



Oct 2026

Lib4RI-
UPDATE
#46

International Open Access Week 2026

“The Cost of Knowledge” is the theme for this year’s International Open Access Week (19-25 October). It offers an opportunity to discuss benefits and challenges of Open Access, problematic developments in the publishing landscape and new innovations to tackle these problems. Lib4RI participates [with information booths and a keynote lecture](#).

Keynote by Björn Brembs: Replacing academic journals

- **Date:** Wednesday, 21 October 2026
- **Time:** 15:30-16:30
- **Venue:** Eawag, Dübendorf, FC C-24 *or online via* [Teams](#)
- No registration required

Björn Brembs is Professor of Neurogenetics at the University of Regensburg, Germany, and an advocate for reforming scholarly publishing for many years.

In this lecture, he will argue that today’s journal system is structurally broken and faces not only a replicability crisis but also an affordability crisis and a functionality crisis. Drawing on his paper “[Replacing academic journals](#)” he will sketch what a leaner, community-owned alternative could look like.

Mark your calendar

Information booths of Lib4RI

Meet our experts at your institute! Our booth is staffed daily from 11:30-13:30.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • PSI: Tuesday, 13 October | • Empa: Monday, 19 October |
| • Eawag: Tuesday, 20 October | • WSL: Thursday, 22 October |

Other events in Switzerland

As in previous years, several Swiss universities and libraries have joined forces to put together a wide-ranging program of online, hybrid and local events in different formats for the OA-Week in Switzerland (see [here](#) for the full program). Learn more about the International Open Access Week [here](#).

The Diamond Open Access platform Open Research Europe (ORE)

The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) recently announced that Swiss researchers will be eligible to publish free of charge at [Open Research Europe](#) (ORE) starting in autumn 2026. This is part of a bigger

change of Open Access funding at SNSF (see below, “Upcoming changes to SNSF Open Access funding” for more details).

What is ORE?

ORE is a Diamond Open Access publication platform (see our [newsletter #38](#) regarding Diamond Open Access) established in 2021 and supported by the European Commission. This year, several European funding agencies, including SNSF, have announced their support as well. ORE currently operates on technical infrastructure provided by the commercial publisher Taylor & Francis but the additional funding allows to move the operation of ORE to an open infrastructure hosted and developed at CERN in Geneva. Moreover, due to the SNSF support all publications with at least one author with an affiliation at a Swiss institution will be eligible to publish in ORE; this is irrespective of any project funding of the SNSF or the EU to the authors. At the same time, publications in ORE will be published Open Access and fulfill the Open Access policies of Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe and SNSF.

How does ORE compare to other publishing venues?

Articles in ORE undergo peer review like articles in traditional scientific journals. However, in other aspects ORE is more similar to preprint servers, such as arXiv. This table compares these three venues in more detail.

	Traditional journal	Preprint server arXiv	ORE
Screening and selection	Editors and reviewers judge quality and topical fit; Novelty and expected impact may also count.	Light moderation and check for topical fit and form; endorsement for first-time submitters needed.	Only basic checks (originality, readability, ethics, author eligibility etc.); no selection by topic, novelty or expected impact.
When does peer review happen?	Before publication.	No peer review.	After publication.
Is peer review open?	In some journals.	Not applicable.	Yes, reviews are published together with the reviewers' names.
Must an article pass peer review to be published?	Yes.	No.	No, but it must pass to be indexed in literature databases.
Can a published article be submitted elsewhere?	No.	Yes (to the vast majority of journals).	No.
Layout and branding	Typeset in the journal's house style.	None. Authors upload their own files.	Articles and versions are typeset in a consistent, functional style.
Costs	Readers pay (subscriptions) or authors pay (APCs).	Free for authors and readers.	Free for authors and readers.
Indexing in databases (visibility, citation tracking, bibliometrics)	Indexed at publication, depending on journal (PubMed, OpenAlex, Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar).	Inconsistent: indexed in Google Scholar, PubMed (if NIH funded), Scopus and Web of Science (in separate preprint collections).	In Google Scholar upon publication. Indexing in PubMed, OpenAlex, Scopus and others after peer review.

