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What are Preprints and How Do They Benefit Science?

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What are preprints?

Author copies of research articles

Free to read and free to publish

Shared as soon as researchers are ready

Permanent, findable via DOIs/indexing

Often, openly licensed

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Preprints make work available almost immediately

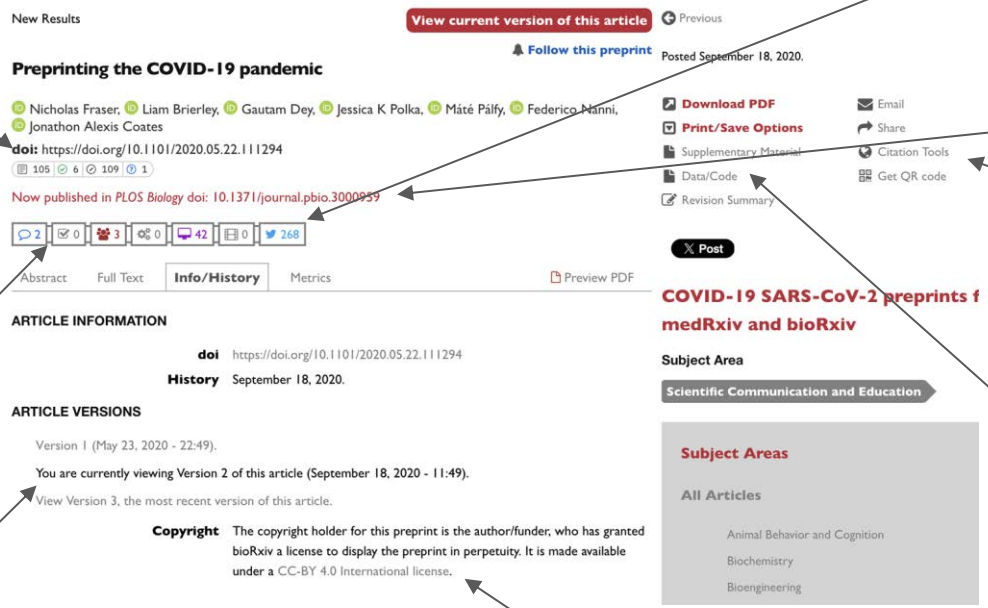
Emojis by Mozilla (CC BY 4.0)

Preprints are formal scientific outputs

Feedback
From comments, social media, and journal clubs can improve your paper

Rapid posting
Lightweight screening usually takes <48 hrs

Permanent
Preprints are part of the scholarly record and can be cited with a DOI as a permanent identifier. Preprints can't be removed.



Linked
Linked to the final paper & any commentary

Before peer review
A version of your manuscript prior to completion of journal peer review; linked to journal if published

Citable
In publications, grant applications and elsewhere

Complete
Contains all information necessary to replicate and review a work

Versionable
You can add a new version to update your preprint.

Licensing
You keep the copyright and can choose a license to make it open to reuse. Learn more at asapbio.org/licensing-faqs

