

*Help! I'm an author – get me out of here:*  
A wish list for better research dissemination

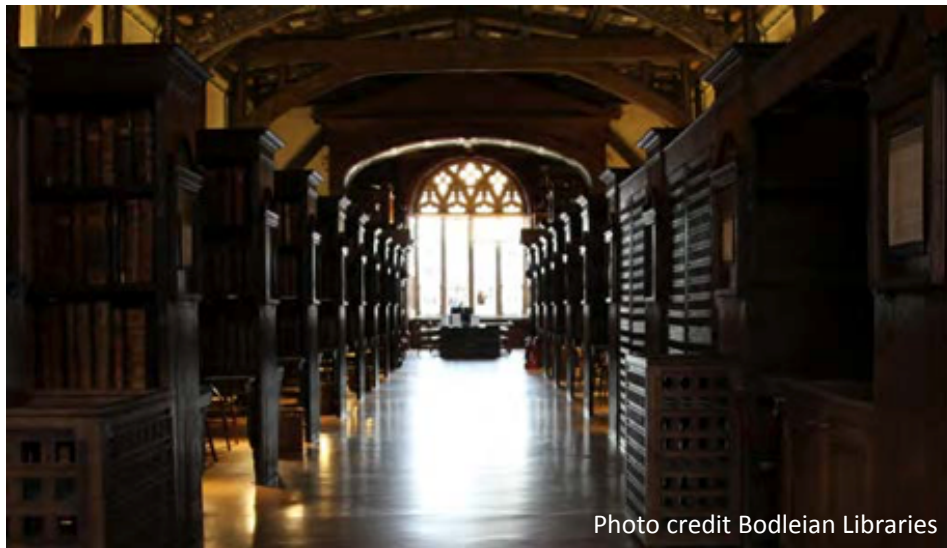


Photo credit Bodleian Libraries

Sally Rumsey  
Head of Scholarly  
Communications & RDM,  
The Bodleian Libraries,  
University of Oxford



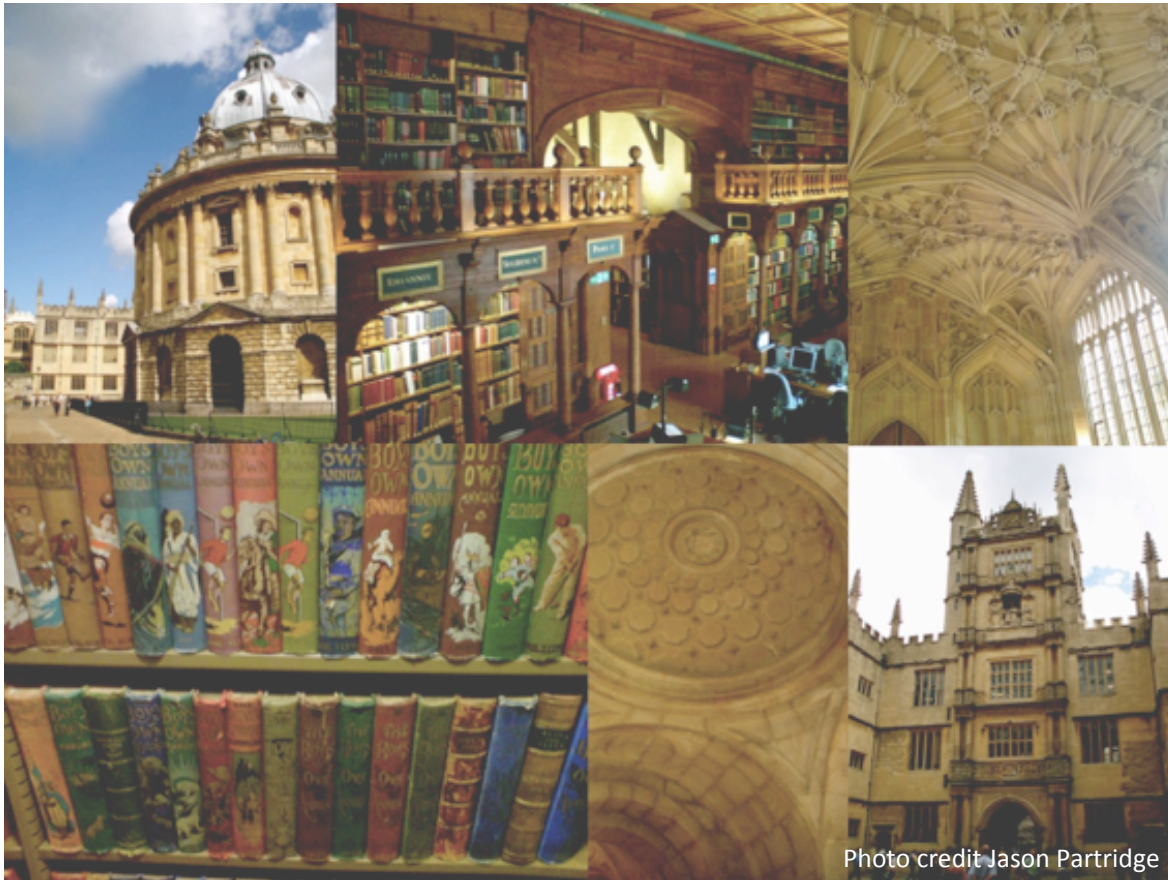
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# Introduction

