

Avoiding  
'predatory'  
journals



Coming  
up...

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A quick introduction

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Understanding journal  
publishing and Open Access

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Avoiding 'predatory'  
journals


AuthorAID was launched to support researchers in developing countries, and has a community of over 20,000 researchers in 174+ countries

- Free **online training** in research and proposal writing
- Free **Online mentoring** and collaboration
- Free **resources and training materials**
- Addressing **gender** inequities in higher education

[www.authoraid.info](http://www.authoraid.info)




# AuthorAID.info




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17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS




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The AuthorAID collaboration forums provide a collaborative space for our community of researchers, practitioners and professionals to connect around research projects, ideas and funding opportunities, from small projects to multidisciplinary development challenges.  
Register or sign in now and look for opportunities.




NEWS



Tip of the Week #266

Think ahead


By Bernard Appiah, Jan. 6, 2016 | [0 Comments](#)




Tip of the Week #265

One at a time

By Bernard Appiah, Dec. 30, 2015 | [0 Comments](#)




RESOURCES



Web link:Think. Check. Submit.


Resource for helping to determine whether a journal is trustworthy.



Presentation:Writing Scientific Papers in English: Tips and Resources

Presentation given at the 2011 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)


FEATURED RESEARCHERS



Dr. Andrew Clappison

Research interests: governance, rural development, communication, research communication, knowledge management

Open to collaboration.



Dr. Abhijit Sarkar

Research interests: Proteomics (especially stress proteomics and pharmacoproteomics)

# Massive Open Online Courses

- Low bandwidth, entry level courses in research writing or proposal writing
- Natural sciences and social science courses
- Over 11,000 participants (99% from LMICs) trained since 2015
- 50% average completion rate
- 52% completion rate for women
- Increase in publications and writing confidence

# Upcoming MOOCs

- **Research Writing in the Sciences** - 9th September to 21st October 2019 (6 weeks)
- **Research Writing in the Social Sciences** - 6th April 2020 to 19th May 2020 (6 weeks)

A hand holding a black pen points to a location on a detailed road map. The map is spread out on a table, and a semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side, containing the title and bullet points. In the background, a glass of water and a cup of coffee are visible.

## The world of academic publishing is confusing

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- Familiarise yourself with the major and minor journals in your field
- Understand the basics of Open Access publishing

“I need to find a journal that doesn’t charge a fee ~~and can publish quickly~~”


**STOP!**



- Q: What is your discipline?
- Q: What audience do you want to reach?
- Q: Do you want/need to publish Open Access?
- Q: Do you need to publish in an ‘international’ journal?
- Q: Does it need to be indexed in Web of Science, Scopus or Medline?
- Q: What journals do your peers publish in?



Most journal publishing is **FREE** to the author. Don't assume you have to pay.



Sorry, peer review usually takes time.



- There are tens of thousands of academic/scientific journals in existence – perhaps up to 60,000 (Ulrich's Periodicals Directory)
- There is a lot of choice – don't feel you have to submit to the first journal you come across
- Once you've identified a suitable journal\*, take 5-10 minutes to check the journal website

# Importance of choosing the right journal

# Where to look for credible journals?

- Google/ Google Scholar, but be specific.
- ‘Journal finders’ such as JournalGuide <https://www.journalguide.com/>
- Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) [www.doaj.org](http://www.doaj.org)
- JANE <http://jane.biosemantics.org/>
- A brief guide to the international research landscape (list of major publishers and platforms) <https://www.authoraid.info/en/resources/details/1351/>
- Ravi Murugesan – ‘How to choose a journal that’s right for your research’  
<https://www.scidev.net/global/publishing/practical-guide/target-journal-right-research-communicate-publish.html>
- Duncan Nicholas – ‘How to choose a journal and write a cover letter’  
[https://dx.doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA\\_691\\_18](https://dx.doi.org/10.4103/sja.SJA_691_18)