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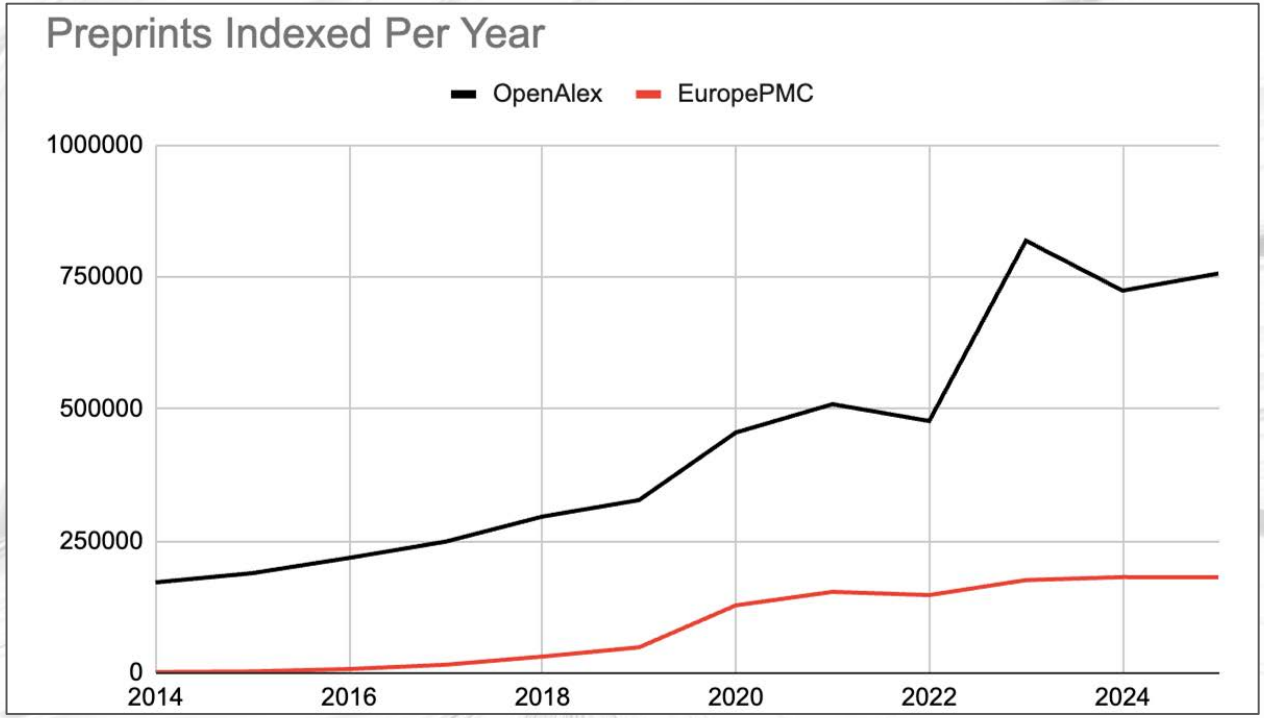
How common are preprints?



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How common are preprints?

		Africa	Americas		Asia		Europe				Oceania
			Latin America and the Caribbean	North America	Eastern Asia	Rest of Asia	Eastern Europe	Northern Europe	Sothern Europe	Western Europe	
Disciplinary area	Discipline										
Physical Sciences/ Technology	Built Environment and Design	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%
	Chemical Sciences	4%	9%	15%	4%	4%	6%	15%	9%	14%	9%
	Earth Sciences	7%	7%	15%	7%	7%	8%	18%	12%	23%	11%
	Engineering	3%	6%	12%	4%	4%	7%	11%	8%	14%	7%
	Environmental Sciences	6%	5%	8%	5%	6%	5%	8%	5%	10%	6%
	Information and Computing Sciences	7%	13%	22%	9%	8%	14%	20%	14%	25%	18%
	Mathematical Sciences	13%	40%	43%	18%	19%	33%	46%	42%	51%	31%
	Physical Sciences	19%	48%	40%	16%	20%	28%	48%	49%	49%	38%
	Technology	4%	7%	13%	6%	6%	7%	14%	8%	14%	12%
Life and Medical Sciences	Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences	5%	4%	6%	5%	4%	4%	7%	3%	7%	6%
	Biological Sciences	9%	7%	13%	7%	8%	6%	16%	8%	15%	11%
	Medical and Health Sciences	8%	5%	5%	6%	5%	4%	7%	4%	7%	6%
Social and Behavioral Sciences	Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services	1%	3%	4%	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%	5%	2%
	Economics	3%	4%	6%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	5%	3%
	Education	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%
	Law and Legal Studies	2%	3%	3%	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%
	Psychology and Cognitive Sciences	6%	6%	8%	7%	7%	7%	11%	6%	12%	8%
	Studies in Human Society	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Humanities	History and Archaeology	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
	Language, Communication and Culture	1%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	2%	5%	1%
	Philosophy and Religious Studies	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	5%	2%	3%	4%	2%
	Studies in Creative Arts and Writing	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	3%	1%

(Source: Rzayeva et al., 2025)

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Where can preprints be published?

Benefits of Preprints

Research shared faster

Equitable open access

Citation advantages

Open licenses = enabling reuse at the speed of science

Funders/universities can use preprints to monitor and assess researcher outputs

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Considerations When Choosing a Preprint Server

Server governance and ownership

Technical capacities: versioning, open licenses, persistent identifiers, metadata/indexing

Server policies: Moderation, withdrawal, preservation

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Opt for Open Licenses

An open license from Creative Commons (CC) communicates rights and permissions using standard language.

Authors retain copyright when selecting a license.

Choose **CC-BY or CC0** for maximum reuse potential →Why not CC-BY-NC or CC-BY-NC-ND?