Several other publication venues have started similar experiments to change the established publication workflow (sometimes called [publish-review-curate model](#)). Examples include journals of the [European Geosciences Union](#) (EGU; published by Copernicus), [eLife](#) or [F1000](#). Ideally, such publication venues manage to combine advantages of preprints (fast publication, immediate Open Access, low costs) with the quality control of the peer review process. Due to the institutional support by EU funding programmes and important national funders, ORE has good chances to establish itself and its publishing model as an alternative to established journals. However, trust in the platform still has to be built. Ultimately, the number and quality of submissions will determine whether Open Research Europe succeeds.

Upcoming changes to SNSF Open Access funding

The [SNSF has announced that it will revise the way it funds Open Access \(OA\) publications](#). The new rules take effect on 1 January 2027 and introduce a cap on article processing charges, adjust book funding, and open a new route for Open Access publishing through ORE.

What is changing

Cap on Article Processing Charges (APCs): 3'500 CHF

- The SNSF will strictly cap APC funding at 3'500 CHF (incl. VAT) per article. Fees above this threshold will not be covered, not even in part.
- The cap applies based on the date of manuscript submission (after 1 January 2027), not the publication date.

Adjusted funding rules for book publications

- The SNSF will only fund OA books that result directly from SNSF-funded research. Qualification theses (PhDs, habilitations) remain eligible even without an SNSF grant supporting the author.
- Publishers of qualification theses will need to arrange an independent peer review of the full manuscript; internal university evaluations are no longer accepted as proof of quality assurance. In addition, only qualification theses defended at a Swiss university will be eligible for funding.
- The maximum funding amount for the basic book module will be reduced to 12'000 CHF.

A free alternative: Open Research Europe (ORE)

- To counter rising commercial publishing costs, the SNSF has joined ORE (see above), a Diamond Open Access platform. Starting in autumn 2026, all researchers in Switzerland are eligible to publish in ORE. This is completely free of charge, avoiding APCs entirely while ensuring immediate Open Access for their publications.

What this means for you

If you are an SNSF-funded researcher planning to submit an article to a pure Open Access journal after 1 January 2027, verify the journal's APC. If it exceeds 3'500 CHF, the SNSF will not cover the costs. Please also note that hybrid journals remain ineligible for SNSF funding regardless of the APC. Use our [Lib4RI Search Tool](#) to identify journals that are covered by our [Open Access agreements with publishers](#). For monographs, review whether your project falls within the narrower eligibility rules, and factor the 12'000 CHF basic module cap into your budgeting.

Consider Diamond OA venues, including ORE once it opens for submissions, as a way to publish without fees while still meeting the SNSF's Open Access requirements.

Need help?

Our Open Access team is here to support you. Contact us at openaccess@lib4ri.ch for personalized advice on journal selection, funding agreements, and SNSF compliance.

Library news

Lib4RI training series 2026: Essential skills for today's researchers

Autumn is coming – and with it the second round of Lib4RI's training series 2026: Essential skills for today's researchers for PhD students and all other interested members of the 4 research institutes Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL. Read more [here](#).

Behind the bookshelves: New round starting in October

Our Coffee Lecture Series "Behind the bookshelves" is entering the second round. This year's main theme: There's a librarian for that. The opening session on 06 October gives a brief overview on publisher AI policies. Read more [here](#).

Quota for Wiley full OA journals reached by mid September

The national article cap for cost-free Open Access (OA) publishing in Wiley's full OA journals under the 2025–2027 swissuniversities Read & Publish agreement has now been reached. Any article accepted for publication in a Wiley **full** OA journal from this point on until the end of the year will not have its Article Processing Charge (APC) covered by the agreement, and Wiley will invoice the corresponding author directly. Read more [here](#).

Open Library Badge 2025

Lib4RI got awarded with the Open Library Badge for the second time. The jury acknowledges "continuous engagement for Open Science". Read more [here](#).

Fabian Felder to take over as Head of the Lib4RI Library on 1 May 2027

On 1 May 2027, Fabian Felder, currently a team leader at the Lib4RI Library, will take over as Head of Lib4RI. He will thus succeed Lothar Nunnenmacher. Read more [here](#).

