

12.03.2025

# Scientific Publishing

# From Writing to Sharing

Dr. Michael Bachmann & Dr. El Knappe

# Program

Time	Topic
09:00 – 09:40	<b>Part 01</b>
	Break 5`
09:45 – 10:30	<b>Part 02</b>
	Break 15`
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Part 03</b>
	Break 5`
11:20 – 12:00	<b>Part 04</b>

 Slides ?  
 Lib4RI website: <https://www.lib4ri.ch/trainings>

 Feedback !  
 Direct, email, social media, ...

## What is your current understanding of the scientific publishing process:



Menti.com w/ code 6886 0771

Not a quiz (completely anonymous) – this to help us continue to improve this course in the future

## What questions do you have about the scientific writing process?



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**What part of the scientific writing process do you want help with?**



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# Warm up exercise

- Introduce yourself and discuss with your neighbor:
  - **Why do you want to publish? Why bother at all?**

# Publishing: Why bother?

- Career requirement
  - Academia
  - Industry
- Share your findings / expertise / knowledge with others.
- Have an impact on others / your research field / society.
- ...





# Scientific Publishing

- How to find help and how to improve
  - This course
  - Lib4RI website + info sheets
  - (AI) tools
  - Colleagues
  - Journals
  - Read, read, read
  - Practice, practice, practice
    - Find out what you like and develop your style.



# Resources to help with scientific writing

Getting started with the writing process:

## Concept mapping & outlining

Method to organize your thoughts

Many resources exist, but try here are two options:

[Concept mapping](#) & [Outlining](#)

Essential principals on clear and consice writing:

## Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr.

Rules and examples of how to communicate more effectively while writing

A very concise reference

Full book available online via [Project Gutenberg](#)

English tenses:

## Which tense when?

The tense will change depending on which section you are writing. Here are a few references to help:

[UNR](#) & [AJE](#)

Writing & research:

## Whitesides' way of doing research

“Writing is an integral part of research, not a separate activity”

Use writing to help manage your research

Link to a presentation on the method [here](#)

*Whitesides, 2004, Adv. Mat., doi:10.1002/adma.200400767*

Scientific writing and publishing process:

## [Lib4RI info sheet & website](#)

Quick review version of this presentation as well as copies of this presentation

Do you have additional resources you like? Let us know!

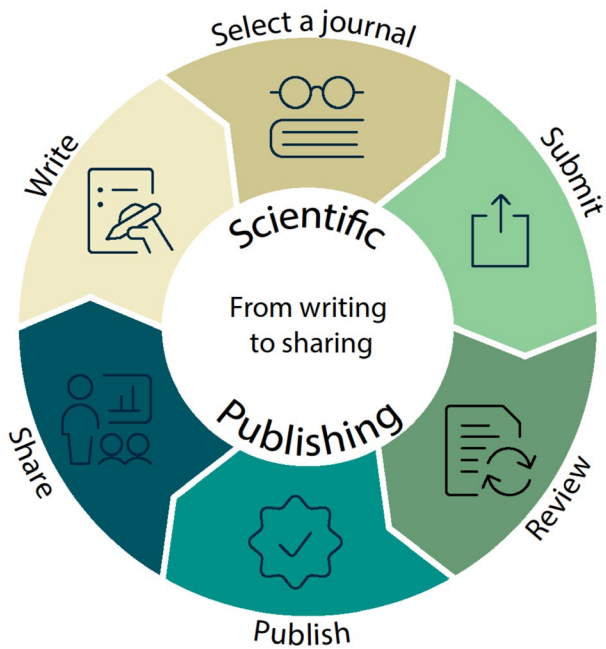
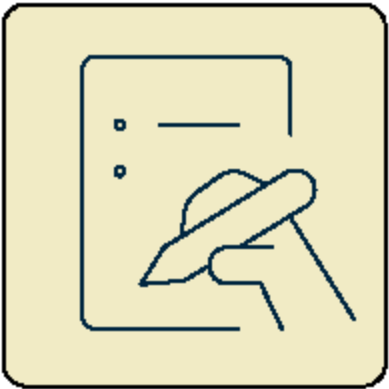
# Scientific publishing changes a lot

- Preprints vs. Peer-reviewed
- Open access, open data, open science
- Innovating peer review system
- Increasing number of authors, shared positions in author list (contributed equally)
- Only 1 round of revision?
- Relevance of impact factor
- ...

 Check your journals of interest: website → «For Authors» section

 Discuss with others about their experiences

# Write



**What's the most important part of the manuscript in your field?**



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# What's the hardest part of the manuscript for you?



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# What part of the manuscript do you write first?



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## Section title

How to read the following content slides:

- Slight description and additional information on the section

**General guideline to help you think about what should go in each section**

This can vary greatly by field. This was developed with a physical science scientific article in mind.

**Typical components of each of these sections**

A general approach/thought process for each section  
Based on conversations between W.P. Gardner & E. Knappe

**Tips and resources you might find helpful**



# Possible sections of a research article

- Title
- Authors
- Affiliations
- Keywords
- Highlights\Key points
- Layman description\Plain language summary
- Abstract
- Graphical abstract
- Introduction
- Material & Methods
- Figures and Tables
- Results
- Discussion
- Conclusions
- Supplementary Material
- Acknowledgements
- Author contributions
- References
- ...

**Tip:** Check your journal ‘For author’ section on their website to know which sections are required and their associated requirements. Not every section is needed before acceptance.

# Title

## ○ Concise, specific, engaging

### ○ Do:

- Title that is easily searchable/indexed
- Sparks curiosity

### ○ Don't:

- Use unnecessary jargon
- Abbreviations
- Ending a title in a question mark

What to consider when developing your title:

What is your main finding?

What is new/interesting?

3-5 keywords

Combine & refine into a short, specific and interesting title

## Key points\Highlights

- Short and sweet
- Meant to convey the main point or conclusions of the article
- Typically, are limited in length

What is the main point of your article?

What do you want the readers to take away?

**Tip:** Sometimes its helpful to write down your key points and have them handy as you develop your manuscript. This can help make sure you are staying “on theme” or help refine and change your key points as you develop your manuscript.

# Abstract

- Standalone summary
- Editors and readers will decide if they read your article based on the title and the abstract.
- Abstract and title can have length limitations – be sure to check before submission

**Tip:** Some researchers find it easiest to write the abstract after the rest of the paper is written.

What did you do? (~1 sentence)


How did you do it? (~2-3 sentences)

Key results (~2-3 sentences)

Implications/impact (Final sentence)  
Broad new process/insight

# Plain language summary/Layman description

- Short summary of your paper using non-technical terms
- Used to explain your research to a broader audience
  - This is your “elevator pitch”
  - How would you explain your research to a family member, friend or a non-researcher?


**SIMPLE WRITER**  
 WRITE LIKE UP GOER FIVE AND THING EXPLAINER

**PUT WORDS HERE**  
 Try to explain your **research** simply.

**YOU USED SOME LESS SIMPLE WORDS**  
**research**

[xkcd.com/simplewriter/](https://xkcd.com/simplewriter/)

**Tip:** Need help reducing technical terms/scientific jargon? Check out: <https://scienceandpublic.com/>

# RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1029/2019JB018469

## Key Points:

- The Turkana Depression accommodates divergence through localized extension
- African extension is accommodated by a combination of high and low strain rates
- Topographic gradients appear to influence the style of extension throughout the African rift system

## Supporting Information:

- Supporting Information S1
- Supporting Information S2

## Correspondence to:

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## Citation:












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# Accommodation of East African Rifting Across the Turkana Depression

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**Abstract** Geodetic observations in the Turkana Depression of southern Ethiopia and northern Kenya constrain the kinematic relay of extension from a single rift in Ethiopia to parallel rifts in Kenya and Uganda. Global Position System stations in the region record approximately 4.7 mm/year of total eastward extension, consistent with the ITRF14 Euler pole for Nubia-Somalia angular velocity. Extension is partitioned into high strain rates on localized structures and lower strain rates in areas of elevated topography, as across the Ethiopian Plateau. Where high topography is absent, extension is relayed between the Main Ethiopian Rift and the Eastern Rift across the Turkana Depression exclusively through localized extension on and immediately east of Lake Turkana (up to 0.2 microstrain/year across Lake Turkana). The observed scaling and location of active extension in the Turkana Depression are inconsistent with mechanical models predicting distributed stretching due to either inherited lithospheric weakness or reactivated structures oblique to the present-day extension direction.

