

New Read & Publish agreement with Springer Nature, 2026-2029

A new [Read & Publish agreement](#) with Springer Nature secures broad reading access and cost-free Open Access publishing for researchers at the 4RIs and other Swiss institutions from 2026 to 2029. Negotiated by a working group of swissuniversities and the Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries, this agreement brings the full Springer Nature portfolio into a single national framework.

What is included?

In addition to extensive reading access (all journals published by Springer Nature except for some Nature Reviews journals), corresponding authors affiliated with Eawag, Empa, PSI or WSL can publish Open Access (OA) without costs for them:

- **Springer Hybrid Journals:** Approximately 2'000 hybrid journals (journals with optional OA) published under the Springer brand.
- **Nature Research Hybrid Journals:** About 40 hybrid journals (journals with optional OA) published under the Nature Research brand. Note that some Nature journals do not offer the option to publish OA, e.g. the Nature Reviews journals.
- **NEW: Full OA journals:** Previously excluded from the agreement, approximately 700 full OA journals are newly integrated. This includes journals published under Springer, Nature and BMC imprints and covers popular journals such as Nature Communications and Scientific Reports.

Nature Research Hybrid journals and full OA journals have a yearly limit on the number of articles that researchers affiliated with Swiss institutions can publish OA at no additional cost. This "article quota" is currently expected to cover all articles by Swiss researchers, though this depends on actual publishing activity. As with [all other publisher agreements](#), only articles whose corresponding author is affiliated with the 4RIs are eligible for cost-free OA.

Timeline for implementation

The agreement applies to eligible articles accepted after 10 June 2026. For articles accepted earlier this year and published as closed access, Springer Nature will offer authors cost-free conversion to OA. This conversion process will start in the coming weeks and eligible authors will be contacted by Springer Nature. Please note, that any OA fees (APCs) already invoiced before 10 June 2026 will not be refunded.

To identify the publishing options for a specific journal, please use the journal search in the [Lib4RI Search Tool](#). For more information on the OA agreements at the 4RIs, see the [Lib4RI OA Agreements page](#).

Please see the [swissuniversities press release](#) for further details on the Swiss agreement with Springer Nature.

Our view: What this agreement does - and doesn't - solve

After careful review and thorough discussion, including within the Lib4RI Steering Committee, the library has decided to participate in this new agreement with Springer Nature. Read & Publish agreements are not without critics, and we believe it is important to be transparent about the benefits, limitations and trade-offs involved.

The most immediate benefit is simplicity. Corresponding authors affiliated with our institutions no longer need to pay article processing charges (APCs) from their own grants or budgets; these costs are now covered centrally through the agreement. Consolidating these expenditures under Lib4RI's central funding also gives us a clearer picture of our total spending with the publisher. Most importantly, your work becomes freely available to readers worldwide upon publication, increasing its visibility and potential impact.

However, these agreements do not solve the underlying problem in scholarly publishing: costs that keep rising far faster than library budgets. While they shift the financial burden away from individual authors, the overall institutional cost remains high. The expanded scope of this agreement - full OA journals and a higher article limit for Nature journals - will double the library's expenditure on Springer Nature within the next four years. The specific arrangement also risks normalising APCs of up to EUR 10'850 for the publication of a single article. More broadly, a pricing model based on per-article publication charges gives the publisher strong leverage to raise prices in the future.

There is also a global equity concern: by replacing the "pay-to-read" barrier with a "pay-to-publish" model, we risk marginalizing researchers at underfunded institutions and in low- and middle-income countries that cannot afford such comprehensive institutional agreements.

As discussed previously in [Lib4RI Update #21](#) (2020) and [Lib4RI Update #42](#) (2025), these deals tend to concentrate funding with large, established publishers. This entrenches business models that are financially unsustainable for academic institutions and ultimately strengthens the market position of the [academic publishing oligopoly](#).

