

Open Access Ambassadors. Dec. 3-4, 2014. Munich, Germany.

My experiences with open access publishing as an early-career researcher

Erin C. McKiernan

Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Psychology
Wilfrid Laurier University

Visiting Scholar
Institute of Mathematics
National Autonomous University of Mexico

I began my research career here...

At many large research universities, researchers don't see the access problem.



University of Arizona; Photo: Huperphuff via Wikipedia, CC BY 3.0

...then I graduated and things changed

Many students and postdocs lose access when they graduate or change jobs.



Image: retrographix.com

I moved to Puerto Rico to work with students



Students struggled to access literature for their research



Real emails from my students needing access

[REDACTED]
To: "Profa. Erin McKiernan" <emck31@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 14, 2012 at 1:22 AM

Hi Erin! I found this article and I want to read it, but I have to pay for it. Can you download it for me?

[REDACTED]
To: "Profa. Erin McKiernan" <emck31@gmail.com>

Thu, Mar 15, 2012 at 4:26 AM

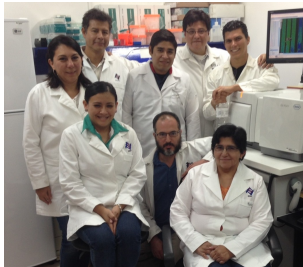
Hi Erin. I need help, can you download these two articles for me? Its for my other research.

[REDACTED]
To: "Profa. Erin McKiernan" <emck31@gmail.com>

Sat, Mar 17, 2012 at 5:37 PM

Hi Erin. Another download, please? I feel ashamed asking you again, but I cant download them, I tried going through UPR Library but it didn't worked.

Then I moved to Mexico...



Photos: Tina Godoy

Some institutions in Mexico have insufficient access



Photo: Delmoral815, via Wikimedia

The National Institute of Public Health is a federal research institute.

~300 researchers, ~700 students

Access at INSP:

- **139** journals in total accessible via institute
- 88 journals in total with electronic access
- 66 journals with electronic access via paid subscriptions
- 22 journals with free electronic access provided by publisher
- 51 print-only journals (e.g. Cell, Nature, Science)
- access to select journals through consortium (CONRICyT)

Thanks to Edgar Aguilar Vera at INSP for info.

High costs of subscriptions are prohibitive

Researchers in the institute study Chagas' disease, cholera, dengue, HIV, influenza, malaria, tuberculosis...

INSP does **NOT** have access to:

- Annual Reviews of Medicine
- Current Biology
- Nature Medicine
- Nature Immunology
- PNAS
- ...and MANY more

What is the limiting factor? COST.



Photos: Erwin Huebner (top); James Gathany (middle); C. Goldsmith (bottom) via Wikimedia Commons

The last time I will ever do this

Springer springerauthorquery@springeronline.com via upr.edu
to Erin.McKiernan ▾

7/12/12



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What can I do as an individual researcher to improve access?



My pledge to be open

- I will not edit, review, or work for closed access journals.
- I will blog my work and post preprints, when possible.
- I will publish only in open access journals.
- I will not publish in Cell, Nature, or Science.
- I will pull my name off a paper if coauthors refuse to be open.



If I am going to 'make it' in science, it has to be on terms I can live with.

Concerns of early-career researchers



Erin McKiernan

@emckiernan13

Early-career researchers: What would you like to know about #openaccess? What concerns you about #OA? What resources help you be open?



RETWEETS

19

FAVORITES

10



4:32 PM - 6 Nov 2014

Storified by PLOSLabs at storify.com/PLOSLabs/what-can-openaccess-do-for-you?

Cost is a concern



Dr Sir Catie

@liedra



Follow

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cost! Especially for non funded
research.