**Plain Language Summary** The continent of Africa is breaking up into multiple pieces. This divergence is accommodated through extension along the East African Rift System. The Turkana Depression, which lies on the border of Ethiopia and Kenya, is of interest due to its previous rifting episodes, low elevation compared to the surrounding rift system, and location linking more prominent rift valleys to the north and south. Global Position System observations of surface velocities show that extension in the Turkana Depression is confined to a narrow region, not distributed across a broad area. These results suggest the East African Rift System is accommodating the breakup of the African continent through a combination of distributed deformation in areas with high topography and localized extension across low elevation rift basins.

Short, concise, descriptive

## Abstract breakdown:

What did I did : use geodetic observations in east Africa to constrain kinematics

How I did it : GNSS observations

Key results : areas of high topography = high strain rates localized on structures and low strain rates across the plateaus; Low topography (Turkana Depression) = exclusively localized strain rates

Implications : Mechanical models are not accurately representing the rift

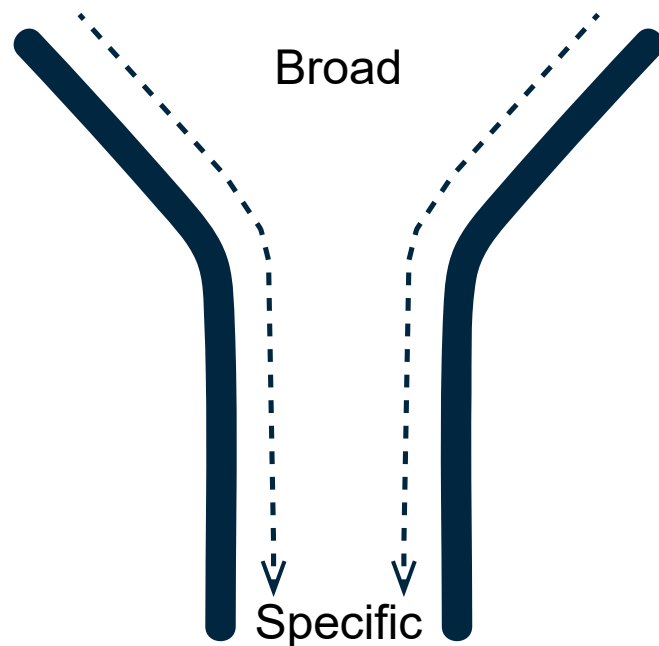
A researcher in my field will be able to understand this

What I want readers to take away from reading this paper, especially the last point

Everyone should understand this section. Honestly, I think I could have done better here. There is too much jargon.

# Introduction

- Set up the context and importance of your objectives
- Typically starts broad and becomes more specific



**Problem statement (broad, ~1 paragraph)**  
Why is this research important? What is the broad problem?

**Scientific background (~2-3 paragraphs)**  
What has been done? What do we already know?

**Statement of contribution (last sentence in scientific background)**  
What is the problem this research is addressing?

**Remaining question (Final paragraph)**  
What is the contribution this research is making?  
1-2 sentence on the basic method used  
Fundamental results and implications  
“In this paper we investigate....”

# Methods

- Detailed procedure
- Enough information so that someone can repeat your experiment
- Some details can go in the supplement, but anything in the supplement must be referred to in the main text
  - For short articles, (e.g. communications) this entire section may be in the Supplementary materials

## Method of solution – how did you do it

- Theory/equations
- Lab/field measurements
  - Models
  - Numerical code
  - Materials, chemical
- Instrumental techniques
  - Data analysis
- Domain/geographic region
- Boundary/initial conditions/parameters



# Results

- Findings without interpretation
- Put the results that are needed to answer the question you proposed in the introduction
- No interpretation in the results – save it for the discussion

What did you find?

Majority of this section is likely to be tables and figures

Make sure you write good captions – e.g. someone should be able to understand the figure/table just without reading the manuscript and only reading the captions. Some researchers will only look at the figures/tables and not read the manuscript.

# Results

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

Journal of Cell Science (2022) 135, jcs258764. doi:10.1242/jcs.258764

between the two cases mentioned above. This is highlighted by the magnified panel for talin-1 in Fig. 1 which shows focal adhesions with continuous and spot-like organizations of talin-1 next to each other.

Thus, SIM gave the impression of spatial distributions within focal adhesions that differed between different adhesome proteins but also depended on the phosphorylation status, as shown for pPax-Y118 in comparison to paxillin.

### Phosphorylated paxillin organizes in clusters with regular spacing to each other

Surprised by the difference in the paxillin and pPax-Y118 staining patterns, we decided to analyze their spatial organization in a quantitative manner. We labeled endogenous paxillin in REFs, as well as pPax-Y118 (Fig. 2A). Magnifications of single focal adhesions confirmed our earlier observation that paxillin is organized rather homogeneously throughout adhesions, while pPax-Y118 localized in discrete clusters (Fig. 2A'–A''). To analyze differences between spatial distribution of paxillin and pPax-Y118, we applied two independent methods to detect intensity peaks and to measure distances between these peaks. We used a published ImageJ-based plugin (NanoJ Core, Laine et al., 2019) to measure nearest-neighbor (NN) distances and independently developed a custom-written MATLAB routine that measures the center-to-center distance of the intensity maxima of labeled proteins (Fig. S1A). Using both methods, we analyzed our SIM images of pPax-Y118 and performed an analysis of paxillin labeling using the NN method as reference. From these distance values, we created histograms and plotted the average distance distribution based on

histograms from independent experiments (Fig. 2B). These distance distribution plots revealed a narrower distance distribution of pPax-Y118 intensity peaks compared with that of paxillin and a peak distance that was shifted towards shorter distances for pPax-Y118. A quantitative comparison confirmed the impression of shorter distances between pPax-Y118 maxima (Fig. 2C; 555 nm with NN measurements and 469 nm with our MATLAB-based algorithm) compared with paxillin (616 nm). The distance distribution of pPax-Y118 also appeared more centered around the peak indicating less variation in distances between intensity maxima. We quantified the full-width half-maxima (FWHM) of distance distributions (Fig. 2D), which indeed revealed significantly smaller FWHM for pPax-Y118 compared with paxillin. Our MATLAB code also allowed us to measure the diameters of detected spots (Fig. 2E; paxillin, 332 nm; pPax-Y118, 267 nm) and to plot the number of detected spots within an adhesion against the length of that adhesion (Fig. 2F). Additionally, we tested the spatial distribution of vinculin (Fig. S1B–D) and found that the distances between vinculin maxima were broadly distributed, similar to those of paxillin.

Overall, these data and their analyses showed that pPax-Y118 forms 'spots' or spatially constrained clusters. These clusters are closer to each other and have a more regular spacing compared with clusters analyzed for paxillin. We believe that these analyses correspond well with the visual impressions from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2A, and show that pPax-Y118 has a stronger tendency to be constrained in clusters whereas paxillin and vinculin seem to lack a well-defined pattern within adhesions.