- Open access to research outputs
- Not dataset outputs
- Research intensive university
- From author perspective
- Wish list of solutions

# Authors' comments, gripes and problems



# 1. Time wasting and automation

“Do not waste my time asking me to complete separate details of all authors for submission – even before the paper has been accepted.”

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

# An old complaint but it still stands

*“You'd think the advent of electronic submission would make life easier, but in fact it can just open up a whole new world of tiny, fiddly things that you are required to do before your paper is submitted. Each individual thing is usually fairly trivial, but they do add up. So, for instance, **if you'd like your authors to suggest referees, please allow them to paste in a list. DO NOT require them to cut and paste title, forename, initial, surname, email and institution into your horrible little boxes for each of six potential referees.** It all takes TIME. And we have more important things in life to be getting on with. Including doing the science that allows us to get the point of writing a paper.”*

# Interpreting the comments

- I don't like:
  - Manually entering (and re-entering) data
  - That free text typing is required for many fields which is prone to errors and inconsistencies
  - That systems don't talk to each other

## 2. Lack of author control

As an author:

*“I want more control over the publication and dissemination process. We are giving content free. I’m the customer, not the workman ... Publishers have preyed on academics. They should be doing a job for us”*



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

*“There is an underlying problem of management and ownership of information. It’s a chaotic transition – fraught because so much rides on it, for example, funding”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford



# Realisation

## 1 of your full-texts isn't public yet

Quickly make it publicly available on your profile to help create more visibility for your research.



[Add public full-text](#)

[Not now](#)