RETWEET

1

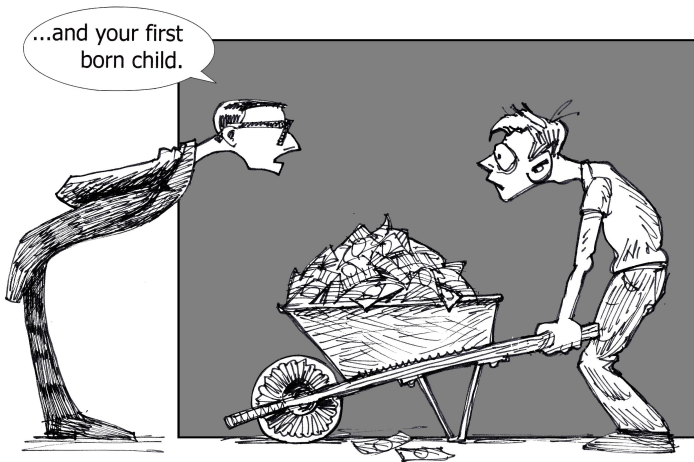
FAVORITES

2



7:05 PM - 6 Nov 2014

Don't have \$\$\$ for high APCs? Neither do I









John R. McKiernan, CC BY-NC-ND

So I went with PeerJ

I could pay one-time \$99 fee out of pocket as a highschool math teacher.

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Introduction
 Methods
 Results
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 Questions
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Subject areas

Neuroscience
 Anatomy and Physiology

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Effects of manipulating slowpoke calcium-dependent potassium channel expression on rhythmic locomotor activity in *Drosophila* larvae

[Erin C. McKiernan](#) 

Published March 26, 2013

PubMed [23638395](#)

November 29, 2013: **(Minor Correction)** The author would like to identify a typo. In Table 1 (pg. 8) in the last column to the right, the p-value for the statistical comparison of burst duration between groups says >0.05 . It should say <0.001 . It is correct in the text description of the results (pg. 10)

> Author and article information

> Abstract

Being open doesn't have to break the bank

- Many OA journals do not charge.
- Journals like PeerJ have one-time low-cost membership fees. ★
- Many journals have waivers.
- Many institutions have OA publisher memberships. ★
- Many institutions have OA publishing funds.
- Some funders pay for APCs.
- Self-archiving costs nothing. ★

★: I've used this option to go OA.



Quality is a concern



Timothée Poisot

@tpoi



 Follow

@liedra @emckiernan13
@CitizenAcademic Sadly many many
people say "OA is great but I don't
want to do it because it looks bad"



RETWEET

1

FAVORITES

2



8:30 PM - 6 Nov 2014



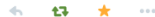
Tim Morris

@tmorris_mrc



 Follow

@emckiernan13 My experience has
been less critical peer review from OA-
only journals, though I do support OA
whatever the journal!



RETWEETS

2

FAVORITES

2



11:21 AM - 7 Nov 2014

Is peer review in open access journals broken?



Image: [Gideon Burton](#) via flickr

Publishers give their 'evidence'

The screenshot shows the Science journal website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Science logo, AAAS.ORG, FEEDBACK, HELP, and LIBRARIANS. A search bar contains 'All Science Journals' and 'Enter Search Term'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with GUEST, ALERTS, and ACCESS RIGHTS. A main navigation bar features NEWS, SCIENCE JOURNALS (highlighted), CAREERS, MULTIMEDIA, and COLLECTIONS. A banner below reads 'Science The World's Leading Journal of Original Scientific Research, Global News, and Commentary.' A secondary banner lists Science Home, Current Issue, Previous Issues (selected), Science Express, Science Products, My Science, and About the Journal. The breadcrumb trail is: Home > Science Magazine > 4 October 2013 > Bohannon, 342 (6154): 60-65. On the left, an 'Article Views' sidebar lists Summary, Full Text (selected), Full Text (PDF), Data and Documents, and Podcast Interview. The main content area displays the article title 'Who's Afraid of Peer Review?' by John Bohannon, categorized under NEWS. A short abstract follows: 'A spoof paper concocted by Science reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.' Navigation links include '< Prev | Table of Contents | Next >' and a comment icon with 'Leave a comment (237)'.