More FAQs

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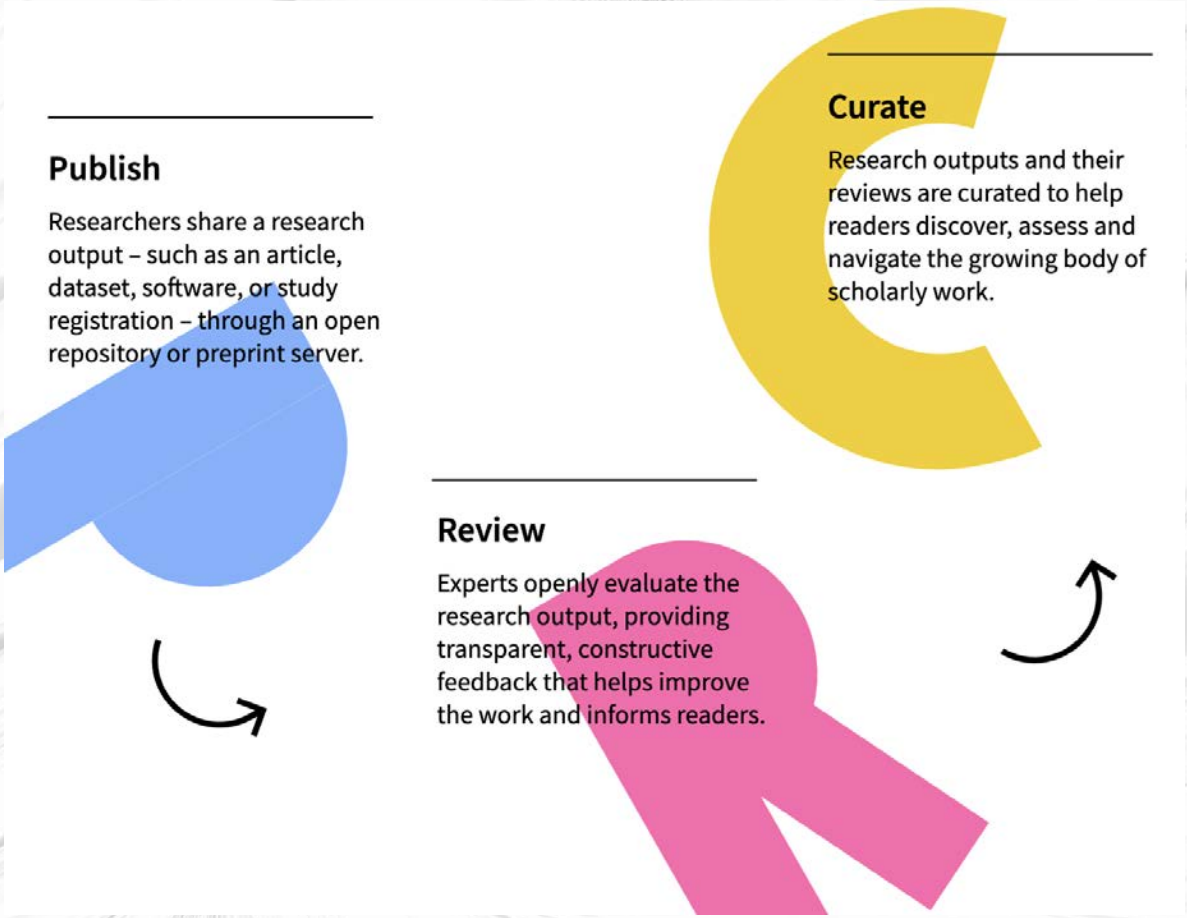
Beyond preprints: The PRC model

publish-review-curate.org



See also: Corker KS, Waltman L, Coates JA (2024) Understanding the Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) Model of Scholarly Communication. doi: 10.31222/osf.io/h7swt

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Traditional Publishing

Review & selection before publication

Publisher-led

Often - slow, closed, expensive

Publish-Review-Curate

Publish, then review

Decentralized

Researcher-led

Timely, open, efficient

AI, Preprints, and PRC: A changing landscape

LLMs consume preprints as source/training material. Good! But also bots threaten to overwhelm open infrastructure.

AI tools are already being used to find, write, read, and evaluate preprints. Opportunities here.

On the one hand, AI helps us realize open science dreams. On the other, concerns about research quality and trust.

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Thank You

Slides: https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15112772

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About ASAPbio - Our Vision

A life sciences communication ecosystem where all papers and other outputs are **shared rapidly** and **without restrictions** on access or reuse, and open and constructive exchanges take place on research products at all stages.

Preprints

Open Evaluation

Open Licensing

Open Outputs

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