

*Consolidating Institutional Repositories in a Free Open Access Publication Platform*

# University Journals (UJs)

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28 June 2019



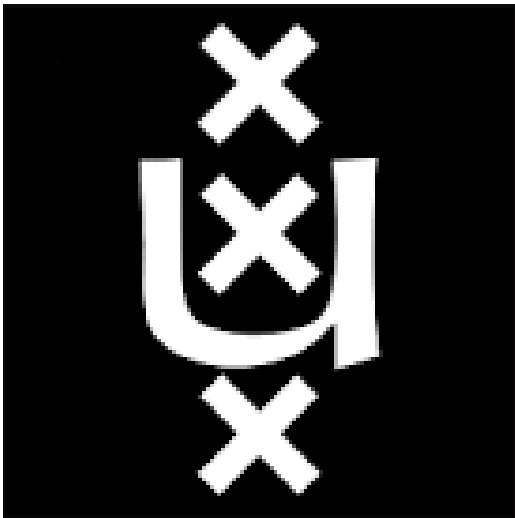




# Introduction

**Saskia Woutersen-Windhouver**

*Advisor of University Journals*



**Library of the University  
of Amsterdam**

*Repository manager &  
specialist electronic  
publishing*

2006-2018



**Leiden University  
Libraries**

*Digital Scholarship Librarian*

[\(Centre for Digital  
Scholarship\)](#)

2018 - current

# Content

- Introduction
- Aims, scope and organisation
- Quality assurance
- Editorial workflow
- Platform
- Conclusions



<https://universityjournals.eu/>

# UJs: Introduction

Founding father Prof. Frans J. Oort

- Affiliated at the University of Amsterdam
- Headed the working group on Academic Integrity
- [Memorandum \*University Journals\*](#)
- [Open Science coordinator](#)

UJs originates from the research community

To guard scientific integrity, to promote open science, and to retain copyright and ownership of texts, data, and all other products of research, universities must take control over publication and dissemination.

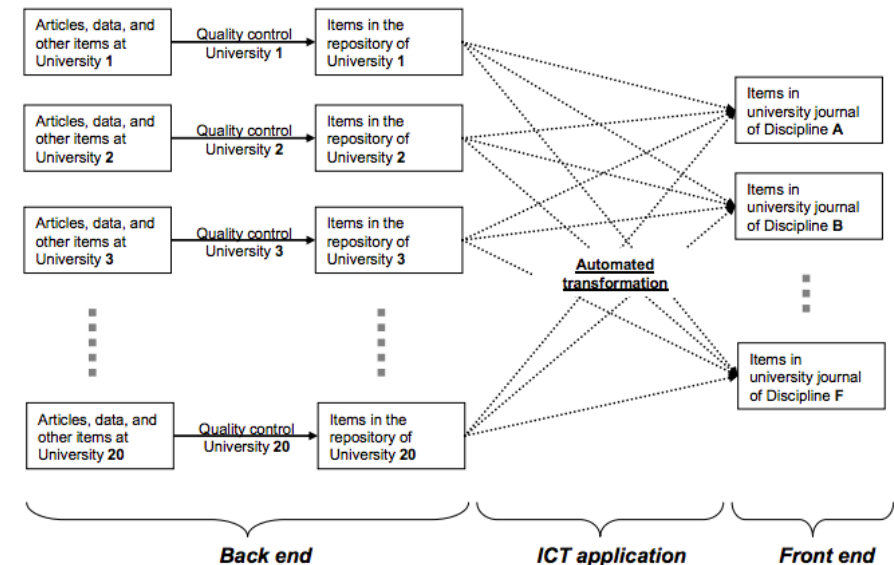
The progress of science requires research to be published quickly and fully. However, for various reasons, publication through commercial publishers tends to be slow, fragmentary, and selective. By using their own repositories, universities can establish an alternative publication platform that enables fast and comprehensive publication of all products of research, not only scientific articles, but also research reports, data sets, tests and questionnaires, intervention protocols, and software.

Many universities already use their own repositories for publication of research products. To make this option more attractive and accessible, we propose to consolidate such repositories in a set of electronic journals, hereinafter referred to as *university journals*.<sup>2</sup> Items in the repositories of universities can be automatically transformed into articles in university journals, organised by discipline, with their contents indexed in the same way as traditional journals (see Figure 1, last page).

Publication in electronic university journals, based on institutional repositories, with quality control by the institutions themselves, and management and editorial tasks delegated to the university libraries, can be accomplished with only modest resources and offers many advantages over the current system

[....]

