.g., paper
mills)

Four Things ECRs Can Do to Support Open Science

1. Post openly licensed preprints
2. Make preprints complete with data, code, materials
3. Review preprints
 - [ASAPbio crowd review](#)
4. Community and peer support

Tips and Tricks

Get and use an ORCID

Choose CC-BY licenses

Bring your lab along

Journal club for preprints



Resources

- Preprinting FAQs:
<https://asapbio.org/about/faq/preprint-faq/>
 - Preprint feedback FAQs:
<https://asapbio.org/about/faq/public-preprint-feedback-faq/>
 - Licensing FAQs:
<https://asapbio.org/about/faq/licensing-faq/>
- Preprint Resource Center:
<https://asapbio.org/focus-areas/preprints/preprint-resource-center/>
 - Peer Review Resource Center:
<https://asapbio.org/focus-areas/peer-review/>
 - Find a preprint server:
<https://asapbio.org/preprint-servers>

Slides:

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15112772>



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