R<sup>G</sup>



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

*“We want to  
share our work  
with anyone  
and everybody”*

Medical science researchers,  
University of Oxford

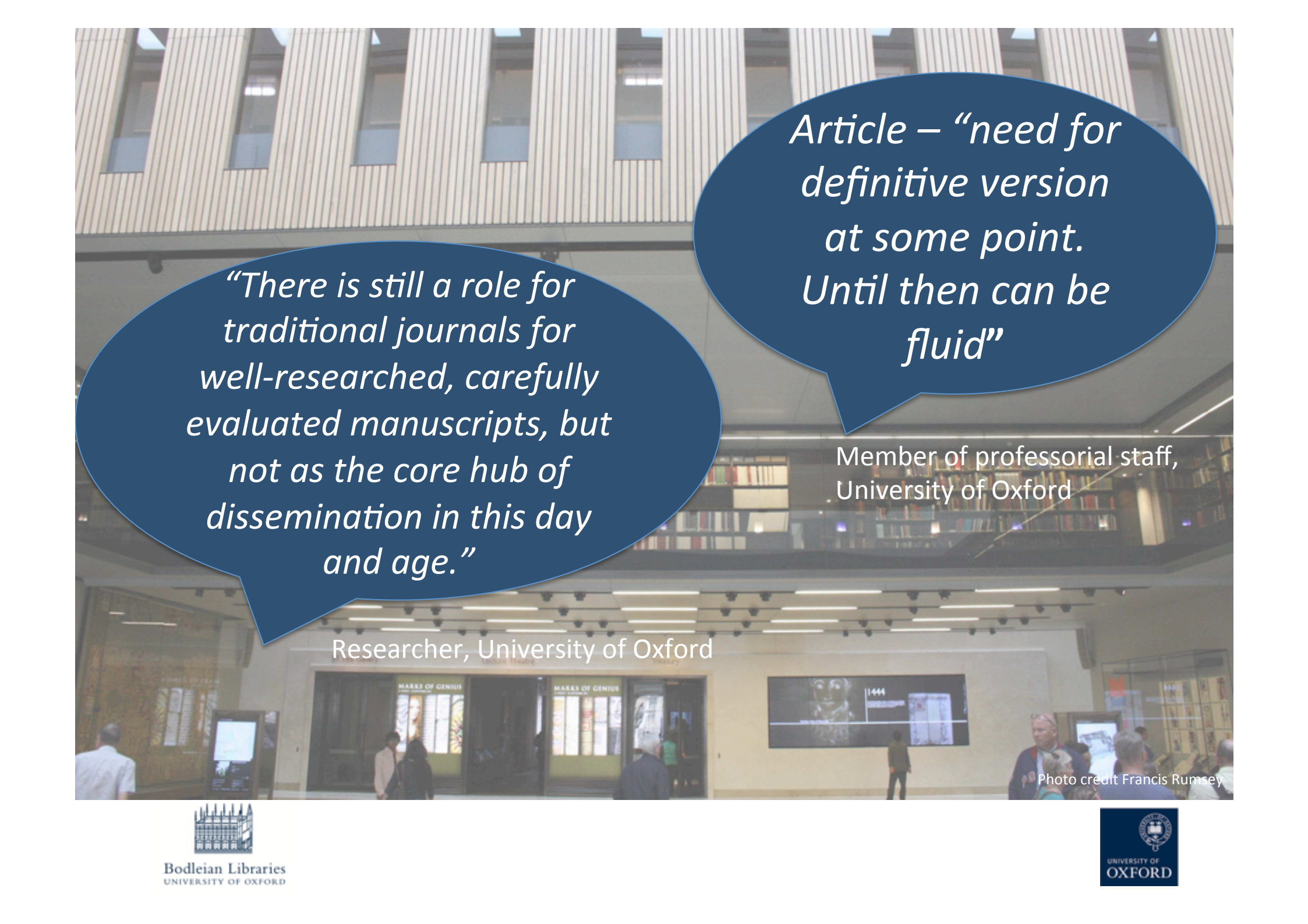
*“Speed of publication is very important because it affects metrics and funding”*



Medical science researchers,  
University of Oxford

# Changing model & new forms of dissemination

*“We are in the death throes of journal publishing. None of us knows where it’s going. We are excited, energized and threatened. All are jockeying for position in a landscape where we don’t know where it’s going. It’s a symptom of chaos”*



*“There is still a role for traditional journals for well-researched, carefully evaluated manuscripts, but not as the core hub of dissemination in this day and age.”*

*Article – “need for definitive version at some point. Until then can be fluid”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

Researcher, University of Oxford

Photo credit Francis Rumsey



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*“Hybrid will not last. We are trying to save a failing model”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

# The traditional model of publishing is being challenged

The writing is on the wall

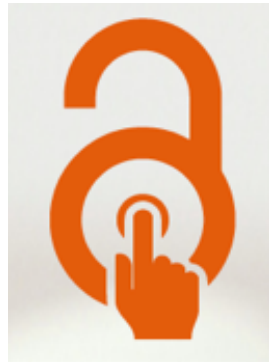
Image link

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/paintings/picture-of-the-month/picture-of-the-month-march>

Rembrandt, 'Belshazzar's Feast', about 1636–8

Photo © The National Gallery, London

# What's on offer to authors?

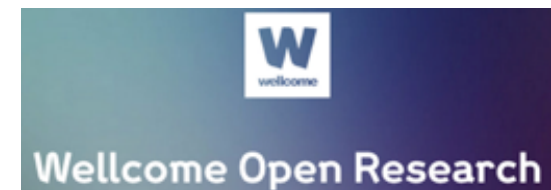
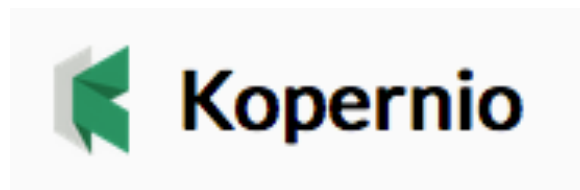
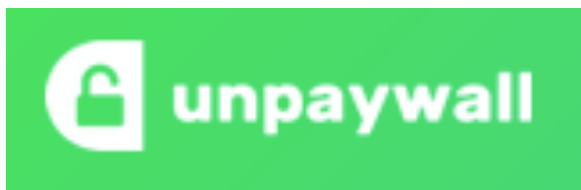