Additionally, to confirm that the differences in spatial distribution were not induced by labeling artefacts, we performed titration

*Bachmann et al., JCS, 2022, doi: :10.1242/jcs.258764*

## Context

## Content

## Conclusion

**Tip:** Try the context-content-conclusion (C-C-C) scheme

Mensh and Kording, 2017, Plos Comput Biol, look for Rule 3 : <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005619>

# Figures & Tables

- Communicate complex information
- Should be referred to in manuscript in chronological order
- Check the author's guide for your journals limitations/recommendations
  - Some journals figures/tables count towards word count/publication lengths

**Tip:** Keep components of the figures so you can easily edit them later. Figures are often changed in the review process so keeping the code/data/files for ease of editing will save you time later.

## Good Captions

e.g. someone should be able to understand the figure/table just without reading the manuscript and only reading the captions. Some researchers will only look at the figures/tables and not read the manuscript.

## Easily readable axes and labels

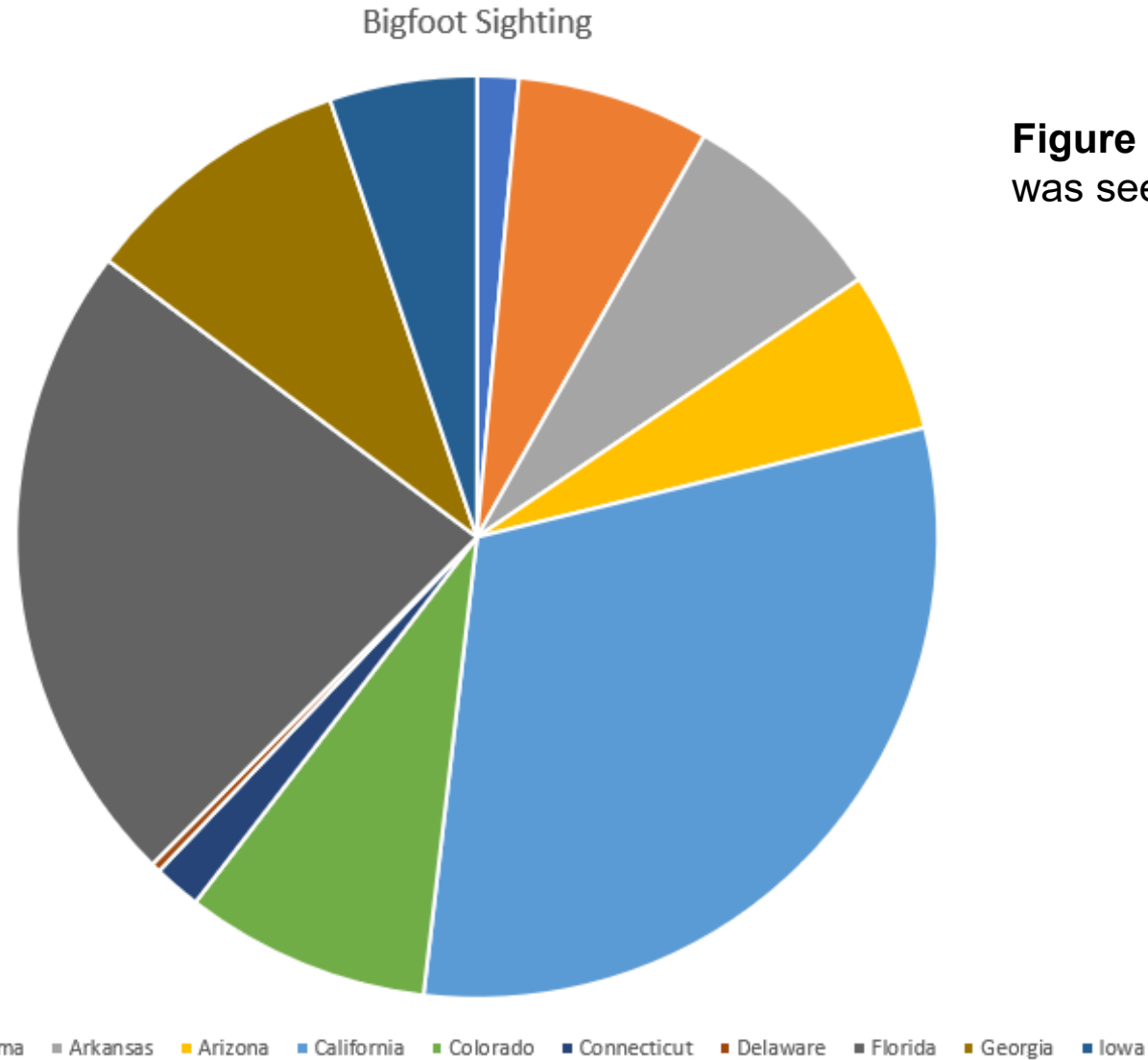
Generally this larger then you think

## Consider color blindness

e.g. many people can not differentiate between green and red\

# Figures

With a NEW neighbour, how would you improve this figure?



**Figure 1.** Fig shows where Bigfoot was seen.

Data provided by BFRO (Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization)

# Resources for good figures

[Ten Simple Rules for Better Figure Making](#) article

[Simplified Science Publishing](#) blog post

[The Visual Display of Quantitative Information](#)  
by Edward Tufte

Great book on making good figures  
Physical copies at all the Lib4RI library locations

# Discussion

- Interpretation and evaluation of your results
- No new data should be brought up in the discussion
- Refer to results chronologically

Answer your question

Compare your results

- Discuss nuance (anomalies, specific data)
- Limitations of your study

Compare results to what exists in the literature

Implications/significance of findings

# Conclusion

- In some fields, conclusion paragraphs are not needed
- Typically short, precise and impactful

**Tip:** Link the conclusion and the introduction, sometimes its helpful to write at similar times.

Contribution – what did you do

Summarize important results  
Try not to be repetitive with the discussion

Broad implications and other possible applications

Some fields include future possibilities/direction  
Others recommend against doing this – e.g. this should be obvious if the paper is well written and/or this is something you are already working on and will publish soon so unnecessary to include here

# Acknowledgements

- Funding agencies & grants
- Software/models used (if not your own)
- Data used (if not your own)
- Additional help:
  - Sometimes a really helpful review can be indicated here
  - If someone helped with data collection/field work or was vital in facilitating your work but was not an author

# References

- Some paper have citation limits
  - Do not cite just to cite
  - Make sure you the citation represents the statement

**Tip:** We recommend using a reference management software like Zotero so that formatting can be easily changed. Check out our [website](#) and [trainings](#) for more info on literature management software.

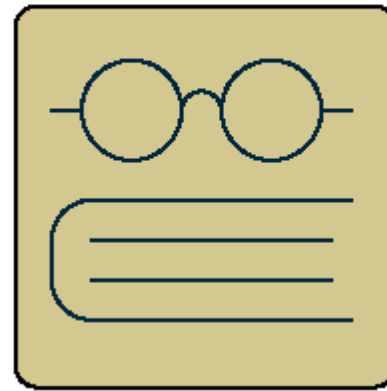


# Supplement

- Generally there is no limit on how large the supplement can be
- All supplementary material must be referred to in the text
- Where all the details that are not needed to understand your work but are necessary for reproducibility can go
  - Can include:
    - Materials and methods (if more detail is needed than in your methods)
    - Data sets
    - Tables
    - Code
    - More detailed discussion (prohibited in some journals...)
    - Extra figures
    - Equations
    - Multimedia files

**Tip:** Good data management is the key to reproducibility. Start good practices early! Need help managing your data, check out our [website](#)/training series on research data management.