# Different ways to publish your research

## Open access journals

### Subscription Journals



- No fee for authors
- Readers pay to access
- Subscriptions paid by library
- Approximately 72% of literature\*

### Green Open Access



- **No charge** for authors and readers
- Author publicly deposits a final version of the peer-reviewed paper in:
  - Institutional Repository
  - Subject Repository – arXiv, PubMed Central, SSRN
  - Personal website, blog or social media (e.g ResearchGate)
- There might be an embargo period of (6 months to 2 years)
- Another option is to deposit the pre-print version (before peer review) on a pre-print server such as bioRxiv, AfricArXiv, PeerJ preprints
- Check [SHERPA/RoMEO](#) to find policies of any publisher/journal

### Commercial Open Access Journals



- AKA Gold Open Access
- Free to read and share
- \$ Pay to Publish \$\*
- Article Processing Charges \$100 to \$4000 (average \$1640)

### Hybrid route



- A mixture of paywalled and Open Access articles
- Most subscription journals now offer this option
- Authors pay an Article Processing Charge (APC)
- Often 'high impact' journals with established reputation
- High cost - average APC is £2095

### Green Open Access discovery:



Institutional Repositories  
Subject Repositories



OpenDOAR

Google Scholar



ResearchGate

### Free Open Access Journals



- AKA Diamond / Platinum Open Access
- Free to read and share
- NO charge for authors to publish
- See DOAJ.org for thousands of examples

### Megajournals

- Plos One
  - Scientific Reports (Nature)
  - BMJ Open
  - F1000
  - Royal Society Open Science
  - IEEE Access
  - Peer J
  - Wellcome Open Research
  - Gates Open Research
  - AAS Open Research (African Academy of Sciences)
  - ScienceOpen
  - RIO (Research Ideas and Outcomes)
  - Sage Open
  - Open Library of Humanities
- <https://megajournals.info/>

### How to pay Article Processing Charges

Check the journal APC waiver policy for authors in Low and Middle-income countries

- Check if your country is on HINARI list A or B (according to World Health Organisation\*)
- Most publishers will be able to offer a discount or full waiver
- Email the journal if you are unsure – it's always worth asking!

Check if your institution has an arrangement with the publisher

Check if your research funder will pay for the APC

- Many funders mandate that your research is published Open Access

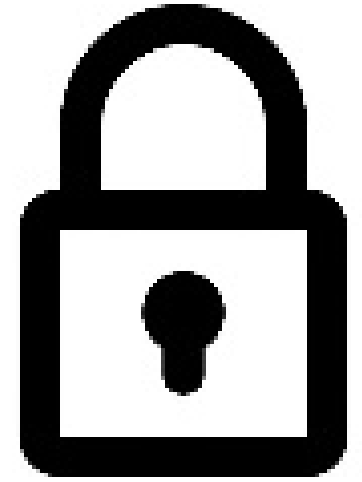
\*<https://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>



Approx. 45% of literature published in 2015 was Open Access\*

Piwowar, Priem et al. (2018)  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5815332/>

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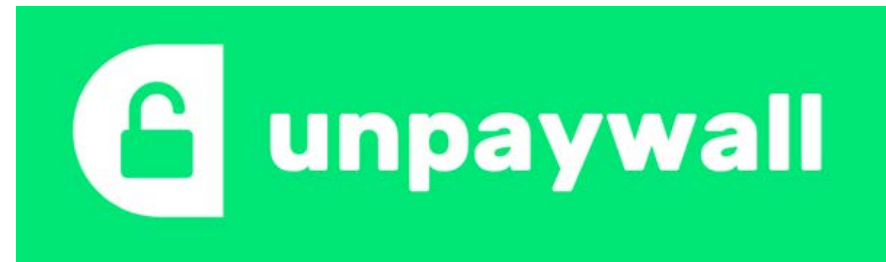
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 **OSF PREPRINTS**



