

Journal Observatory

*Toward systematic high-quality information
on scientific journals*

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Peer review and preprint policies are unclear at most major journals

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[See the preprint](#)

Article	Authors	Metrics	Comments	Media Coverage	Peer Review
					

Abstract

Introduction

Results

Discussion

Data and methods

Supporting information

Acknowledgments

References

Abstract

Clear and findable publishing policies are important for authors to choose appropriate journals for publication. We investigated the clarity of policies of 171 major academic journals across disciplines regarding peer review and preprinting. 31.6% of journals surveyed do not provide information on the type of peer review they use. Information on whether preprints can be posted or not is unclear in 39.2% of journals. 58.5% of journals offer no clear information on whether reviewer identities are revealed to authors. Around 75% of journals have no clear policy on co-reviewing, citation of preprints, and publication of reviewer identities. Information regarding practices of open peer review is even more scarce, with <20% of journals providing clear information. Having found a lack of clear information, we conclude by examining the implications this has for researchers (especially early career) and the spread of open research practices.

How to organize scholarly publishing, and what do we actually know about our journals?

- How do journals organize **quality assurance and peer review**?
- How do journals support **open access publishing**?
- What kinds of **open metadata** do journals make available?
- How do journals support **preregistration, preprinting and data sharing**?
- How **diverse** are the editorial teams of journals?
- What kinds of **experiences** do researchers have with a journal?
- What kinds of **impact** does the research published in a journal have?

Infrastructures for journal information

Open Editors



Participation
Reports



Responsible Journals

Sherpa Romeo

JOURNAL CHECKER TOOL

Transpose



TOP FACTOR

Clarivate™

CABELLS
SCHOLARLY ANALYTICS

Quality Open Access Marker

Journal Citation Reports



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Systematize information on journal policies and practices - A call to action

📅 August 31, 2020 - 📄 Resources - 💬 2 comments - ⌚ 3 min read

Recently the creators of Transpose and the Platform for Responsible Editorial Policies convened an online workshop on infrastructures that provide information on scholarly journals. In this blog post they look back at the workshop and discuss next steps.

The outcomes of the workshop “will hopefully provide a starting point for a more ambitious long-term agenda, aimed at working toward some kind of integrated infrastructure for providing systematic and reliable information on scholarly journals”

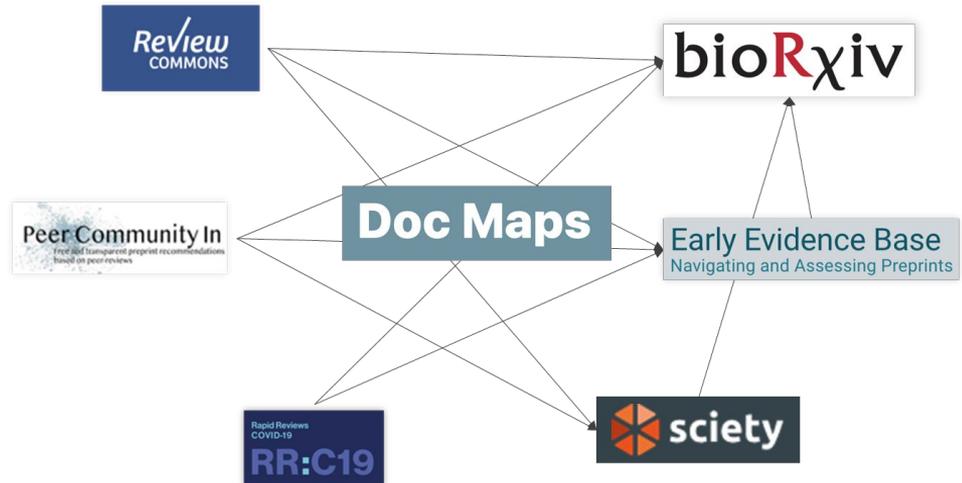
Aims of the Journal Observatory project

1. To bring together a community of stakeholders that are committed to making journal information more easily accessible
2. To design a framework for making journal information accessible in a machine-readable way
3. To create a prototype of the Journal Observatory

Framework for machine-readable journal information

- Strict vs. generic standard
- Retrieval vs. deposit model
- Harmonizing information from different sources
- Licensing conditions

From DocMaps to JournalMaps?



Prototype of the Journal Observatory

- Simple website + API
- Simple implementation of our framework for machine-readable journal information
- Limited information based on pilots with selected stakeholders, e.g.:
 - Open access
 - Peer review
 - Bibliometrics



**Advancing
trusted research**

“Machine readability of the review terminology applied to journals and individual articles is a longer term goal of this initiative, but not included in this phase”

1.0	July 15 2020	Developed by the Working Group with comments/input from selected organizations and individuals.
1.5	Sept 20 2020	Adapted version based on comments received in the consultation phase.
2.0	Sept 29 2020	Adapted version based on comments on version 1.5
2.1	December 2 2021	Several changes, more prominently change 'taxonomy' with 'terminology'

Next steps

- One-year project (March 2022-February 2023)
- Stakeholder workshop in March 2022
- Formation of stakeholder group
- Selection of pilots

Let us know if you would like to be involved!

Long-term vision

- Stakeholders will jointly **continue the development of our framework** for machine-readable journal information
- Infrastructure organizations will use our framework to **make journal information accessible in a machine-readable way**
- Researchers, publishers, librarians, funders and other stakeholders will use the information to support the **transition to more open approaches to scholarly publishing**

Thank you for your attention!