

# Lib4RI- UPDATE #20

May 2020



## Coming soon: Publish Open Access in Springer Nature journals free of charge

Swissuniversities and Springer Nature have reached a Memorandum of Understanding for the conclusion of a «read and publish» contract (see [swissuniversities](#) and [Springer Nature](#)). Once signed, this contract will allow corresponding authors affiliated with all Swiss academic and research institutions participating in the agreement – including Eawag, Empa, PSI and WSL – to publish Open Access (OA) in some 2200 Springer Nature hybrid journals.

The contract period is intended from 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2022, during which articles with a corresponding author from any of the ETH Domain's four research institutes are eligible for a full discount on the article processing charges (APCs). This applies to all articles charged between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2022. These terms differ from the Elsevier «read and publish» deal (see [Lib4RI Update #19](#)) in that the date of billing, not the date of submission, is relevant. There will be an annual cap on the number of articles that can be published without APCs in Springer Nature hybrid journals. Nature, Nature branded and Springer Nature gold OA journals are altogether excluded from the agreement.



Image adapted from [swissuniversities](#).

Both parties are committed to working towards this OA publishing agreement, which they aim to sign by the end of June 2020. There has been a non-contractual status with Springer Nature, affecting publications from Springer, Adis, Palgrave, Nature Academic and Nature branded journals since the negotiations with swissuniversities concluded without any agreement last year (see [swissuniversities' press release](#)). However, Springer Nature has been keeping access open and will continue to do so until the contract is signed.

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

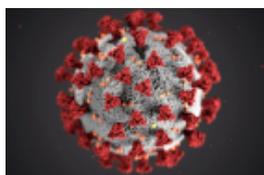


Image by [CDC](#)

### COVID-19 Pandemic: Impact on our Library Services

The ongoing pandemic of COVID-19 is also affecting the services of the library. All Lib4RI libraries are closed until further notice and most of our services will continue to be provided electronically. All books and other media currently on loan via the NEBIS lending network have been extended until 8 June 2020, so you won't receive any overdue statements. New loan requests via the NEBIS catalogue aren't possible yet, but will probably be possible again from 8 Juni 2020. We'll keep you updated. Meanwhile, if you need any resources please do not hesitate to contact us. You can also use our [document delivery service](#), e.g. for articles, books or standards that aren't online accessible to you. Everyone is encouraged to exploit our electronic resources including some [500'000 e-books](#). Should you be working outside your office don't forget to activate your institutional VPN service for access to the electronic resources. We still visit your group or department (currently via Zoom) to discuss your topics of interest. Please refer to our flyer [Book a Librarian](#) for some possible options. Read the [full news article](#).



Photo by [K.Stachowiak](#)

### Webinar Miniseries Spring 2020

Lib4RI's Spring Training Series 2020, [Searching & Managing Scientific Information](#), including all of its modules, had to be cancelled due to the pandemic and related federal regulations. We are all the more pleased to offer a miniseries of webinars in June 2020 (via Zoom) covering a few selected topics taken from this cancelled spring training series. We hope to be back with all our training modules in autumn. Please go to [Lib4RI's training website](#) for more details and the registration links. Read the [full news article](#).

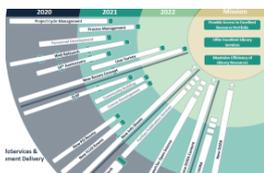


Image by [Lib4RI](#)

### Improved Project Management System

Lib4RI has overhauled its project management system. We are now planning, organising and documenting all library projects on a single collaboration platform. We feel certain our streamlined system will help us keep providing you with excellent products and services. Read the [full news article](#).

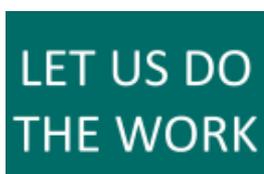


Image by [Lib4RI](#)

### New publication service - let us do the work for you!

We are now actively harvesting publications affiliated to the four research institutes from external databases. Newly indexed publications in external databases are automatically loaded into [DORA](#) daily and are ready for us to check and import. We receive metadata such as title, abstract and keywords and we check and set the availability of the full-text document. Although our goal is to reduce any action needed on your part, we still ask you to check the publication record once available in DORA and inform us about any inconsistencies (e.g. authors' affiliations). Since we usually do not have access to the accepted versions of articles, we may ask you to send us the accepted version of publications that are not Open Access. Keep in mind, that we only receive publications that are indexed in external databases automatically, so we still ask you to send us the publications that are not recorded in [DORA](#). Read the [full news article](#).

## Beyond the library

[Journal ranking](#) / [Principles replace prestige](#)

[Big deals](#) / [Making things worse](#)

A new ranking initiative is assessing journals' commitment to research transparency instead of their citations per paper. Measures of assessment include whether journals set standards for research design disclosure, encourage the replication of studies or ask authors to share their raw data. The initiative's director criticises the current journal ranking system: «This is really about a paper's novelty and prestige, rather than core scientific values» he says and adds «we want to recognise those who are taking difficult steps to address bad practices». Read on at [THE](#) and [Nature Index](#).

#### Peer reviews / Follow the discussion

The contents of peer review reports, and correspondence between authors, reviewers and editors, are often kept confidential. However, researchers want to see how publishing decisions are made, and they want greater assurance that referees and editors act with integrity and without bias. Now, some Nature journals are publishing peer review reports as a trial. Read on at [Nature](#).

#### Academic freedom / Mass resignation at Wiley

The editorial and advisory boards of a Wiley journal resign in protest over the publisher's unwillingness to relinquish control. Now the disillusioned authors recount their small act of resistance and raise fundamental questions about who owns, controls and operates academic journals anyway. «Academic publishing is a cool gig», they claim, «academics are marvelously cheap service providers» and «demand has the elasticity of cast iron». Read on at [Verfassungsblog](#).

This author levels criticism against big deals. He points out that read-and-publish agreements are enabling major publishers to «elbow aside» smaller or emerging publishers and «embed themselves and their high prices» into a new academic publishing system. Ergo, big deals are preserving the oligopoly of academic publishers. Further, he claims that big deals are exacerbating global inequalities. Whilst read-and-publish agreements are streamlining Open Access in the Global North, they are entrenching an academic publishing system based on access to publishing funds. Read on at [LSE](#).

#### COVID-19 / «Remove paywalls!»

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, many publishers are temporarily opening up their resources. As the amount and rate of openings is very high, we advise users to check directly with the publisher whether publications are accessible. Meanwhile, swissuniversities, the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries appeal to all publishing houses to make their publications freely accessible. Scientific results need to be shared immediately and transparently to bolster the fight against the new virus. Read on at [SNSF](#).

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

### Contact ...



Lib4RI - Library of Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

Überlandstrasse 133  
8600 Dübendorf  
Schweiz

... or [recommend us!](#)



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