Figure 1: From university-based repositories to discipline-based university journals.



# UJs: Aims and Scope

## *University Journals*

- Academic publishing services close to the university
  - collaboration of university libraries
  - alternative publication platform
  - based on institutional repositories
- Complies with Open Science ambitions
  - enables publication and dissemination and credits of *all* research products
  - Plan S, DORA and OA2020 principles
- Novel innovative transparent quality assurance

**With UJs university libraries can be instrumental (and crucial) in achieving the ambitions of Open Science.**

# UJs: academic publishing services close to the universities

- Collaboration of university libraries
- Alternative open access publication platform
- Owned and operated by partner universities
- Based on institutional repositories
- Distributed tasks

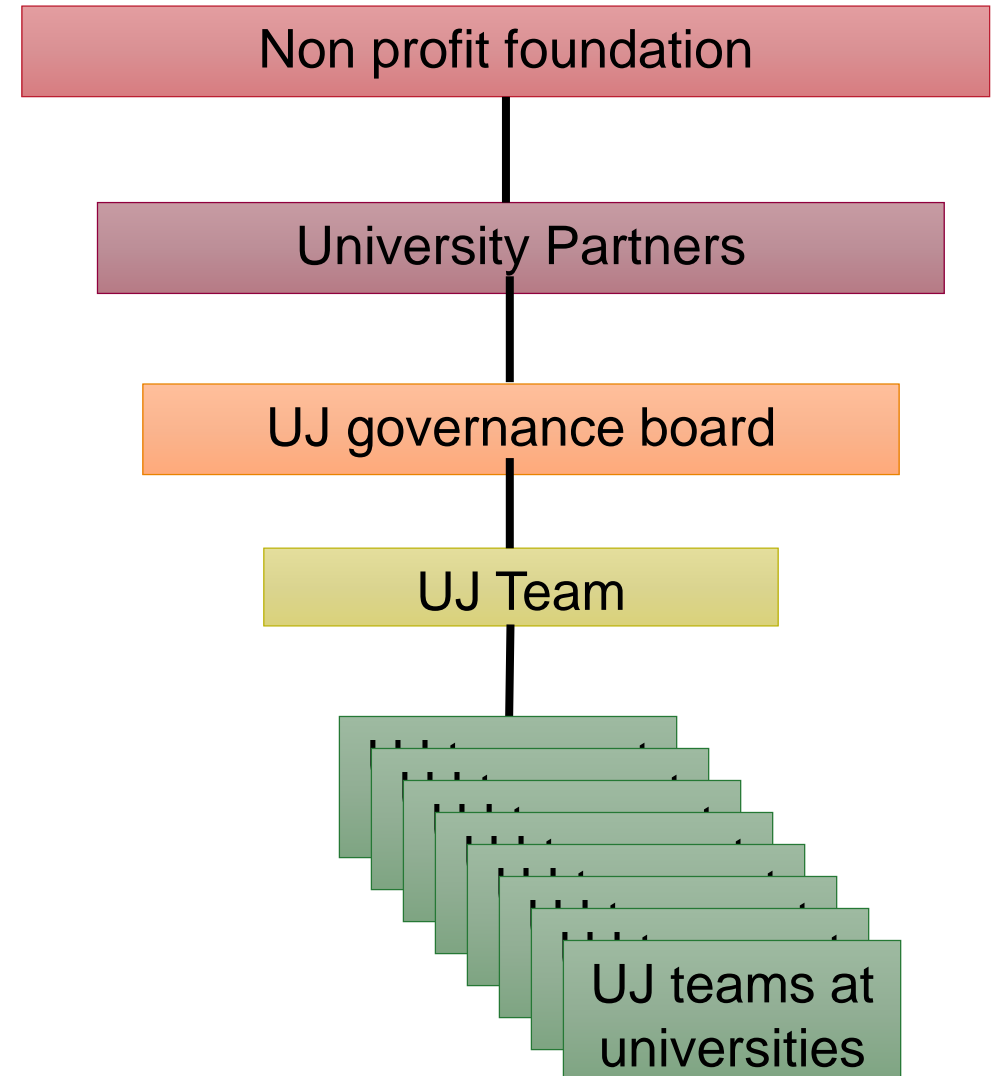
## Why

- *Publisher oligopoly, high publication costs, slow move to Open Access*
- *Publish fully and quickly, research integrity (no publication bias, sound science, etc.), promote the progress of science*



# UJs: Governance & structure

- Legal entity: non-profit foundation
- University partners: foundation members
- Governance board
- Team
  - administrator / developer
- UJ teams at universities
  - editors / administrators