Google Scholar

ResearchGate

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## Search - Publisher copyright policies & self-archiving

English | [Español](#) | [Magyar](#) | [Nederlands](#)  
[Português](#)

One journal found when searched for: **0013-0095**

Journal:	<a href="#">Economic Geography</a> (ISSN: 0013-0095, ESSN: 1944-8287)
RoMEO:	This is a <a href="#">RoMEO green</a> journal
Paid OA:	A paid open access option is <b>available</b> for this journal.
Author's Pre-print:	✓ author <b>can</b> archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
Author's Post-print:	✓ author <b>can</b> archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)
Publisher's Version/PDF:	✗ author <b>cannot</b> archive publisher's version/PDF
General Conditions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some individual journals may have policies prohibiting pre-print archiving</li> <li>• On author's personal website or departmental website immediately</li> <li>• On institutional repository, subject-based repository or academic social network (Mendeley, ResearchGate or Academia.edu) after 12 months embargo</li> <li>• Publisher's version/PDF cannot be used</li> <li>• On a non-profit server</li> <li>• Published source must be acknowledged</li> <li>• Must link to publisher version</li> <li>• Set statements to accompany deposits (see policy)</li> <li>• The publisher will deposit in on behalf of authors to a designated institutional repository including PubMed Central, where a deposit agreement exists with the repository</li> </ul>
Mandated OA:	Compliance data is available for <a href="#">37 funders</a>
Paid Open Access:	<a href="#">Taylor &amp; Francis Open Select</a> - 500 journals
Notes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STM: Science, Technology and Medicine</li> </ul>

# Megajournals

- Plos One
- Scientific Reports (Nature)
- BMJ Open
- F1000
- Royal Society Open Science
- IEEE Access
- Peer J
- Wellcome Open Research
- Gates Open Research
- AAS Open Research (African Academy of Sciences)
- ScienceOpen
- RIO (Research Ideas and Outcomes)
- Sage Open
- Open Library of Humanities