**bioRxiv**  
beta  
THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

**ACADEMIA**



**PeerJ Preprints**



# Pre-print servers

*“Pre-print servers like BioArxiv are at a tipping point. I would use it”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

# Rights & Dissemination



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# The conundrum

Two mutually contradictory points are being promoted at the same time

## **On the one hand...**

We'll disseminate your work to the widest possible audience

## **...and on the other**

You can only share your work with certain people using certain channels at a certain time

# An example

## 5 ways Taylor & Francis maximize the reach of research



Although it may feel like the end of the process, getting your article published is the beginning of a new journey. Ensuring that your work is read (and ultimately cited) by as many researchers as possible is at the very center of what we do at Taylor & Francis. Here are just a few of the ways we're maximizing the reach of your work, and some ideas on how you can help too.

“Although it may feel like the end of the process, getting your article published is the beginning of a new journey. **Ensuring that your work is read (and ultimately cited) by as many researchers as possible** is at the very center of what we do at Taylor & Francis.... Your research can then be accessed in repositories or databases, usually **following an embargo period.**”

# Public engagement?



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

## “Step 5 - Dissemination

When you allow the public to work closely with you in shaping important, emotive research findings, disseminating the final project is often organic. Organisations that you consulted and shared your public engagement plans with early on, or who’ve put you in touch with others, **will often be curious about what you’ve produced**, and will be **keen to show it to others**. Make sure you **explore the sharing options** for your published work **as thoroughly as possible.**”

<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/authors-update/how-to-drive-public-engagement-with-your-article-introducing-the-new-sense-about-science-guide>



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**Check publisher guidelines and read the STM voluntary principles for article sharing**

**How can I share it?**

[howcanishareit.com](https://www.howcanishareit.com)

# STM Sharing Principles



## Voluntary principles for article sharing on scholarly collaboration networks (Revised 8 June 2015)

Scholarly research is by its nature collaborative. Teams of researchers and scientists in the academic and not-for-profit sectors share experience, expertise, and facilities in order to advance human knowledge and understanding. Nowhere is this more evident than in the sharing of scholarly articles – the majority of which include multiple authors, often from different institutions and countries. Sharing of articles and supplementary material is thus an important factor in advancing research.

As research groups have become more interdisciplinary and international, such sharing has increased, enabled by the rise of internet tools and technologies. Scholarly collaboration networks offer researchers the opportunity to discover and share articles and data, but the sharing experience can be inefficient, inconsistent, hindered by legal uncertainty and frustrating for academic researchers, institutions, collaboration networks and publishers.

We would like to make sharing of subscription and licensed content simple and seamless for academic researchers so that it is consistent with access and usage rights associated with articles while enhancing collaboration. We believe publishers and scholarly collaboration networks can work together to facilitate sharing, which benefits researchers, institutions, and society as a whole, with a core set of principles that maximize this experience for all.

Open Access publication provides one route to enable sharing but does not address sharing of subscription and licensed content. These voluntary principles are intended to address that gap, and be complementary to, not as a substitute for, Open Access publication or self-archiving. They are also not meant to address sharing by and between commercial organizations.

The signatories to these principles believe:

- Publishers have a core commitment to facilitate the dissemination and

Email to author on publication online:

Dear Dr [NAME],

....

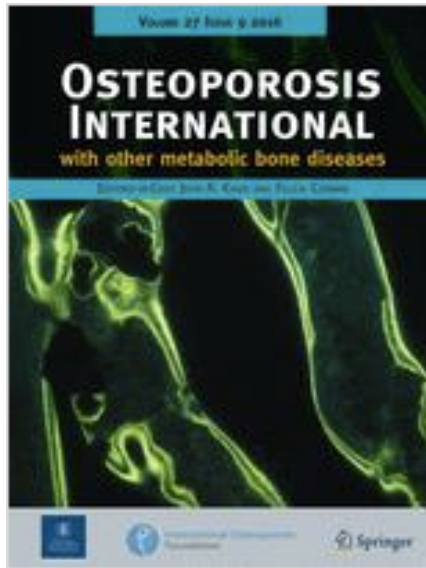
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[www.elsevier.com/sharing-articles](http://www.elsevier.com/sharing-articles).

