



## **Open access 3.0 as publisher's life insurance: from open access to open science**

Martin Rasmussen and Xenia van Edig

Copernicus Publications, Göttingen, Germany (martin.rasmussen@copernicus.org)

The journal crisis in the late 1990s with 400% increases of subscription rates within 20 years, a growing number of publishing houses sold to investors with purely economic motivation, and profit margins of 30% and more has caused an outcry from scientists who write and review papers for free. The growing open-access movement has enforced the future goal of this industry: to develop from pure content providers locking content behind paywalls to service providers partnering with scientists and helping them to fulfil their needs.

Scientists have already proven that preprint servers, institutional repositories, and the usage of free software for reviewing papers have the potential to run publishing platforms and even full journals without publishing houses. The achievement of this movement is that publishers have been fundamentally questioned for the first time in decades, if not centuries.

Copernicus Publications and a handful of other purely open-access publishers follow a totally different mindset than traditional publishers. We love the collaboration with scientists and we want to be part of the future of scientific publishing. Therefore, we follow a strategy based on five fundamental rules.

- 1) Scientists know best how to communicate science: journals must be owned by scientific associations and they must control the editorial policy.
- 2) Publishing through publishers is not an end in itself: publishing houses can play a future role in scientific publishing if they are willing to offer extra value to a scientist-driven enterprise by providing professional services for the authors, reviewers, and readers.
- 3) Free access to the publication (open access 1.0): all publications must be made available for free to anyone – ideally access to the original source and the author maintains the copyright. This is gold open-access publishing.
- 4) Free access to the review (open access 2.0): editor reports, referee reports, and the replies by the authors must be made available alongside the original manuscript. Readers must have the chance to follow the evolution towards the final, peer-reviewed journal article. Ideally, the scientific community is able to take part by commenting during a discussion phase.
- 5) Free access to the assets (open access 3.0): we see the outcome of scientific work as a publication tree. The journal paper is the trunk and corresponding data sets, model code, videos, and other assets are the branches. All objects are preserved long term and linked to each other through DOIs. Readers see the full picture and science becomes more transparent.

Scientists, scientific associations, institutions, and funders have the power to claim these rights and to own their science.