<https://megajournals.info/>

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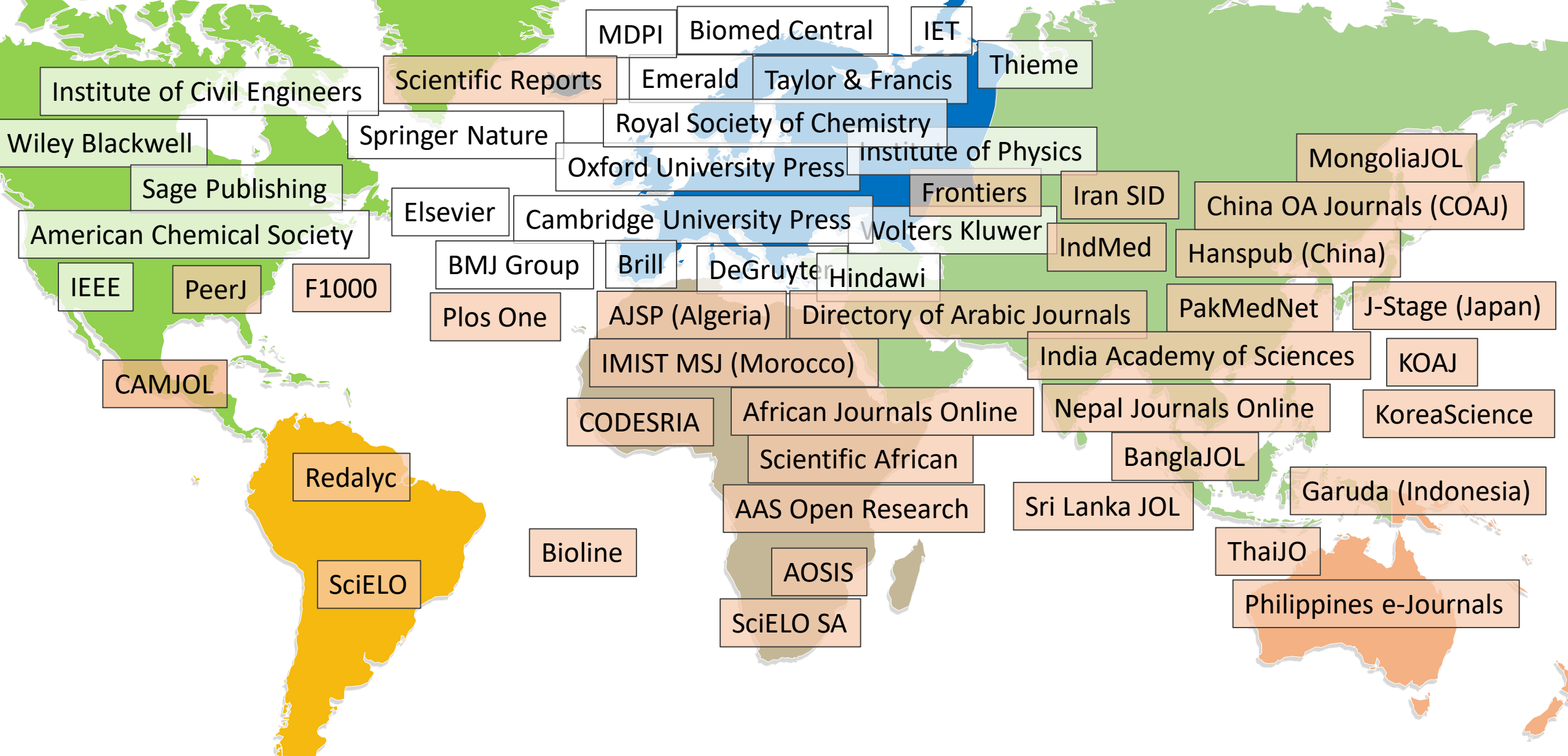
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\*<https://www.who.int/hinari/eligibility/en/>

# Global sources of academic journals – publishers and platforms



<http://DOAJ.org>



A low-quality publishing outlet that charges a fee to publish your paper, but does not provide a service that most would expect from an academic or scientific journal.

In other words – **false advertising**

# What is a 'predatory' journal?

# ‘Blacklists’ and ‘whitelists’

## **Blacklists**

- “Beall’s List” (continued by an anonymous author, highly disputed)  
<https://beallslist.weebly.com/>
- Cabell’s Blacklist (\$) <https://www2.cabells.com/about-blacklist>

## **Whitelists**

- Cabell’s Whitelist (\$) <https://www2.cabells.com/about-whitelist>
- DOAJ, Web of Science, Scopus, Pubmed (Medline)

# The important journal indexes



(Impact Factor)

Clarivate **Web of Science** (Previously Thomson Reuters)

Master Journal List: <http://mjl.clarivate.com/> (also referred to as Journal Citations Reports or Science Citation Index) .



(CiteScore)

**Scopus** is also good indicator of a high-quality, credible journal. You can search to check if journals are indexed via this link:

<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php>



Pubmed (medical journals). Check journal is included in **MEDLINE**:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/nlmcatalog/>



The Directory of Open Access Journals (**DOAJ**)

<https://doaj.org/search>

# What is the Impact Factor?

- The Impact Factor of a journal is calculated according to the number of citations that journal receives over the previous two years.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact\\_factor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impact_factor)
- Not all journals have an Impact Factor, and it is not always a good indication of the best journals.
- Impact Factor is an ‘article-level metric’ – it is not intended to assess the quality of individual articles.
- To qualify for an Impact Factor, journals **must** be indexed in the Clarivate (Thomson Reuters) Web of Science.
- **Watch out for fake impact factors!** Check <http://mjl.clarivate.com/> to make sure the journal is making a legitimate claim about their indexing.



# I tip to rule them all!

You don't **need** to pay to publish in a journal. It is often free to submit and publish a paper.