## Select a journal



## Picking the correct journal, what should you consider?



Menti.com w/ code 6886 0771


# Picking the correct journal, what should you consider?

- Topic/relevance
- Target audience
- Funding requirements
- Open Access?
- Funding requirements
- PI and co-author suggestions
- Length requirements
- Don't know where to start?
  - What journals have you been using?
  - What do co-authors recommend?

**Tip:** Still don't know which journal to pick? Consider checking out Bison: <https://service.tib.eu/bison/>

# The Dark Side: Paper mills and predatory journals

- Use common sense
- [Beall's List – of Potential Predatory Journals and Publishers](#)
  - Included MDPI and Frontier journals
  - Famous, but criteria are criticized for being vague and subjective
- [MDPI Journals: 2015 -2021 | Dan Brockington](#)
- [The SNSF is no longer funding Open Access articles in special issues](#)
- “Personally, I think that more harm is done if a researchers pays 9500 Euro for making an article in a Nature journal Open Access than publishing a sound paper in a journal with a sub-optimal peer review.” --- Dr. Jochen Bihn, Lib4RI



Elsevier classifies itself as a “data analytics” company and Nature is publicly traded on the stock exchange

# Article types

- Content
- Length
- Audience

## Original research & findings:

- Articles
- Communications

## Review:

- Reviews

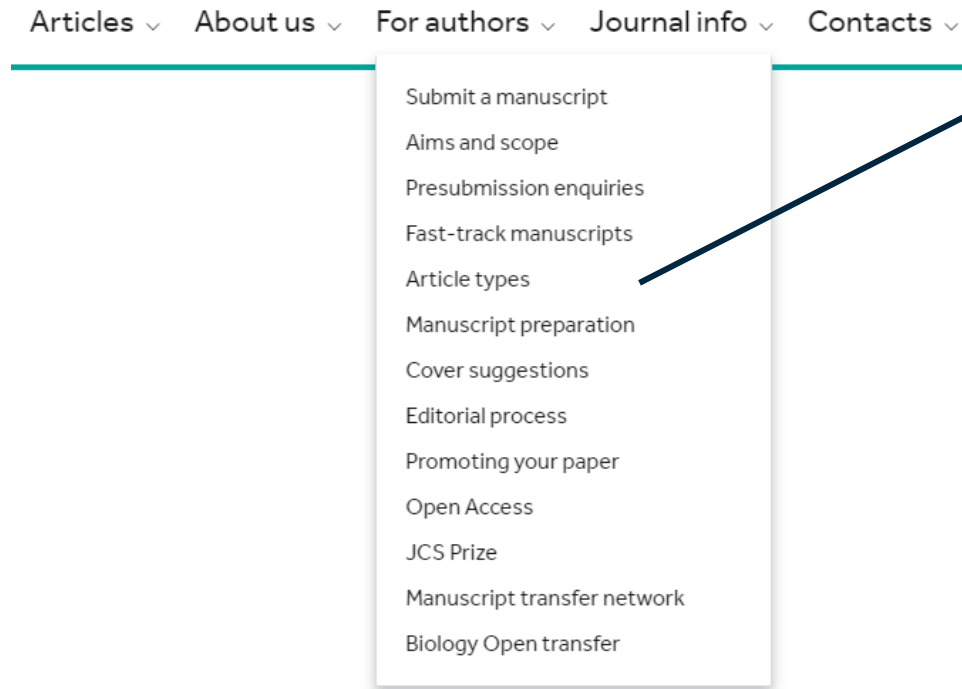
## Opinions:

- Perspectives
- Comments
- Letter to the editor

**Your content determines the article type, not the other way around.**

# Exercise

- Check your preferred journal for available article types and for the conditions that apply.



## Article types

- [Research Articles](#)
- [Short Reports](#)
- [Tools and Resources](#)
- [Fast track](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Cell Science at a Glance posters](#)
- [Opinions and Hypotheses](#)
- [Correspondence](#)

### Research Articles

Research Articles should be fully documented reports of original research and are always peer reviewed. The total length of the article should not exceed 8,000 words, including figure legends but not references, with no more than 8 display items (figures and tables). Additional display items (figures, tables, movies, datasets) may be published online at the discretion of the editor and reviewers. Supplemental material is strictly limited to 50 Mb per article. For more information on how to prepare a Research Article, please see the [manuscript preparation page](#).

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### Short Reports

Short Reports are short, high-impact, peer-reviewed papers. Reports must not exceed 3,000 words, including figure legends but not references, and can contain up to four display items (figures or tables). The style of a Short Report follows that of a Research Article in Journal of Cell Science, the only difference being that Results and Discussion sections are combined into a single section.

[Back to top](#)

<https://journals.biologists.com/jcs/pages/article-types> , 05.05.2025

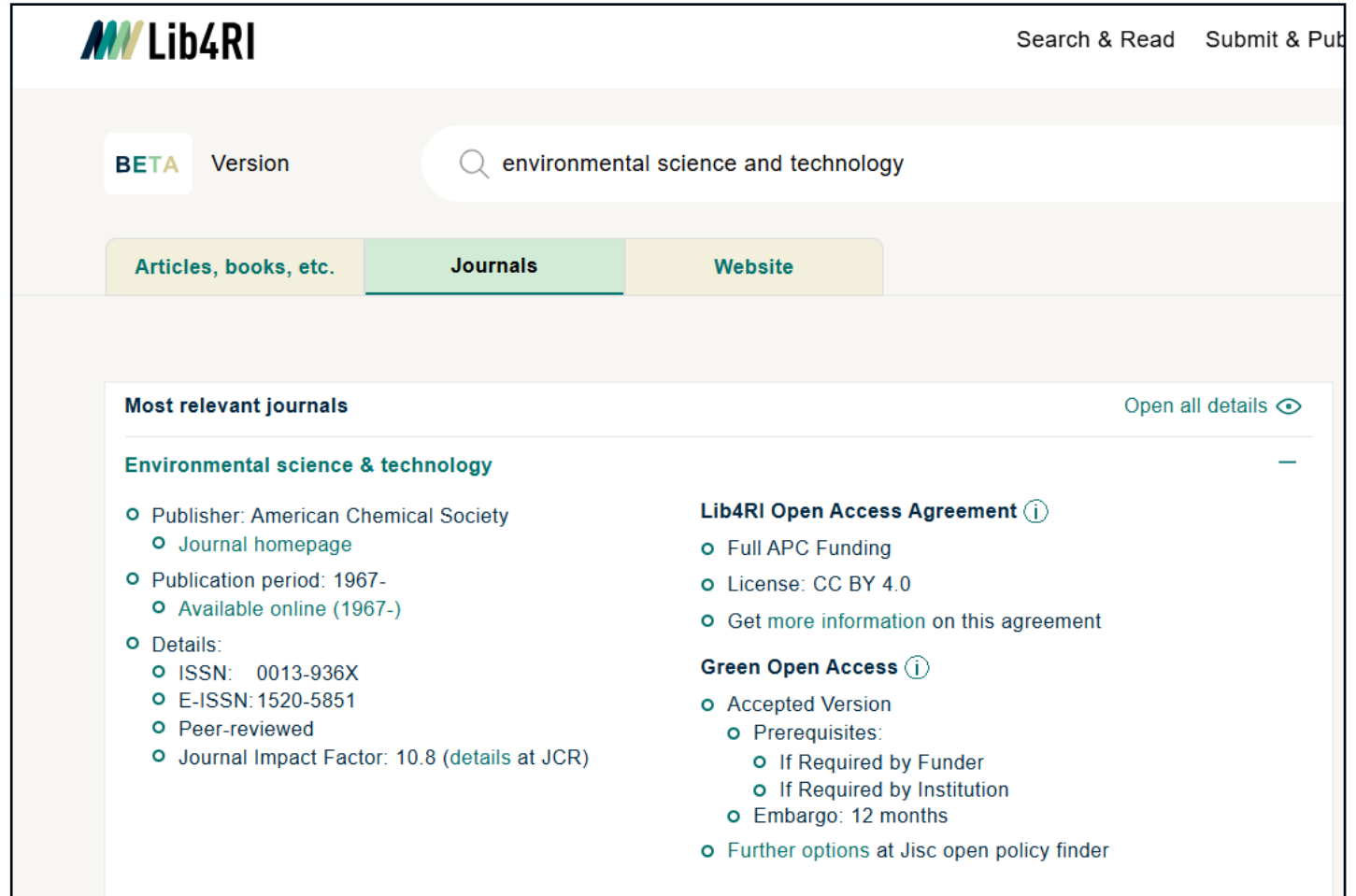
# Have a journal in mind?