# See the small print through a researcher's eyes

Work only to be used in service X from date Y by only people Z = over-complexity

STM principles “*Sharing should be allowed within research collaboration groups, namely groups of scholars or researchers invited to participate in specific research collaborations.*”



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# What's wrong with this?

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# Access & scientific debate



- Sept 2016
- Hobson and Bishop
- Original article
- APC paid
- Published OA

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010945216300570>

\* Corresponding author. MRC Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London, 16 De Crespigny Park, London, SE5 8AF, UK.  
E-mail address: [hannah.hobson@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:hannah.hobson@kcl.ac.uk) (H.M. Hobson).  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2016.03.019>  
0270-7292/© 2016 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).

- Nov 2017 (eventually)
- Bowman et al commentary on article published
- Same journal
- Behind paywall
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2017.03.025>

CORTEX 96 (2017) 121–125

Available online at [www.sciencedirect.com](http://www.sciencedirect.com)

**ScienceDirect**

Journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/cortex](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/cortex)





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**Discussion forum**

**The mu-rhythm can mirror: Insights from experimental design, and looking past the controversy**

**Lindsay C. Bowman**<sup>a,\*</sup>, **Marian J. Bakermans-Kranenburg**<sup>b</sup>, **Kathryn H. Yoo**<sup>a</sup>, **Erin N. Cannon**<sup>c</sup>, **Ross E. Vanderwert**<sup>d</sup>, **Pier F. Ferrari**<sup>e</sup>, **Marinus H. van IJzendoorn**<sup>b</sup> and **Nathan A. Fox**<sup>c</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> Leiden University, The Netherlands  
<sup>c</sup> University of Maryland, College Park, USA  
<sup>d</sup> Cardiff University, UK  
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CORTEX 96 (2017) 126–128

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**Discussion forum**

**Reply to Bowman et al.: Building the foundations for moving mu suppression research forward**

**Hannah M. Hobson**<sup>a,\*</sup> and **Dorothy V.M. Bishop**<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, London, King's College London, 16 De Crespigny Park, London, SE5 8AF, UK  
<sup>b</sup> Department of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, South Parks Road, Oxford, OX1 3UD, UK



- Nov 2017
- Hobson & Bishop
- Reply to commentary published
- Behind paywall – queried
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2017.06.012>

# Outcome

- Authors complained – having paid an APC for the original, would like ongoing discussion OA as well
- Publisher offered to make authors' response OA
- Odd if Bowman commentary not OA if both Hobson & Bishop pieces OA
- Publisher did not make response fully OA
- ...made authors' response OA – but only for 50 days
- Disgruntled authors

# Embargo inconsistencies: example

- Student whose research was funded by EPSRC
- The student included an article, for which they are an author, as part of their thesis
- Thesis permission: The publisher permits the article VoR to be used in the thesis and made OA immediately electronically
- OA permission: The publisher does not permit the VoR to be made available in the institutional repository
- OA permission: the publisher requires a 24 month embargo for the AAM
- The AAM permission is not compliant with the funder

# Cost

*“I’m disappointed that RCUK and Wellcome Trust have backed the gold model.”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

## What the previous commenter went on to say

*“I want more control over the publication and dissemination process. We are giving content free. I’m the customer, not the workman ... Publishers have preyed on academics. They should be doing a job for us....I resent paying high prices to [publisher name]”*

Member of professorial staff,  
University of Oxford

# Money worries

- Limited pot
- Non-APC publication charges
- Costs for a research-intensive university
- Rising prices
- Competitive market economy?
- Authors can be shielded from costs
- Prefer payment models that actually reduce overall prices
- Charging model limiting discussion of science

# UUK report, December 2017



- More hybrid than fully OA
- “The mean average APC payment rose from £1,699 in 2013 to £1,969 in 2016, a rise of 16%”
- Subscription costs are still rising
- “the total amount being paid by institutions is still rising”

<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/policy-and-analysis/reports/Documents/2017/monitoring-transition-open-access-2017.pdf>

# What I want from a publisher as a reader:

*“Easy access without embargo. To be able to get hold of stuff easily.”*

*“Barrier free access to research findings is becoming the norm for researchers globally.”*

# Quality control

*“Quality control is important and not always evident. There is uneven refereeing. I would like to be assured of always respected people in their field such as those from scholarly societies – people who know their subject area.”*

*“Open review and comments can help to reduce bias and discrimination including age, professional standing, gender, reputation of institutions and countries, and social groups.”*