# UJs: Open Science ambitions

All research output published & indexed to give researchers credit for all their work

- Open access incl. open content license
- Use of Persistent Identifiers (DOI)
- Single publication platform *but also community based (disciplines, institutions)*
- Articles, reports, books, datasets, protocols, methods, software & other research products
- Negative results and replication studies
- Quick and transparent review process for ‘sound science’ (not novelty or impact)

**UJs will provide a valuable way of modern scholarly communication as demanded in the transition to Open Science**

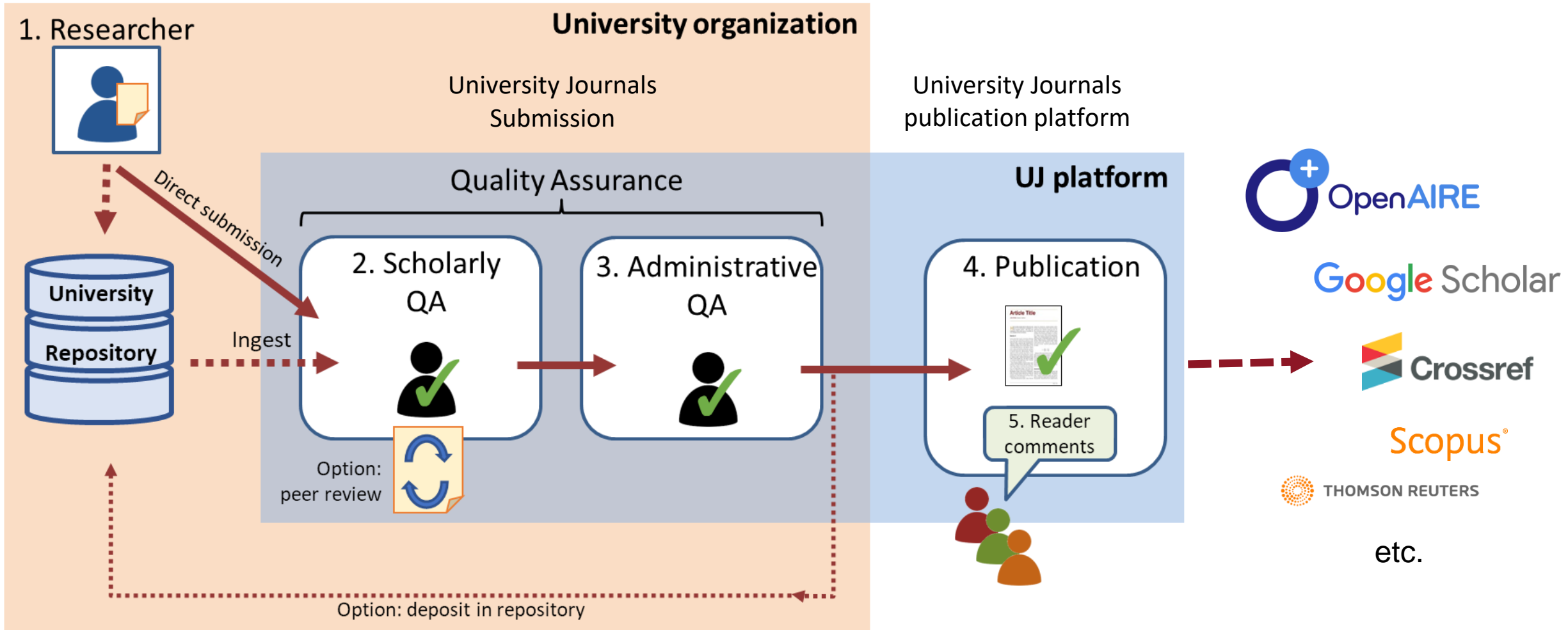


## **UJs: novel innovative transparent quality assurance**

At base level all submissions are subjected to rigorous quality assurance checks based on existing best-practices (i.e. COPE) and operated by the universities themselves

- Internal quality control (delegated to university) based on trust vs anonymous reviewer
- Scientifically sound vs novelty or impact
- Traditional peer review is optional and will be voluntary, open and transparent.
- Badge to signify the kind of quality assurance or (peer) review vs unclear procedures
- Fast turnaround vs lengthy time-to-decision
- Predictable outcome vs high rejection rates and inefficient resubmissions

# UJs: workflow



# UJs: repositories presented as a journal platform

The University Journals publishing platform is built on journal technology but is not structured like a traditional journal or university press.