Science

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Home > Science Magazine > 4 October 2013 > Bohannon, 342 (6154): 60-65

Article Views

- Summary
- Full Text
- Full Text (PDF)
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- Podcast Interview

Article Tools

Science 4 October 2013:
Vol. 342 no. 6154 pp. 60-65
DOI: 10.1126/science.342.6154.60

< Prev | Table of Contents | Next >

Leave a comment (237)

NEWS

Who's Afraid of Peer Review?

John Bohannon

A spoof paper concocted by *Science* reveals little or no scrutiny at many open-access journals.

Academics criticize Bohannon piece:

svpow.com/2013/10/03/john-bohannons-peer-review-sting-against-science/

Where is our evidence that it doesn't look like this?



Image: John R. McKiernan, CC BY-NC-ND

The evidence is in the reviews



Introduction

Methods

Results

Discussion

Conclusions

Supplemental Information

Additional Information and Declarations

Peer Review history

Articles citing this paper

Effects of manipulating slowpoke calcium-dependent potassium channel expression on rhythmic locomotor activity in *Drosophila* larvae

Erin C. McKiernan

Published March 26, 2013

PubMed 23638395

You can read every criticism and every change!

If academics can read reviews, they can see for themselves that process is rigorous.

Use open reviews to your advantage

Establish timeline in transparent way:

Summary

- The initial submission of this article was received on December 7th, 2012 and was peer-reviewed by 2 reviewers and the Academic Editor.
- The Academic Editor made their initial decision on January 22nd, 2013.
- The first revision was submitted on February 24th, 2013 and was reviewed by the Academic Editor.
- The article was Accepted by the Academic Editor on March 5th, 2013.

Highlight positive comments:

“..this is an interesting study that adds value to the field”

“The experimental paradigm is clear and the analyses and methods are solid”

[From open reviews of my 2013 PeerJ article]

OA journals offering open peer review



BioMed Central
The Open Access Publisher



PeerJ

F1000Research

AN OPEN SCIENCE JOURNAL FOR LIFE SCIENTISTS



life

BMJ

**(GIGA)ⁿ
SCIENCE**

**ROYAL SOCIETY
OPEN SCIENCE**

Making an impact is a concern



Timothée Poisot

@tpoi



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to discuss impact and how it affects
your chances to get a job.



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1

FAVORITES

2



8:30 PM - 6 Nov 2014

Too many institutions worship impact factor



Image: John R. McKiernan



More info: Stephen Curry occamstypewriter.org/scurry/2012/08/13/sick-of-impact-factors/

Also: Brembs et al., 2013. *Frontier in Human Neurosci.*, doi: 10.3389/fnhum.2013.00291

Has OA publishing ever hurt my career?

YES. My PeerJ article **didn't count** in evaluations because no journal IF.

Speaks to faulty evaluation criteria - this should **NEVER** happen.

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Introduction

Methods

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Discussion

Conclusions

Supplemental Information

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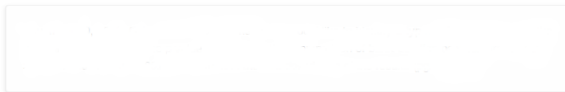
 Peer Review history

 Questions

Effects of manipulating slowpoke calcium-dependent potassium channel expression on rhythmic locomotor activity in *Drosophila* larvae

[Erin C. McKiernan](#) 

PubMed ID: [23638395](#)



So let's change evaluation criteria




500+ organizations and 12,000+ individuals have pledged:


- **not** to consider journal-based metrics (JIF) in hiring, promotion, or funding decisions
- the content of a paper will be weighed more heavily in evaluations than the journal in which it was published
- to consider the value and impact of all research outputs







Have YOU signed yet? am.ascb.org/dora/


Coauthor and mentor opinions are concerns

 **Paige Brown Jarreau**
@FromTheLabBench


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[@emckiernan13](#) I love #open access!
My coauthors aren't always convinced.
How to convince them?