The library remains committed to critically evaluating these models. We see this agreement as a pragmatic step to support our authors under current conditions, not as an endorsement of the long-term sustainability or fairness of the underlying system. We will continue to advocate for a more equitable, transparent and financially sustainable scholarly publishing ecosystem.

Library news

New Data tab on the Search Tool

The Lib4RI [Search Tool](#) now also includes a dedicated [Data tab](#). Following last year's update, which introduced improved journal search, OA information and new tabs for Books and Other resources, the Search Tool continues to grow as your one-stop shop for all library content. Read more [here](#).

Play RDM Bingo!

Organise your data/code and get rewarded! Grab a data set or coding project, accomplish research data management tasks and be entered to win a 100 CHF gift card. Play [here](#).

Now available: Zotero unlimited cloud storage

Lib4RI has acquired institutional licences for unlimited Zotero cloud storage for the four research institutes. Create an account using your institutional email address for unlimited cloud storage for your personal and group library. Read more [here](#).

Lib4RI at BiblioCon 2026

Under the motto "Analogue meets Algorithm" librarians met in Berlin for the 114th BiblioCon to exchange their ideas for the library of the future - and the future of libraries. Lib4RI contributed two presentations on

current projects. Read more [here](#).

New Lib4RI Info Sheet "Research Data Management"

Struggling to get started with managing research data for your project? The new RDM Info Sheet can help you get started with the first practical steps of research data management (RDM), as well as point you to the institutional resources you need. And keep an eye out for another engaging way to get started with RDM, coming up in a few days! Get the Info Sheet [here](#).

New Tools page

Whether you're just starting a research project or putting the finishing touches on a publication, finding the right tool at the right time can make all the difference. That's exactly why we've created a dedicated space that brings together a curated selection of tools covering the entire research cycle, all in one place. Find your tool [here](#).

Did you know ...?



Source: Lib4RI

... your publications matter in more ways than you think?

Research institutes are regularly evaluated. One aspect of this is their academic output, which is based on the institute's publications – including your own! But your publication could be missed in the evaluation process if your affiliation is not stated correctly. You should therefore stick to the official designation to promote both your research and your institute! Find the correct naming scheme for your institute and further tips [here](#).

Beyond the library

Open Access / New era for ORE

[Open Research Europe](#) (ORE) is the European Commission's open access publishing platform for research funded by all EU programmes. Launched in 2021 to promote innovative, no-fee open access publishing, the platform is now preparing to enter a new phase. Read more [here](#).

Publishing / Wiley acquires Emerald Publishing

Valued at £337 million (CHF 360 million), the deal expands Wiley's journal portfolio to approximately 2'500 titles and significantly strengthens its position in the social sciences. Read more [here](#).

Report / Promoting excellence through research assessment reforms

The CoARA National chapter Germany published their workshop report on aspects of scientific excellence. Read more [here](#).

Report / Redefining Publishing

In an 18 month research and design project, PLOS explored how publishing can better support open science by moving beyond the article as the sole unit of value and beyond APC-based models toward approaches that support broader participation and recognition for a wider range of research outputs. Read more [here](#).

eBook / Fixing academia

A "new generation of scholars" reflects on the shortcomings of the academic system and ways to fix them. Chapter 9 focuses on our dependence on commercial publishers. Read more [here](#).

White paper / The myth of the academic superstar - or why name disambiguation is crucial

A handful of researchers publishes up to 40 papers a day. More than 11'000 are publishing 100+

Open Data / Crossref public data file

Once a year Crossref releases all metadata records for content registered with them in a public data file. This year's version, containing nearly 180 million records, is now available. It includes metadata associated with all Crossref-registered DOIs in JSON-lines format. Read more [here](#).

papers each year. Anne-Wil Harzing took a closer look at those superstars. Read more [here](#).

Scientific Integrity / Swiss court clears sleuth in defamation case

An appeals court in Switzerland has overturned a 2025 defamation conviction against a sleuth who had identified dozens of conference proceedings with signs of citation manipulation. Read more [here](#).



Lib4RI - Library for the Research Institutes within the ETH Domain: Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL

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