- Check out if the library has agreements or can support publishing open access in that journal using the [library search tool](#).

**Tip:** Make journals' OA policies part of your decision where to publish. It can save you thousands of CHF!

## Questions:

- [openaccess@lib4ri.ch](mailto:openaccess@lib4ri.ch)
- <https://www.lib4ri.ch/open-access>

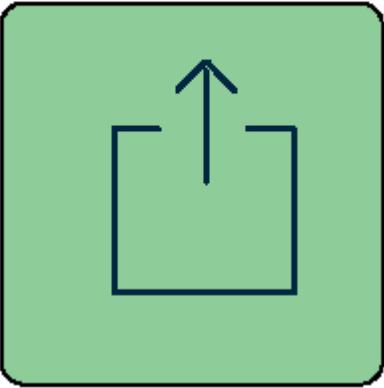


The screenshot shows the Lib4RI website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "environmental science and technology". Below the search bar, there are tabs for "Articles, books, etc.", "Journals", and "Website". The "Journals" tab is selected. Under the "Journals" tab, there's a section titled "Most relevant journals" with a link "Open all details". Below this, there's a list of journals. The first journal is "Environmental science & technology". It has a list of details: Publisher: American Chemical Society, Journal homepage, Publication period: 1967-, Available online (1967-), Details: ISSN: 0013-936X, E-ISSN: 1520-5851, Peer-reviewed, Journal Impact Factor: 10.8 (details at JCR). To the right of the journal details, there are two sections: "Lib4RI Open Access Agreement" and "Green Open Access". The "Lib4RI Open Access Agreement" section includes: Full APC Funding, License: CC BY 4.0, and a link to "Get more information on this agreement". The "Green Open Access" section includes: Accepted Version, Prerequisites: If Required by Funder, If Required by Institution, Embargo: 12 months, and a link to "Further options at Jisc open policy finder".





Submit



# Format your submission – General considerations

- Preference for a format can depend on whether people read the article printed or on an electronic device

bioRxiv preprint doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.09.16.613204>; this version posted September 16, 2024. The copyright holder for this preprint (which was not certified by peer review) is the author/funder, who has granted bioRxiv a license to display the preprint in perpetuity. It is made available under aCC-BY 4.0 International license.

## Structural Repetition Detector: multi-scale quantitative mapping of molecular complexes through microscopy

Alonso Mendes<sup>1</sup>, Bruno M. Saravali<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Guillaume Jacquemont<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, João I. Memado<sup>5</sup>, Christophe Leterrier<sup>1</sup>, and Ricardo Henriques<sup>1,4,6,7</sup>

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From molecules to organelles, cells exhibit recurring structural motifs across multiple scales. Understanding these structures provides insights into their functional roles. While super-resolution microscopy can visualize such patterns, manual detection in large datasets is challenging and biased. We present the Structural Repetition Detector (SRD), an unsupervised computational framework that identifies repetitive biological structures by exploiting local texture redundancy. SRD formulates structure detection as a similarity-matching problem between local image regions. It detects recurring patterns without prior knowledge or constraints on the imaging modality. We demonstrate SRD's capabilities on various fluorescence microscopy images. Quantitative analysis of three datasets highlights SRD's utility: estimating the periodicity of spectrin rings in neurons, detecting HIV-1 viral assembly, and evaluating microtubule dynamics modulated by EB3. Our open-source ImageJ and Fiji plugins enables unbiased analysis of repetitive structures across imaging modalities in diverse biological contexts.

structural biology | quantitative image analysis | super-resolution microscopy  
Correspondence: (R. Henriques) [henriques@igic.gulbenkian.pt](mailto:henriques@igic.gulbenkian.pt)

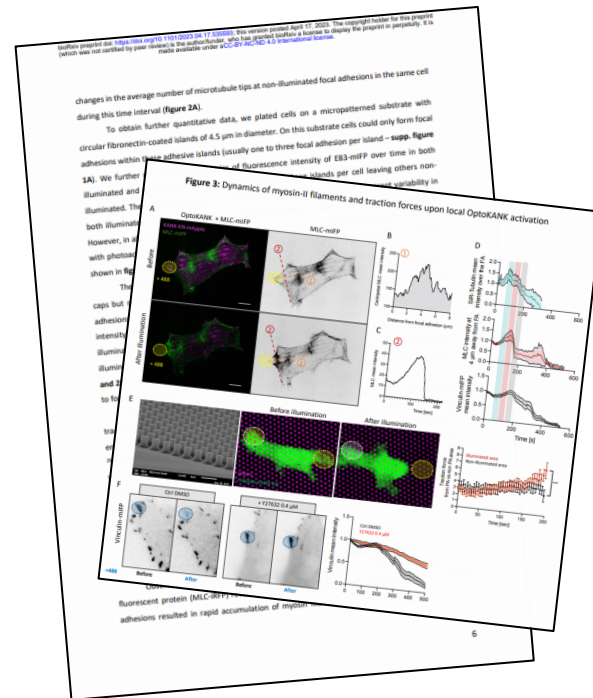
### Introduction

Biological systems exhibit structural repetition across multiple scales, from biomolecules to supramolecular assemblies and cellular structures (1). Understanding these patterns is crucial for identifying their functional significance and underlying biological processes (2). Microscopy techniques offer molecular-level resolution but manually detecting repetitive motifs in large datasets is impractical, biased, and expertise-dependent (3). To address these limitations, machine learning, particularly deep convolutional neural networks (CNNs), has been employed to detect and segment biological structures automatically (4, 5). However, CNNs require extensive labelled training data, inheriting biases (6). Previous methods enable unbiased registration but need single-molecule localisation data, limiting their applicability (7, 8). We present the Structural Repetition Detector (SRD), an unsupervised framework to identify repetitive

**Fig. 1. Applications of the Structural Repetition Detector (SRD) Algorithm in Fluorescence Microscopy.** A. Detection of Structural Repetition Using Simulated Images. Simulated images with STORM patterns for repetitive patterns using simulated structural blocks. Colored regions in repetition map correspond to members of same structural blocks above. B. Detection of Structural Repetition Using Experimental Images. HEK293T cells expressing inducible myosin II (GFP-MyoII) and actin (mCherry-actin) were imaged with STORM to detect repetitive structural patterns using manually extracted structural blocks. Colored regions in repetition map correspond to members of same structural blocks in previous segment. C. Global Repetition Detector. Jurkat cell expressing inducible myosin II (GFP-MyoII) and actin (mCherry-actin) were imaged with STORM to detect repetitive structural patterns using global repetition detector. Image prepared for structural repetition using all possible structural patterns. Repetition map reveals structures not easily detectable in input image and their relative frequency. D. Multiscale Global Repetition. Xenopus laevis nuclear pores imaged with STORM and analyzed using different resolution levels to detect structural repetition at various scales. Repetition map identifies repeated structures from single nucleoporins (orange) to nucleoporin clusters (blue) and nuclear pore units (magenta). Center panel: Simplified SRD algorithm workflow illustrating key steps from input preprocessing to repetition map generation.