Therefore, if you are quoted over \$100 (approx.) to publish your paper, you should be getting something significant in return. Expect the journal to be indexed in DOAJ, and one of: WoS, Scopus or Pubmed (Medline)



# What should you get for your \$\$\$s?

- Peer review
- Publishing quality (incl. digital infrastructure, permanent record)
- Dissemination to a wide readership
- Indexing, prestige

(But remember there may also be journals that provide some or all of this for free!\*)

# More quick tips – 6 things to remember

- Don't trust email invites and 'Call for Papers' (unless you recognise the sender)
- Be sceptical of 'international' or 'global' journals, and those with a wide scope
- Double-check claims of prestigious indexing and impact factors
- Read the 'Aims and scope' or 'About' page – check the journal understands your field
- Check who is publishing the journal – are they a credible scholarly organisation?
- Check your reference lists – familiarise yourself with good journals in your field

From “A beginner's guide to avoiding 'predatory' journals (using your critical thinking skills)”

<https://www.authoraids.info/en/news/details/1310/>

# Examples

Credible journals:

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/archives-of-physical-medicine-and-rehabilitation>

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/african-journal-of-emergency-medicine>

<https://www.hindawi.com/journals/jir/>

<https://www.nepjol.info/index.php/BIBECHANA/index>

<https://joii-journal.springeropen.com/>

<https://www.mdpi.com/journal/publications>

Not so credible journals:

<http://www.journalijdr.com>

<http://www.journalijar.com/>

<http://www.sciencepublishinggroup.com/journal/index?journalid=153>

<https://www.omicsonline.org/mass-communication-journalism.php>

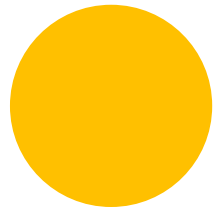
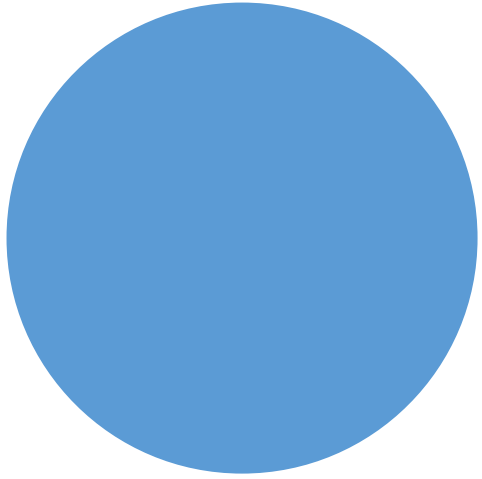
<http://www.ijhssi.org/index.html>

<http://www.ijera.com/index.html>

# Some other useful tips

- Think.Check.Submit ([www.thinkchecksubmit.org](http://www.thinkchecksubmit.org))
- Check out the editorial board
- Check the address
- Watch out for 'rapid publication'
- Poor English
- Author should retain copyright (e.g. via a CC-BY licence). Don't sign over your rights without being 100% sure!

Watch an interactive version of this presentation (with journal example) on [https://youtu.be/ U8DvLu28pE](https://youtu.be/U8DvLu28pE)



Any questions?

Andy Nobes  
anobes@inasp.info

Bonus slides

# Author copyright and licensing

- When you publish an article with a journal, you will be required to either transfer copyright or give the journal the right to publish. You may have to complete one of these forms:

## Copyright transfer

- Copyright is transferred to the publisher or journal.
- Standard for subscription journals.
- Check the terms and conditions: can you share your work with colleagues, make copies, use in future work, use for teaching purposes?

**Before you sign over your copyright: check your author rights**

## Licence to publish

- Common for Open Access journals.
- You retain copyright of the work and can use, share and republish elsewhere.
- Work is usually published under an open Creative Commons licence – which give readers more rights.

