

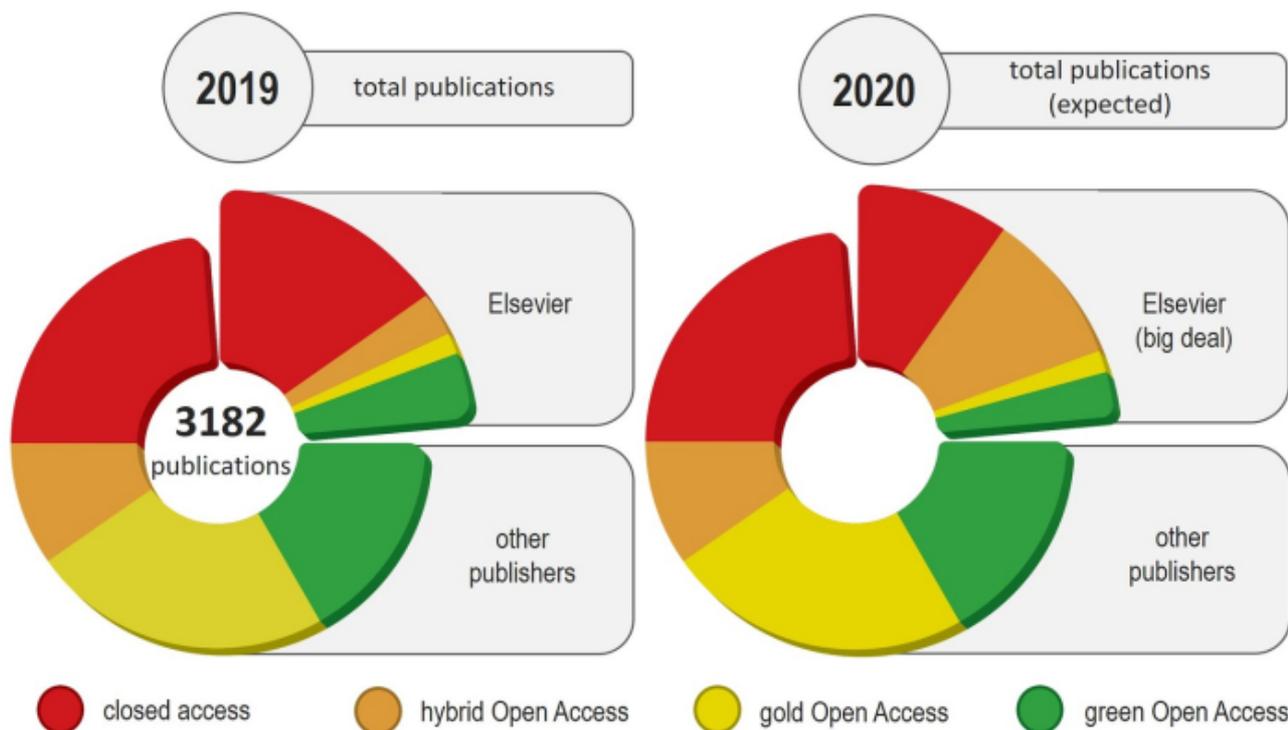
# Lib4RI- UPDATE #19 February 2020



## Publish Open Access in Elsevier journals free of charge

At Elsevier, corresponding authors of Swiss research institutes can make most of their articles available Open Access for the next three years at no extra cost. This is possible because swissuniversities and Elsevier have reached a memorandum of understanding for both reading access to journals and Open Access publishing last December (see [Lib4RI Update #18](#) and [swissuniversities' press release](#)). After the negotiations with Springer Nature failed, the publisher announced preliminary access to newly published journal content until end of March 2020.

With immediate effect, researchers at Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL can publish Open Access (OA) in over 2000 journals from Elsevier at no additional cost. These include hybrid and full OA journals, representing 75 % of all Elsevier journals (see [full list of applicable Elsevier journals](#)). Articles with a corresponding author from any of the ETH Domain's four research institutes (or any Swiss university) are eligible for a full discount on the article processing charges (APCs). This applies to all articles submitted between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023, independent of the date of acceptance or publication. To publish OA in an applicable Elsevier journal, a corresponding author must simply follow the steps provided in Elsevier's acceptance email (for more details visit [Lib4RI](#)). A few non-applicable Elsevier journals may continue to charge full OA publishing fees to authors – in this case, we recommend going for green OA instead.



Distribution of all journal article publications from Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL in 2019 (left) and a rough expectation of the distribution in 2020 (right). In 2019, ca. 60 % were published OA and ca. 25 % were published with Elsevier. In 2020, most publications with Elsevier will be hybrid OA. Image by [Lib4RI](#).

Beyond the new possibilities of OA publishing the negotiation group mandated by swissuniversities has successfully negotiated extended reading access to Elsevier journals. In addition to Elsevier's [Freedom Collection](#), to which we have subscribed so far, 700 additional Elsevier journals will be available.