biological structures by exploring local texture redundancy. SRD formulates structure detection as similarity matching between local image regions, allowing pattern detection without prior knowledge or microscopy modality constraints. We demonstrate SRD's capabilities on fluorescence microscopy images of diverse cell types and structures, including micro-

Mendes et al. | bioRxiv | September 16, 2024 | 1–21



Aureille et al., *bioRxiv.org*, 2023,  
doi: 10.1101/2023.04.17.535593

Mendes et al., *bioRxiv.org*, 2024,  
doi: 10.1101/2024.09.16.613204

Journal-like style vs. free style  
Some journals allow that your first submission is formatted according to your own preferences, others have guidelines. Check the journals author portal/for authors section.

Make your life easier  
Stay somewhat close to journal guidelines to avoid heavy reformatting later on

Use line numbers  
Make your reviewers lives (and thus yours) easier by having the line numbers to refer to. Pick the line spacing that is easy for you to read (unless the journal specifies)

**Tip:** Programs like LaTeX can make changing formatting easy. Check out our training on '[Getting started with LaTeX](#)'

# The actual submission process

- Expect a lengthy process.
- The information you need during the submission process is more important than you think:
  - Authors' names, affiliations, address and ORCID (as they prefer)
  - Funding information
  - Acknowledgements
  - ...

## Get familiar with the submission platform

Make yourself familiar with the requirements of the platform and the kind of information you will need.

## Gather all necessary information before the actual submission

Some information will need time to acquire → plan ahead.

**Tip:** Your ORCID credentials work as login for many journals. Another good reason to have an ORCID account!

# Cover Letter

- Relevance and content of cover letters are very field and journal dependent.
  - Discuss with experienced coauthors – ask for examples
  - Check the author's guide on the journal's webpage
  - Ask the journal / editor
  - Out-of-the-ordinary circumstances of your submission (prior discussion with editors, transferred peer review files, transfer from another journal, resubmission, ...)
- In some fields the cover letter is incredibly important and must be thoughtfully written, in others it is less important

The cover letter can be an elevator pitch to the editor

Why suited for the journal and its audience?

Suggesting and excluding reviewers

Some journals allow, or even require, this. Exclusions will be considered if you have good reasons.



# Review



# Receiving Reviews on your submitted paper

- Feedback from your “homework”:
  - First impressions? What surprised you?
  - How are reviews organized?

**Tip:** Tight deadline? Extensive revisions? Email the editor to see if you can get an extension. Best done well before the deadline – and not guaranteed.

## Typical structure of a review

### Title and authors

### Summary

The reviewer’s summary of the manuscripts findings/contributions to the field with their comments on whether the manuscript’s findings are interesting, well supported, and/or novel. (~1 paragraph)

### Major Revisions

The larger issues that the reviewer feels are very important for the author to address. What big picture things need to be clarified, expanded upon, tested, etc..

### Minor Revisions

The smaller issues the author should address. Smaller points that need clarification, small figure adjustments, spelling mistakes or rephrasing of sentences that don’t make sense.

### Recommendation

Where the reviewer tells the editor if the paper should be rejected, accepted with major or minor revisions or accepted without revision (not sure this ever happens)

### Confidential comments

Section to raise concerns about ethics or other topics the reviewer does not wish the authors to see.

# Receiving Reviews on your submitted paper

**Peer review mostly improves your publication.**  
Ideally, your peers invested time and effort to improve your submission. Try to understand their reasoning and follow their suggestions when possible.

**Don't take the reviews personally.**  
A lot of revisions does not mean a bad paper.

**Work on reviewer comments with experienced colleagues**  
Experience can help when finding the appropriate response to reviewer comments

**Not every recommendation needs to be followed**  
You can refuse to implement certain reviewer comments if you provide good reasons.

**Tip:** A reviewer's comment doesn't make sense because they didn't understand you correctly?  
→ Don't explain it another time in your answer to them! Instead, find the source of confusion and change it

## Being a reviewer yourself

- Being a reviewer can be a valuable experience but it is also time consuming.
- Typical possibilities to get involved:
  - Senior researchers often involve junior researchers when they review.
  - Platforms like pubpeer.com encourage the reviewing of preprints and are open to anyone.

## Resources on how to be a good reviewer:

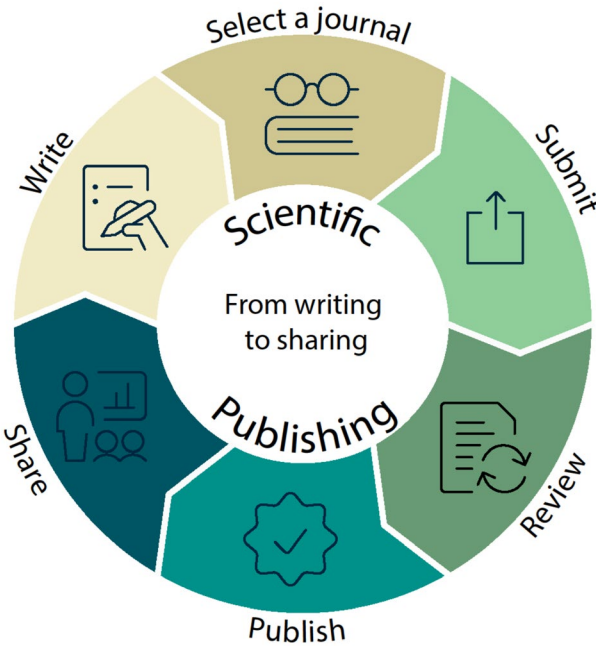
[Step by Step Guide to Reviewing a Manuscript | Wiley](#)

[How to write a peer review | PLOS](#)

[Reviewer Guidelines | Research Involvement and Engagement](#)



# Publish



# Editorial proofs

- Last chance for making easy changes.
  - Ensure author information is correct and up to date.
  - Double check everything.
- Tight deadline? Ask for extension.
- Then celebrate!

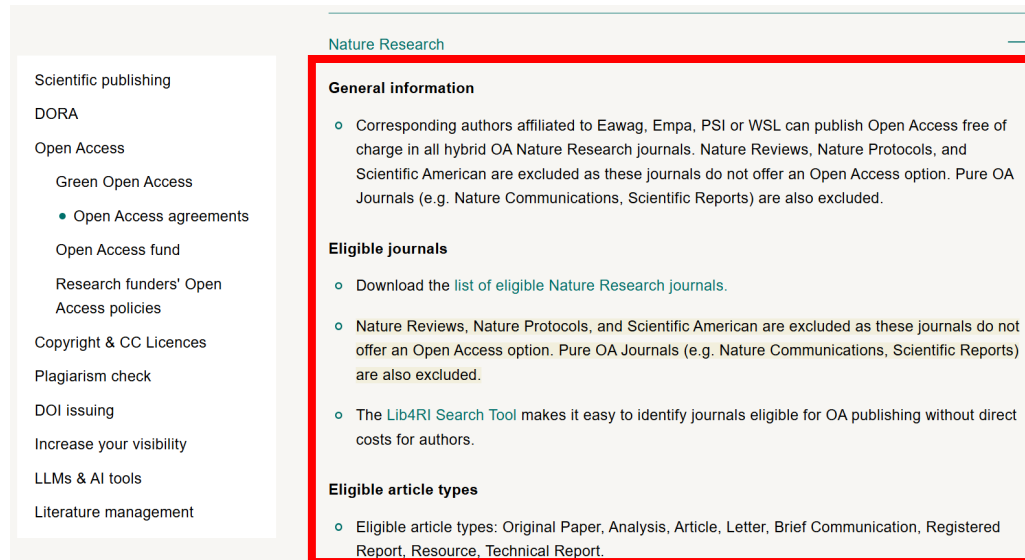
## Editorial proofs

Take your time and be thorough. Corrections after this stage are much more difficult.