## Authors

- Open and institutional repositories are not part of the rewarding system
  - do not publish open access (although funders and institutions require it)
  - find institutional repositories not attractive and accessible

**Researchers are more likely to publish and deposit their scientific publications in a repository, once they have the appearance, recognition and dissemination of a scientific journal**

# UJs: Institutional article page

## University of Amsterdam

Research Article BioDiscovery 20: e21596  
https://doi.org/10.3897/biodiscovery.20.e21596 (15 Dec 2017)

### Antibacterial activity of thin films TiO<sub>2</sub> doped with Ag and Cu on Gracilicutes and Firmicutes bacteria

▼ Dragomira S. Stoyanova, Iliana A. Ivanova, Orlin I. Angelov, Todorka G. Vladkova

**Abstract ▲**

This article aims to explore the antibacterial activity of thin films of TiO<sub>2</sub> doped with Ag and Cu on two types of Gram-negative and Gram-positive test bacteria with clinical significance (Gracilicutes and Firmicutes bacteria). The thin films (thickness of about 60 nm) were deposited on glass substrates by radio frequency magnetron co-sputtering (r.f. power of 50 W) of TiO<sub>2</sub> target with Ag and Cu pieces on its surface in an Ar atmosphere (0.8 Pa) without heating during the deposition. The total surface area of the Ag was 60 mm<sup>2</sup> and that of the Cu was 100 mm<sup>2</sup>. *Bacillus cereus*, *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, *Salmonella enterica*, *Escherichia coli* and *Pseudomonas sp.* were used as test strains. The antibacterial activity of the films was evaluated by the classical Koch's method and optical density measurements. The bactericidal effect was established at different time points between 30 min and 90 min for *Pseudomonas sp.* and *S. enterica*. The Firmicutes bacteria *B. cereus* and *S. epidermidis* were killed at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> hour of the treatment, respectively. The effect on *E. coli* was bacteriostatic until the 10<sup>th</sup> hour. The results were confirmed by assessment of the

## UNIVERSITY JOURNAL


Repository [view here](#)

Submitted 5 January 2019

**UJ** Quality reviewed 7 January 2019

**UJ** Peer-reviewed [view review report](#)

Accepted 25 January 2019



4278

[See more details](#)

- Tweeted by 3838
- Blogged by 24
- On 895 Facebook pages
- Mentioned in 54 Google+ posts
- Picked up by 28 news outlets
- Reddited by 15
- 5 readers on Mendeley
- 0 readers on CiteULike

University branding

Link to repository

Open reviews

Next generation metrics



# UJs: Community based article page

## Biology

Research Article BioDiscovery 20: e21596  
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# UJs: Development and timeline

*Thirteen universities are setting up the publication and dissemination process.*

December 2018	Starting grant Stichting PICA to establish <i>University Journals</i>
May 2019	Preliminary plan & workflow, first partner meeting in Utrecht
October 2019	Final plan + budget
Q1-Q2 2020	Technical development
June 2020	(Beta)version of the platform is scheduled to be online.
Q3 2020	Launch

**The first steps are made to collaboratively shape UJs in more detail**

# UJs: Advantages for institutions

UJs gives universities their own alternative open access publishing platform linked to existing infrastructure.

- UJs brings all content together on a single platform, linked to existing repositories
  - efficient and cost-effective
- UJs is governed by the participating universities
- University sets policies for its own quality assurance
- UJs is fully compliant with current funder mandates and the forthcoming Plan S

**UJs provides infrastructure that allows universities to help their researchers to publish more efficiently and cost-effectively on a high quality platform**

# UJs: Advantages for authors

The UJs provide researchers with a convenient, fast and flexible route towards an indexed journal publication.

- High quality indexed open access journal
- Recognition for several publication types
- Models for quality assurance depend on article type
- University name brings prestige and impact
- No 'Pay-to-Publish', no transfer of copyright
- Fully compliant with funder OA mandates and Plan S

**The journal format will help ensure the commitment and acceptance by academic authors.**



# UJs: Conclusion

- Brings academic publishing services close to the university with only modest resources
- UJs complies with Open Science ambitions
- Publications will rely on internal efficient quality control
- Authors can be open access compliant without paying a fee and the journal format will help ensure the commitment and acceptance by academic authors
- With UJs university libraries will be instrumental (and crucial) in achieving the ambitions of Open Science.

UJs is a Practical Commitment for Implementation from the University Libraries and their repositories. Open Science at “action” level

**There is an open invitation for other universities to join the collaboration**



# Thank you for your attention

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