The negotiations between Springer Nature and swissuniversities concluded without any agreement last year. [Springer Nature tweeted](#):



In the meantime, Springer Nature has set the «official deadline» for the grace period to end of March 2020. After this, it is possible that researchers in Switzerland will lose direct access to Springer Nature articles published from 2020 onwards. In case Springer Nature (or any other publisher) restricts direct access to articles in the future, swissuniversities has published a guide on [how to get full text articles](#).

The agreements with Elsevier, Springer Nature and Wiley are the interim results of the ongoing negotiations with swissuniversities. Due to their market dominance, the three major publishers have enormous power to charge libraries huge and ever-increasing subscription fees. To strengthen the negotiating position of Swiss libraries, a negotiation team commissioned by swissuniversities is negotiating on behalf of all Swiss institutions of higher education, including Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL (see [negotiation strategy](#)). The negotiation team has been negotiating since 2018 to find an agreement for the Swiss scientific community based on the «read and publish» principle. Any «read and publish» agreement should allow researchers to read and publish articles in all the publishers' journals on an OA basis. In addition, they should come at no extra cost for Swiss authors or research institutes.

The Swiss negotiations are part of a wider movement. All over the world, there is growing pressure from various stakeholders to transform scientific communication to OA. After a phase of resistance, most publishers are now willing to transform their business models from subscription to OA. Consequentially, many countries have successfully negotiated OA agreements, so called «[transformative agreements](#)», with major publishers.

Please contact us at Lib4RI if you need assistance with OA publishing or seek access to a paywalled article. Of course, we will continue to keep you informed about any new developments. For the latest news and detailed background information on the Swiss big deal negotiations, see our [dedicated web page](#).

## Library news

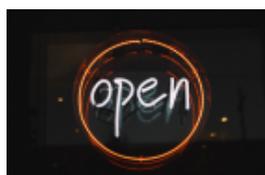


Photo by [Finn Hackshaw](#) on Unsplash

### Open Access information updated

There's a lot happening in the world of Open Access (OA): Big deal negotiations are entering into the next round, most research funders have OA policies in place and several publishers offer discounts on OA publication fees. So you don't lose track of what's going on, we're continuously updating our information on the [big deal negotiations](#), [research funders' OA policies](#) and [OA discounts](#).

### Library PSI – streamlining / giveaway books

We are currently streamlining our stock to provide additional space for new PSI offices. While most of our book collection is being transferred to the basement, there also are many



Photo by [Lib4RI](#)

books to be sorted out. This is why Lib4RI is organising a continuously restocked book table with giveaway books in front of the library hall (WHGA Foyer – Meeting Point) until mid-February. Many textbooks and standard books from all disciplines are available for free.



Images by [AAAS](#)

### **Electronic resources: changes in 2020**

Exciting news for all you bookworms out there: In 2020, we've added hundreds of new journals and e-books to our portfolio. At the same time, we've cancelled just a handful of products - mainly due to low usage. Go to [Lib4RI](#) to see the most important changes. Feel free to contact [eresources@lib4ri.ch](mailto:eresources@lib4ri.ch) if you have any questions about the changes or encounter access problems.

## **Beyond the library**

### **Citation metrics / Tracking self-citation**

Citation metrics aim to make scientific assessment a level playing field. One problematic area is self-citation. This study explores the self-referencing behavior among various academic disciplines. It shows that roughly 5 % of all citations are self-citations. The authors call for more transparency and openness. Read on at [BioRxiv](#).

### **Springer Nature / Stock exchange listing**

Springer Nature is reviving plans for a stock market listing, 2 years after their first attempt failed due to weak demand. With reported revenues of \$1.81 billion in 2017, Springer Nature may be valued at \$7.8 – 8.9 billion, including debt. The initial public offering could take place as early as May 2020. Read on at [Reuters](#) and [Bloomberg](#).

### **Big Deal / World's largest**

Germany and Springer Nature have signed a transformative Open Access (OA) agreement - the largest of its kind! Now 700+ German institutions have full publishing and reading access to Springer Nature journals. The Publish and Read fee of €2750 will be paid from central subscription funds. The expected outcome: Over 13000 articles from German researchers will be published OA each year. Read on at [HRK](#).

### **Conferences / Stuck in the Dark Ages?**

Conferences are a place for you to present your work, get feedback, draw inspiration and learn new tools. But have you ever felt they are a predictable, dull and exhausting onslaught of posters and presentations? This author envisions the inclusive, productive and innovative conferences of the future. Read on at [WIRED](#).

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All Lib4RI-Updates can be downloaded at [lib4ri.ch](#).

## **Contact ...**



Lib4RI - Library of Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

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**... or recommend us!**



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