Joint project: Using DORA to bring more science to Wikipedia

Lib4RI and Wikimedia Switzerland (WMCH) have started a joint project to close knowledge gaps on Wikipedia using publications in DORA. A jointly financed Wikipedian-in-Residence at the library will lead the work and engage with researchers and our institutions. Read more [here](#).

GeoVITe now Open Research platform for geospatial data

GeoVITe is an online portal offering free access to federal and cantonal geospatial data for research and teaching. The service has been expanded into an open research platform through the FAIRGeo project. Read more [here](#).

RDM Bingo winners

That's a wrap! After four weeks, the Lib4RI RDM Bingo campaign has officially come to a close, the competition has ended, and the winners have been drawn. Read on for a few insights into how it all went, along with words from some of the winners themselves. Read more [here](#).

Interview: Why accurate DOAJ metadata matters

Researchers in Switzerland are expected to increasingly prioritize open access publication. However, between changing publisher agreements, increasing APC charges, and publishing quotas at journals running out, navigating the open access landscape can be a real challenge. In an interview with the DOAJ Blog, Lothar Nunnenmacher, Head of Lib4RI, outlines how Lib4RI uses DOAJ information in the Lib4RI search tool to help researchers navigate the OA landscape. Read more [here](#).

Did you know ...?



Source: Lib4RI

... that there is a network of data stewards ready to help you?

Do you feel overwhelmed with the requirements in data management? In each of the institutes, there is a network of data experts, willing to help you with your issues related to open research data publication and research data management. Check them out and feel free to reach out! Read more [here](#).

Beyond the library

Peer Review / SNSF releases guidelines for AI in peer review

Reviewers may use AI to assist them in evaluating grant proposals, but it should not replace their own judgment. Confidential proposal data must be protected at all times. Accordingly, the SNSF has updated its guidelines. Read more [here](#).

Publishing / Lawsuit for raising too high APCs against for major publishers

A lawsuit filed under the U.S. False Claims Act accuses Elsevier, Springer Nature, Wiley and Informa of perpetrating a decade-long scheme to defraud the government by charging exorbitant article processing charges. Read more [here](#).

RDM / Five selfish reasons to work reproducibly

Research data management (RDM) is just a burden, enforced by some funder? Think again! Florian Markowetz sums up why good RDM is ultimately boosting your scientific self-esteem and career. Read more [here](#).

Publishing / Associate editors resign from board of Statistics and Computing

In response to an announced increase of APC for the Springer Nature journal, 17 associate editors are resigning from the board of the journal. In an open letter published by Robin Ryder, they express their views on the current system of scientific publishing very clearly. Read more [here](#).

Open Science / Six major European organizations issue joint statement

The statement is issued by six major European organisations: ALLEA, EIFL, IFLA, LIBER, OPERAS and SPARC Europe. In light of the consultation on the European Research Area (ERA) Act, it reflects on the current state of Open Science (OS). Read more [here](#).

Open Science / CWTS will discontinue its use of data from Web of Science

The annual Leiden ranking is a landmark for impact assessment of universities worldwide. After conducting the report based on open and proprietary data in parallel last year, the upcoming report will exclusively work with open data. Read more [here](#).

Research Integrity / Can we stop AI from flooding scientific journals?

"Research integrity experts say the only lasting solution is changing how scientists are evaluated: away from volume and toward quality." Read more [here](#).

AI / What about data protection?

Which AI tools are companies allowed to provide to employees from a data protection and confidentiality perspective? The Swiss law firm Vischer provides a detailed overview. Read more [here](#).



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

Überlandstrasse 133 - 8600 Dübendorf - Schweiz
+41 58 765 5700 - info@lib4ri.ch - www.lib4ri.ch

With the exception of external content (labelled images, section 'Beyond the Library'), the content of this newsletter is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](#). See our privacy policy [here](#).

All employees of the four research institutes are automatically subscribed to our newsletter. External persons can subscribe [here](#).

[Unsubscribe](#)