# Acceptance, OA, copyrights, payments

## OA, copyright, payments

Make sure that you informed yourself about these aspects **before** you submitted!



Scientific publishing

DORA

Open Access

- Green Open Access
- Open Access agreements

Open Access fund

Research funders' Open Access policies

Copyright & CC Licences

Plagiarism check

DOI issuing

Increase your visibility

LLMs & AI tools

Literature management

**Nature Research**

**General information**

- Corresponding authors affiliated to Eawag, Empa, PSI or WSL can publish Open Access free of charge in all hybrid OA Nature Research journals. Nature Reviews, Nature Protocols, and Scientific American are excluded as these journals do not offer an Open Access option. Pure OA Journals (e.g. Nature Communications, Scientific Reports) are also excluded.

**Eligible journals**

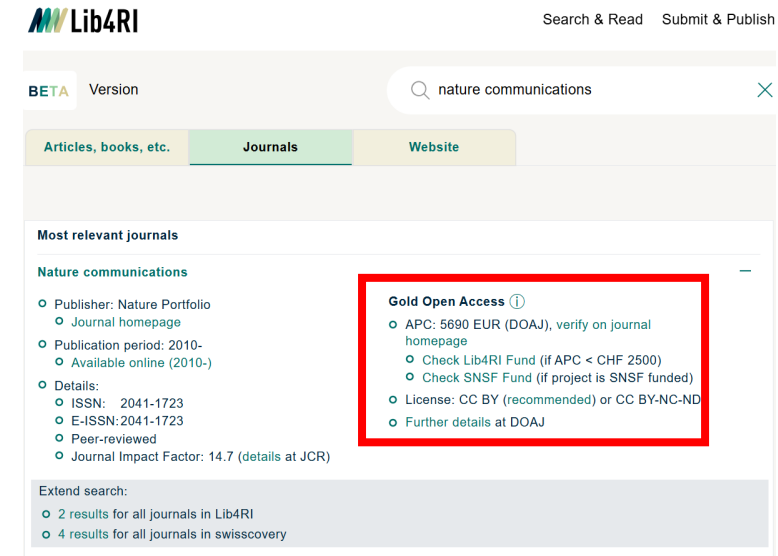
- Download the [list of eligible Nature Research journals](#).
- Nature Reviews, Nature Protocols, and Scientific American are excluded as these journals do not offer an Open Access option. Pure OA Journals (e.g. Nature Communications, Scientific Reports) are also excluded.
- The [Lib4RI Search Tool](#) makes it easy to identify journals eligible for OA publishing without direct costs for authors.

**Eligible article types**

- Eligible article types: Original Paper, Analysis, Article, Letter, Brief Communication, Registered Report, Resource, Technical Report.

## Lib4RI search tool

Provides up to date information on the RI's OA agreements with journals



**Lib4RI** Search & Read Submit & Publish

BETA Version

Search nature communications

Articles, books, etc. Journals Website

**Most relevant journals**

**Nature communications**

- Publisher: Nature Portfolio
  - Journal homepage
- Publication period: 2010-
  - Available online (2010-)
- Details:
  - ISSN: 2041-1723
  - E-ISSN: 2041-1723
  - Peer-reviewed
  - Journal Impact Factor: 14.7 (details at JCR)

**Gold Open Access**

- APC: 5690 EUR (DOAJ), verify on journal homepage
- Check Lib4RI Fund (if APC < CHF 2500)
- Check SNSF Fund (if project is SNSF funded)
- License: CC BY (recommended) or CC BY-NC-ND
- Further details at DOAJ

Extend search:




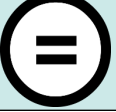
- 2 results for all journals in Lib4RI
- 4 results for all journals in swisscovery

**Tip:** Still need help, email us at [openaccess@lib4ri.ch](mailto:openaccess@lib4ri.ch)

**Tip:** Make journals' OA policies part of your decision where to publish. It can save you thousands of CHF!

# Creative Common (CC) licenses and why they matter

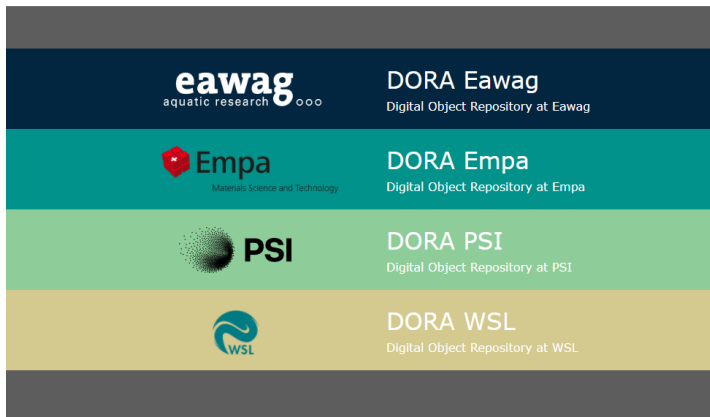
- Traditional publishing: Copyright transferred to the publisher
  - You need to pay to read your own article...
- CC licenses:

	BY	Attribution	give attribution to the author and link to the licence	mandatory
	SA	ShareAlike	derivative works need to be made available under same licence	optional
	NC	NonCommercial	re-use is only permitted for non-commercial purposes	optional
	ND	NoDerivatives	the work must not be modified	optional

- **CC BY highly recommended for publishing your articles**

**Tip:** Need help making a decision, Creative Commons has a [License Chooser](#) that recommends licenses.

# Digital Object Repository At the 4RIs (DORA 4RI)

 DORA 4RI


DORA is getting a revamp this year! Stay tuned for the new and improved DORA.

## DORA

DORA is the institutional repository for all 4 RIs. DORA stores almost all publications of 4RI researchers.

## Services @ DORA

- DORA reminds and informs you about ways to make your publication Open Access (OA)
- DORA makes your OA publications available to the public (and non-OA publications available to 4RI members)

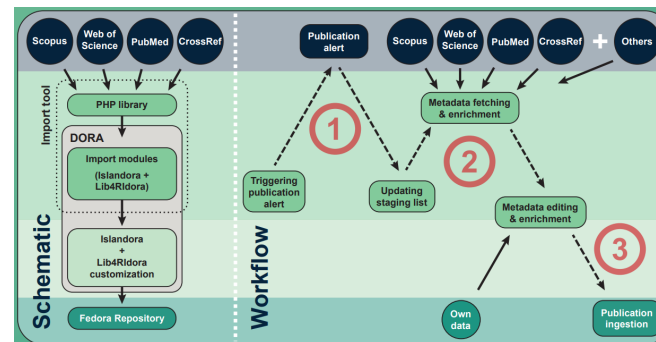
Manual ingestion: <https://www.lib4ri.ch/dora>

### Submit your publications to DORA

As a service to our users, we developed an [ingestion workflow](#) to automatically include publications in DORA. However, you can still manually submit remaining publications with the forms below for each research institute. Please keep in mind the [content policy](#).