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1	1	


7:06 PM - 6 Nov 2014

 **Matthew**
@MCeeP

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[@emckiernan13](#) how can I persuade
my boss/prof to publish in OA journals
when they want to publish in their
existing places

RETWEET	FAVORITE	
1	1	

10:05 AM - 7 Nov 2014




Discussing OA with your mentor

- Ask your mentor for a meeting to discuss publishing options
- Put together concise (15 mins max) presentation on benefits of OA
- Include data (lack of access worldwide, advancements made through open science, open citation advantage)
- Explain how your work and the lab could benefit from being open
- Create a list of OA options and share this list with your mentor
- If your mentor insists on a toll access journal, discuss submitting an author addendum (see SPARC)
- Start these discussions EARLY!!


From interview with ARCSCon at arcscon.tumblr.com/post/84942060277/advocating-for-openness

I'm sharing these lists with my PI and coauthors

Open access options for publishing neuroscience research [Edit article](#)

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Published on 26 Oct 2012 - 18:49 (GMT)
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Categories

- Science Policy
- Neuroscience

Authors




Erin McKiernan

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Cite this: McKiernan, Erin (2012): Open access options for publishing neuroscience research. figshare. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.96874>
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Categories

- Science Policy

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Erin McKiernan

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Cite this: McKiernan, Erin (2014): Open access journals 2013 Impact Factors. figshare. <http://dx.doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.1206415>
Retrieved 22:41, Nov 11, 2014 (GMT)

Show them the stories of people without access



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- Satyabrata Maiti, Director, Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research
- Niek Huizenga, young entrepreneur and IT specialist
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Early-career researchers can make a difference

ECRs can advocate for change

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BLOG

Open Letter to The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Jonathan P. Tennant, Timothée Poisot, M Fabiana Kubke, François Micbonneau, Michael P. Taylor, Graham Steel, Jérémy Anquetin, Emily Coyte, Benjamin Schwessinger, Erin C. McKiernan, Tom Pollard, Aimee Eckert, Liz Allen, Dalmeet Singh Chawla, Elizabeth Silva, Nicholas Gardner, Nathan Cantley, John Dupuis, Christina Pikas, Amy Buckland, Lenny Teytelman, Zen Faulkes, Robert J. Gay, Peter T.B. Brett, Anders Eklund, Johannes Björk, William Gunn, Philippe Desjardins-Proulx, Joseph R. Hancock, Joshua M. Nicholson, Scott Edmunds, Steven Ray Wilson, Stuart Buck, B. Arman Aksoy, Nazeefa Fatima, Ross Mounce, Heather Piwozwar, Avinash Thirumalai, Jason Priem, Clayton Aldern, Marcus D. Hanwell, Kristen L. Marhaver, David Michael Roberts, Brian Hole, Alexander Grossmann, David L. Vaux, John Murtagh, Alecia Carter, Alex O. Holcombe, Ignacio Torres Aleman, Sarah Molloy, John Lamp, Matthew Todd, Anusha Seneviratne, Guido Guidotti, Joseph McArthur, Carlos H. Grobmann, Jan de Leeuw, Jung H. Choi, Ernesto Priego, Brian Pasley, Stacy Konkiel, Elizabeth HB Hellen, Rappael Levy, Paul Coxon, Nitika Pant Pai, David Carroll, Jacinto Dávila, Marco Arieli Herrera-Valdez, Juan Pablo Alperin, Jan P. de Ruiter, Xianwen Chen, Jeanette Hatberill, Katharine Mullen, Pedro Bekinsbtejn, Quentin Groom, Karen Meijer-Kline, Pietro Gatti-Lafraconi, Jeffrey Hollister, Lachlan Coin, MooYoung Choi, Oscar Patterson-Lomba, Rowena Ball, Daniel Swan, Stephen Curry, Abigail Noyce, Jordan Ward, Ben Meghreblian, Ethan P. White, Sean R. Mulcahy, Sibebe Fausto, Lorena A. Barba, Ed Trollope, Stephen Beckett, Andrew D. Steen, Mari Saru, Noam Ross, Erika Amir, Martin Paul Eve, Franco Cecchi, Jason B. Colditz, Philip Spear, Mythili Menon, Matthew Clapham, Karl W. Broman, Graham Triggs, Tom Crick, Diano F. Marrone, Joseph Kraus, Steven Buyske, Gavin Simpson, Colleen Morgan, Kara Woo, Peter Murray-Rust

The Winnower 1:e140813.35294 (2014). DOI: 10.15200/winn.140813.35294

Open letters can have amazing reach

TheScientist

EXPLORING LIFE, INSPIRING INNOVATION

Opinion: OA Advocates Slam *Science Advances*

Proponents of open-access publishing question the newly announced terms of publishing in the American Association for the Advancement of Science's forthcoming journal.