*Open data. “Currently there is poor reproducibility. The whole pipeline should be open: research methods; data; code.”*

Researchers,  
University of Oxford

# Quality control 2

*"I'd like to publish information that is of value to the community but not high impact, and have it peer reviewed for sense. Assign a DOI. Like original aim of PLoSOne."*

*"I'd like TripAdvisor type 'thumbs-up like' to indicate quality of methods to support reproducibility."*

*"Things tend to get published that are newsworthy or novel. What we need is good replication – we very seldom get this. Therefore I often have no confidence in the literature. There is a danger of public suspicion of science."*

Researchers,  
University of Oxford



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

The first step is to acknowledge there  
is a problem

# Mass trespass

## What was it?

- April 1932
- People from Manchester and Sheffield
- Kinder Scout, Peak District

## Context

- Landowners rarely used the moorland ~ 12 days p.a.
- Of 150,000 acres, only 1,200 acres (<1%) was available for public access
- There were only 12 legal paths
- Around 15,000 working class ramblers wanted to enjoy the land each Sunday

## The demands

Open a public path across Kinder Scout to allow ramblers through when the land was not in use

## The result

- A scuffle with police
- 5 men from Manchester were jailed

## Outcomes

- The arrests and imprisonment ignited public sympathy and united the ramblers cause
- Result: National Parks legislation; Pennine Way; Walkers rights over open country and common land; right to roam (CROW act, 2000)

*“The shift in the pattern of land ownership caught us largely unawares in the last century”*

Roly Smith

<http://kindertrespass.com/index.asp?ID=141>

Countryside & rights of way Act, 2000

<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1378>

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  - ▶ Conventions

## The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

[The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000](#) (CRoW Act 2000) applies to England and Wales only, received Royal Assent on 30 November 2000, with the provisions it contains being brought into force in incremental steps over subsequent years. Containing five Parts and 16 Schedules, the Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Act is compliant with the provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights, requiring consultation where the rights of the individual may be affected by these measures.