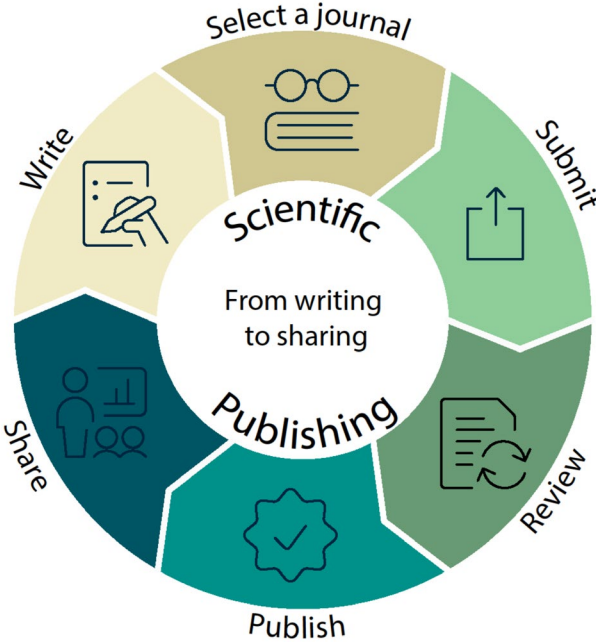
Submit to DORA Eawag	→	Submit to DORA PSI	→
Submit to DORA Empa	→	Submit to DORA WSL	→

Automatic ingestion:



**Tip:** You want to list your publications on your institutional website?  
<https://www.lib4ri.ch/integrating-publication-lists-your-webpage>  
 (only DORA-listed publications, though)

# Share





After publishing your research you discuss it with like minded philosophers in your town's agora.

And you might use some 21<sup>st</sup> century methods to distribute your findings.



*Raphael, The School of Athens  
painted 1509-1511*



# Sharing your research among scientists

- Why would you share your research?
- Have already done it? What was your experience?
- Impact: What makes a finding impactful? What makes a finding a topic in coffee breaks at work? Or in a coffee break with non-scientist friends?
- Increased visibility in academic circles (e.g., number of citations) “spills over” into non-academic circles (e.g., blogs, science communicators, ...)

## Sharing within academic circles remains relevant

Besides publishing your paper, this includes:

- presenting at scientific conferences
- writing a review paper, linking your findings to existing literature
- sharing via social media among collaborators and colleagues



Raphael, *The School of Athens* painted 1509-1511



# Narrative style CVs – the new SNSF CV

- [Your curriculum vitae – all about the CV format](#)
- SNSF introduced a new CV format in 2022 that you need to use when you apply for SNSF funding.
- More emphasis on achievements beyond publications and citation numbers.
- Net academic age: “This time span between your graduation and the submission of the funding application is your net academic age, calculated in full-time equivalents (FTE).”
  - Net academic age relates to your assessment compared to others. Eligibility for a grant can be measured differently!!!

## The new SNSF CV

1. Education and training
2. Previous and current employment
3. Major achievements with selected works
4. Net academic age
5. ORCID ID number

## Major achievements with selected works

“Describe in your own words 1-3 of your major achievements with selected works across your whole career.

...

Give a **maximum of ten work samples as reference**, distributed across the achievements in any way. **All types of work are eligible** – for example articles in scientific journals, chapters of books, conference papers, data sets, etc.”

# Sharing your research with the public

- Communicating your science with the public is time consuming and difficult...
- ... but it is part of the job for scientists that are paid with taxpayers' money.
- For the public, the number of voices can be relevant for judging “correctness”.
  - 99% of climate scientists agree on climate change.
  - But if you only hear from 1% of them, it might appear 50:50

Science communication can be done on all levels.

Write Wikipedia articles, share layman descriptions on insta etc., Pint of Science and other events, ...

Doing science communication practices many transferable skills.

Adjusting complexity, seeing other viewpoints, “normal” writing, presentation skills, ...

# Publish or perish? Or: When are you successful as a scientist?

- Publishing many bad articles should not be the goal
- (high) impact factor
  - It is a journal based metric that does not reflect the quality of your publication
- Establish your personal brand
  - Consistently publish articles in good quality about a core topic and become the recognized expert for this topic

# Unique identifiers – formal aspects of sharing

- Maybe 20 million scientists in the world, publishing around 3 million articles per year.
- How to find you and your work?

## ORCID: Open Researcher and Contributor ID

Serves also as login credential for many journals, often listed next to your name on publications, stays with you when leaving institutes.

ORCID profile includes your employment history, funding sources, awards, publications. Can serve as an online CV.

## Google Scholar

Another way to list your publications. Also includes citations, personal citation metrics (H-index). Includes publications and citations that are not listed by other sources (e.g. Scopus, Web of Science).

## ResearcherID by Web of Science

## ScopusID by Scopus

**Tip:** Preference for different identifiers can be field specific → discuss with your colleagues.

# Copyright, DOI, open access– formal aspects of sharing

- Maybe 20 million scientists in the world, publishing around 3 million articles per year.
- How to find you and your work?

## DOI: Digital Object Identifier

DOIs are persistent, unique, and associate metadata with objects (including papers, datasets, etc.).


## Open Access and CC license

Open Access to your article, published under a creative commons license, ensures that your article easily reaches everyone who wants to read it.

**Tip:** Need a DOI for your work? The library can issue one: check our [website](#).

# Preprints – Sharing your research faster

- What is a preprint?
  - A manuscript that has not undergone peer review and is without any formatting by a journal.
    - Basically your submitted version of a “normal” research paper
- What is the advantage of publishing a preprint?
  - Fast (no waiting for editors and peer reviewers), also means priority / less risk of being scooped
  - Cheap way to publish your results open access and to share it with everyone
  - Flexible with style, format, content, ...
- What is a risk?
  - Make sure that “real” publishing is still possible and that your journal / publisher of choice is ok with a prior publication of your results as a preprint: [List of academic publishers by preprint policy - Wikipedia](#)
- Examples of preprint servers: arxiv.org, biorxiv.org, medrxiv.org, zenodo.org, ...



Lib4RI webpage  
about preprints is  
coming soon.

# Patents

- Patenting can provide you with new opportunities to turn your discovery into a product that benefits not only you but also society at large.
- Interested? Discuss this opportunity early with your technology transfer office. They offer advice, specialized courses, and everything you need to navigate intellectual property and patenting.
- You cannot patent anything that you have already published.
  - This includes preprints, “normal” publications, website content, social media posts, blogs, podcasts, ...
  - If you organize it well and in advance, patenting won’t prevent or even delay you from publishing.

**Tip:** You’re a member of LS2 (Life Sciences Switzerland)? → [Program - Patenting in Life Sciences & Chemistry 2025 - meetings.ls2.ch](https://meetings.ls2.ch)

# Resources on patenting:

**EAWAG and EMPA:**

[Empa - Knowledge and Technology Transfer / Legal – Research](#)

**PSI:**

[Industry Collaboration at PSI: Your Partner for Innovation | Industry | PSI](#)

**WSL:**

[Katharina Eggenberger](#)

[Swiss Institute of Intellectual Property: Home - Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property](#)

[Patents | Lib4RI](#)

- Lib4RI page: [LLMs & AI tools | Lib4RI](#)
- You need to check the rules of your respective journal.

Yes, I can definitely help you edit and optimize your scientific journal article. Regarding confidentiality:

- ChatGPT, 30/01/2025





**What is your current understanding of the scientific publishing process:**



Menti.com w/ code 6886 0771

Again, this is to help us  
continue to improve  
this course in the future

# Thank you for your attention.



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T: + 41 58 765 57 00