By Dalmeet Singh Chawla | August 13, 2014



AT THE HEART OF THE
HIGHER EDUCATION DEBATE

We

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Breaking news | Politics and Policy | Research | World news | Interviews | Students | International

HOME | NEWS

'Shock and derision' as Kent Anderson named Science publisher

29 AUGUST 2014 | BY PAUL JUMP

Open letter from researchers decries AAAS journal's high fees and points to Anderson's combative views on open access



EMAIL

NewStatesman

Online comment site of the year



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The Stagers | Cultural Capital | Mehdi Hasan | Laurie Penny | Helen Lewis | Musa
Glosswitch | Caroline Crampton | Future Proof | Sarah Ditum | Jonn Elledge | Myria

Scientists criticise new “open access” journal which limits research-sharing with copyright

Restrictive copyright licenses and expensive submission fees have led to a significant number of scientists to criticise *Science Advances*, a new journal due to launch next year, for failing to live up to its open access principles.

BY FIONA RUTHERFORD | PUBLISHED 29 AUGUST, 2014 - 13:22

Keeping the pressure on

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Open letter to the Society for Neuroscience

Erin C. McKiernan, Marco Arieli Herrera-Valdez, Christopher R. Madan, Philippe Desjardins-Proulx, Anders Eklund, M Fabiana Kubke, Alex O. Holcombe, Graham Steel, Diano F. Marrone, Charles Oppenheim, Zen Faulkes, Jonathan P. Tennant, Nicholas M. Gardner, Avinash Thirumalai, Travis Park, Ben Meghrebian, Sean Kaplan, Chris Chambers, Joshua M. Nicholson, Jan Velterop, Timothée Poisot, Jérémy Anquetin, Liz Allen, Johannes Björk, Ross Mounce, Scott Edmunds, Maytée Cruz-Aponte, Nazzeefa Fatima, Nitika Pant Pai, Elizabeth Silva, Björn Brembs, Gerard Ridgway, Pietro Gatti-Lufriani, Xianwen Chen, Jacinto Dávila, Benjamin de Bivort, Stephen Beckett, Mytbili Menon, Adam Choraziak, Graham Triggs, Guillaume Dumas, Jeffrey W. Hollister, Célya Gruson-Daniel, Gary S. McDowell, Pierre-Alexandre Klein, Julien Laroche, Alex Thome, Nicolas Guyon, Sibeke Fausto, Nonie Finlayson, Dalmeet Singh Chawla, John Wilbanks, David Carroll, Noelia Martínez-Molina, Maximilian Sloan, Stephen Eglén, Joseph R. Hancock

The Winnower 1:e140865.54468 (2014). DOI: 10.15200/winn.140865.54468

Let's expect more from scholarly societies

Dear Dr. McKiernan:

We received your letter regarding *eNeuro*, the new open-access journal from the Society for Neuroscience.

In the ever-changing environment of scientific publishing, we appreciate your interest in the issues relating to launching an online-only journal. As we move forward with this new SfN effort, we are committed to taking into consideration all of the many facets of online publishing and how they affect the audiences concerned: the general public, scientists, authors, and the field.

With that in mind, we appreciate your letter and its contributions to the dialogue about *eNeuro*, and to the broader discussion of scientific publication in the digital age.

Sincerely,
Allen



Allen Segal

Senior Director, Communications & Public Affairs

You can make open access reality

"You all represent the future, and it is now" - Jon Tennant

"The revolution is launched" - Peter Murray Rust

"People making change for the better" - Ross Mounce



Photo: Aloysius Wilfred Raj, CC BY