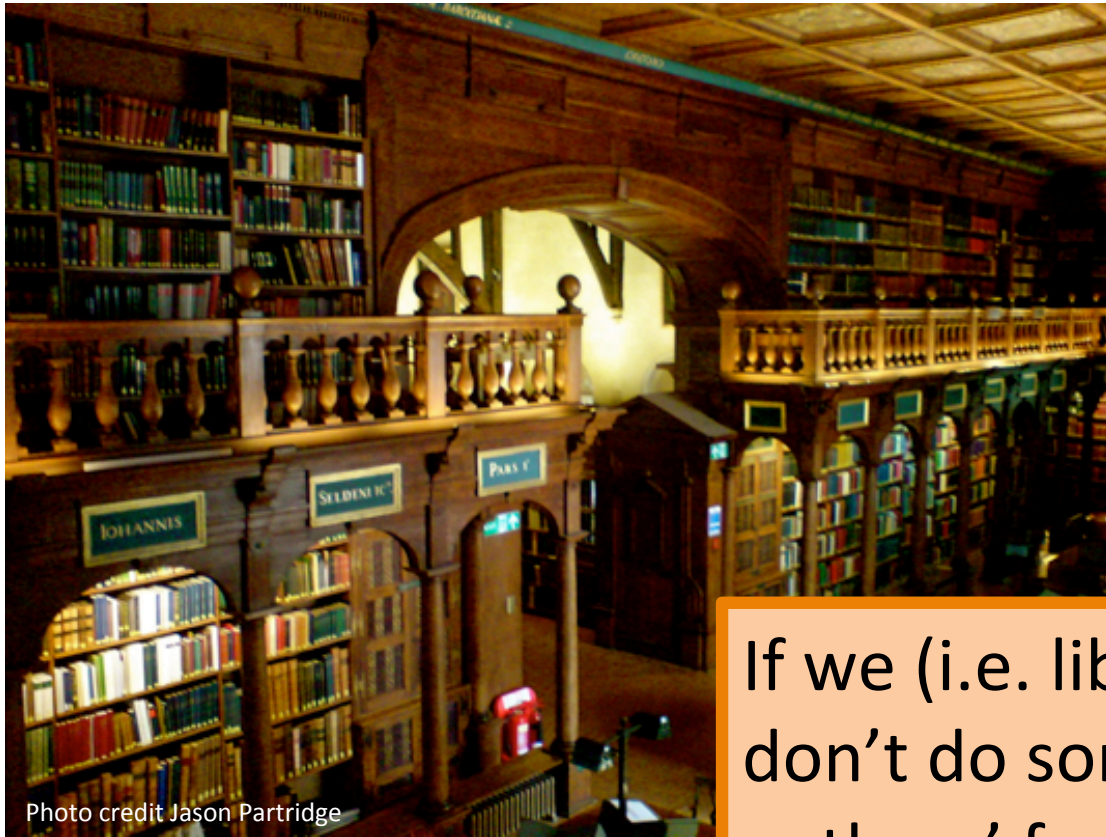


Photo credit Jason Partridge

## The emperor's new clothes

If we (i.e. libraries and publishers) don't do something about authors' freedom to disseminate and access research outputs, researchers will take (are taking) the matter into their own hands, and not necessarily legally.



# Game changers



“ASNs [Academic Social Networks] have for many become the primary way to provide access to one’s research output, outpacing all other types of online locations such as personal websites and repositories.”

<https://theidealis.org/research-output-availability-on-social-networks-implications-for-stakeholders-in-publishing/>



“If the free distribution of VoRs on Sci-hub for years has not killed subscriptions, why is anyone worried about a very limited set of AAMs [in repositories]? Now that is an argument I would be very interested in hearing a sensible reply to!”

[Scholarly publisher]



**The easy access genie is  
out of the internet bottle**

# Competing or complementary?

“One of the key issues is whether different methods to increase availability should be seen as **competing or complementary** to each other, and where researcher’s priorities should lie if maximum benefits from disseminating one’s work are to be achieved.” [http://mikaellaakso.com/Laakso\\_et\\_al\\_2017\\_ASN.pdf](http://mikaellaakso.com/Laakso_et_al_2017_ASN.pdf)

Embargo: “***A stoppage, prohibition, impediment***”  
(OED)

Embargo = access barrier

Budapest OA declaration uses the following terms:

- ‘unrestricted access’
- ‘Removing access barriers’
- ‘free and unrestricted online availability’
- ‘remove the barriers’

<http://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>

**EMBARGO**

# What are we trying to do?



Open access  $\neq$  compliance

Green open access is  
complementary to formal  
publication

Green OA  $\neq$  embargo



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# Wish list

# Integration and interoperability

1. Adopt interoperable and open standards and practices
2. Automation
3. Require/encourage ORCIDs for all authors
4. Direct authors to their institution to obtain a verified affiliation ORCID
5. Assign DOIs on acceptance
6. Include funder information in metadata
7. Include licence info for gold items in metadata
8. Adopt common taxonomies
9. Participate fully in Jisc Publications Router

# Help HEIs to help authors

- Keep libraries in the loop
- Resolve the conflict between widest dissemination & limited sharing
- Help us to help authors stop breaking the law and your terms
- Many HEIs want to manage their own digital assets
- Interoperate with national and similar independent services
- Simplify & automate
  - Things are complex now
  - BUT we do not want processes taken out of our hands
  - CHORUS is not the solution we want
  - Individual publishers' direct input to IRs is not the answer
- Digital preservation



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

# Cost wishlist

- Encourage authors to check money is available for publication charges before committing
- Remove outrageous publication charges
- Be transparent
- Rising prices are a problem
- Currently maintaining a scholarly publishing system that is outdated

# Author control / changing model, access, embargo

1. All authors retain copyright with no restrictions
2. Don't limit sharing to groups or individuals
3. Don't limit sharing by system, service or type of repository
4. Zero embargo for AAMs
5. If an APC paid for OA to an article – all subsequent responses/discussions to that article to be open
6. Leave choice of licence for AAMs to author
7. Attach a licence to all gold OA articles to ensure they stay open for the long term
8. Avoid higher fees for less restrictive open licenses
9. Get rid of 'open for a limited period' - once it's open, it's open
10. Do away with long complex terms & conditions documents
11. Permit theses to be disseminated online prior to publishing other type of publication emanating from the thesis.

# A final thought



Photo credit Francis Rumsey

Two mutually contradictory points are being promoted at the same time

Resolve the conundrum

Instead of trying to change culture and practice, change the rules



# Thank you

Sally Rumsey  
Head of Scholarly Communications & RDM  
The Bodleian Libraries  
University of Oxford  
[sally.rumsey@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sally.rumsey@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