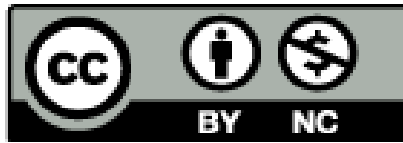
**Check the licence terms of your paper – are you happy with it? Are you happy for it to be reused, adapted, or even used for commercial purposes?**

# Creative Commons

These licences are often used in Open Access publishing to show users that they can share, copy, and reuse the work.

The CC-BY is the most 'open' licence, and the CC-BY-NC-ND is the least open, preventing any commercial use and changes to the work.

## LICENSES



## TERMS



## Attribution

**Others can copy, distribute, display, perform and remix your work if they credit your name as requested by you**



## No Derivative Works

**Others can only copy, distribute, display or perform verbatim copies of your work**



# Share Alike

**Others can distribute your work only under a license identical to the one you have chosen for your work**



## Non-Commercial

Others can copy, distribute, display, perform or remix your work but for non-commercial purposes only.



**Maria J. Cruz**

@gravana



**#OAI11** Ruth L. Okediji: "open science is not the lack of copyright". it allows you to use copyright to create an environment where others can access and reuse your work. only some rights reserved - attribution and integrity.

8:30 AM · Jun 20, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

**7** Retweets   **13** Likes



Source: <https://twitter.com/gravana/status/1141609305445142529>



Plan S

Making full and immediate Open Access a reality

Plan S

**Making full and  
immediate Open  
Access a reality**

## “cOAlition S” Funders

Why Plan S

Principles and Implementation





Who's involved

National science councils and agencies in:  
Austria, Finland, France, Ireleand, Italy,  
Luxemourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland,  
Slovenia, Sweden

- United Kingdom Research and Innovation (UKRI)
- Wellcome Trust
- Gates Foundation
- National Science and Technology Council of Zambia
- African Academy of Sciences?

# The Plan S Principles

“With effect from 2021, all scholarly publications on the results from research funded by public or private grants provided by national, regional and international research councils and funding bodies, must be published in Open Access Journals, on Open Access Platforms, or made immediately available through Open Access Repositories without embargo.”

-  **01** Authors or their institutions retain copyright to their publications. All publications must be published under an open license, preferably the Creative Commons Attribution license (CC BY), in order to fulfil the requirements defined by the [Berlin Declaration](#);
- 02** The Funders will develop robust criteria and requirements for the services that high-quality Open Access journals, Open Access platforms, and Open Access repositories must provide;
- 03** In cases where high-quality Open Access journals or platforms do not yet exist, the Funders will, in a coordinated way, provide incentives to establish and support them when appropriate; support will also be provided for Open Access infrastructures where necessary;
-  **04** Where applicable, Open Access publication fees are covered by the Funders or research institutions, not by individual researchers; it is acknowledged that all researchers should be able to publish their work Open Access;
- 05** The Funders support the diversity of business models for Open Access journals and platforms. When Open Access publication fees are applied, they must be commensurate with the publication services delivered and the structure of such fees must be transparent to inform the market and funders potential standardisation and capping of payments of fees;
- 06** The Funders encourage governments, universities, research organisations, libraries, academies, and learned societies to align their strategies, policies, and practices, notably to ensure transparency.
- 07** The above principles shall apply to all types of scholarly publications, but it is understood that the timeline to achieve Open Access for monographs and book chapters will be longer and requires a separate and due process;
- 08** The Funders do not support the ‘hybrid’ model of publishing. However, as a transitional pathway towards full Open Access within a clearly defined timeframe, and only as part of transformative arrangements, Funders may contribute to financially supporting such arrangements; 
- 09** The Funders will monitor compliance and sanction non-compliant beneficiaries/grantees;
- 10** The Funders commit that when assessing research outputs during funding decisions they will value the intrinsic merit of the work and not consider the publication channel, its impact factor (or other journal metrics), or the publisher. 

01

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