

# Gatherings of an Infovore\*

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## Publishing in the News

As the changes in access to information have increased so too has the attention to those who are the purveyors of that information ... with a significant focus on publishers. In this Gatherings column, I've collected some reports by the world's news organizations regarding what is happening in our industry. Given the interest of the CSE membership and readers of *Science Editor*, most entries depict coverage of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) as well as STM and scholarly publications.

As data becomes a larger component of both authors' and researchers' expectations, how research data factors into maintaining high-quality publishing likewise becomes a larger challenge. An example is this *Science Business* article posted February 7, 2019.

Final text of the update to the Public Sector Information Directive shows MEPs failed in moves to require publication of all publicly funded research. Rather than open by default, data will be "as open as possible, as closed as necessary"

## EU's new rules place restrictions on open publication of research data

<https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eus-new-rules-place-restrictions-open-publication-research-data>



An article in the February 7, 2019 issue of *Bitcoin Exchange Guide* demonstrates how technology from other industries are beginning to influence the dissemination of scientific information.

\*A person who indulges in and desires information gathering and interpretation. The term was introduced in 2006 by neuroscientists Irving Biederman and Edward Vessel.

## ScienceMatters scientific research platform builds blockchain peer review process, will use Eureka Tokens

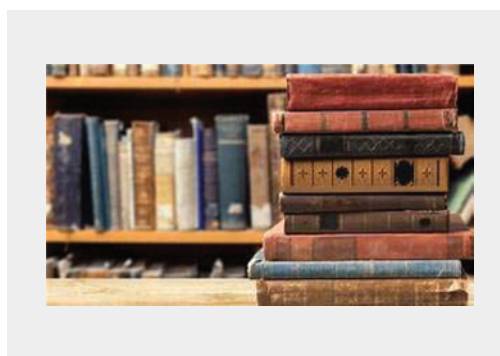
<https://bitcoinexchangeguide.com/sciencematters-scientific-research-platform-builds-blockchain-peer-review-process-will-use-eureka-tokens/>

As the impact of political decisions increases in so many areas the *Negotiation Journal* has devoted a special issue to this very current topic.

## Special issue explores implications of Trump presidency for negotiation and conflict resolution

(press release posted on YubaNet February 5, 2019)

<https://yubanet.com/usa/special-issue-explores-implications-of-trump-presidency-for-negotiation-and-conflict-resolution/>



Not all publishing news centers around journals, this article posted February 6, 2019 by a European telegraph agency, *Belarus News*, highlights the importance of book publishing to Belarusians.

## Book publishing described as Belarus' trademark

<https://eng.belta.by/president/view/book-publishing-described-as-belarus-trademark-118458-2019/>

Another positive story concerning books and copyright was published in the *Washington Post* on February 6, 2019.

## 1923 and Me: A critic picks some favorite books now in the public domain

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/books/the-copyright-has-expired-on-thousands-of-books-here-are-the-best-ones-to-read/2019/02/05/732b4a00->

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289f-11e9-8eef-0d74f4bf0295\_story.html?utm\_term=.f809264c8294

As you well know, not all the press coverage about publishing is positive. Take for example, these articles in two UK publications *The Mail & Guardian* and *The Economist* from late 2018.

### The business of fake science

<https://mg.co.za/article/2018-11-16-00-the-business-of-fake-science>

A boom in bogus publications is driven largely by a change to many journals' business model

### What are "predatory" academic journals?

<https://www.economist.com/the-economist-explains/2018/07/10/what-are-predatory-academic-journals>

Here's a recent example (February 2019) from *The Guardian* in the UK (original study published in *BMJ Open*) describing a disturbing situation regarding medical journals.

### Call for retraction of 400 scientific papers amid fears organs came from Chinese prisoners

Study finds failure of English language medical journals to comply with international ethical standards

[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/feb/06/call-for-retraction-of-400-scientific-papers-amid-fears-organs-came-from-chinese-prisoners?utm\\_term=RWRpdG9yaWFsX0xhYk5vdGVzLTE5MDIwOA%3D%3D&utm\\_source=esp&utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_campaign=LabNotes&CMP=labnotes\\_email](https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/feb/06/call-for-retraction-of-400-scientific-papers-amid-fears-organs-came-from-chinese-prisoners?utm_term=RWRpdG9yaWFsX0xhYk5vdGVzLTE5MDIwOA%3D%3D&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=LabNotes&CMP=labnotes_email)



Another area that has received significant news coverage over the years is that of plagiarism. For a few decades, high-profile personalities, politicians, and government officials

worldwide have been charged with plagiarism (often resulting in their resignations). These have been followed by researchers and scholars seeking out plagiarism among their own. An example is this interesting article posted on one of the *Discover* blogs. It is followed by an article in *The New Indian Express* (New Delhi) reporting on researchers and plagiarism.

### Paper about plagiarism contains plagiarism

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/neuroskeptic/2017/05/17/paper-about-plagiarism-contains-plagiarism/#.XF2zoFxiU>

Over 7000 researchers from India, Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and Brazil were interviewed for a survey conducted by Editage, a global scholarly communications firm.

### 25 per cent researchers worldwide have poor understanding of plagiarism: Survey

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/nov/29/25-per-cent-researchers-worldwide-have-poor-understanding-of-plagiarism-survey-1905027.html>



Articles about the internal mechanics of how journals are published are also part of the mix covered by the media. Starting with the hard-hitting critique from the *National Review*, the *Times*

*Higher Education*, and *Nature* where articles address some ubiquitous concerns and one from *Science* provides an excellent history on the beginnings of serious research directed to journal publishing which began in the 1980s. [CSE's past president, Dr. Drummond Rennie is acknowledged as the first serious researcher in the new field.]

### Those hoax papers tell us a lot about declining academic standards

<https://www.nationalreview.com/corner/those-hoax-papers-tell-us-a-lot-about-declining-academic-standards/>

Which is the better option when it comes to running academic journals—the professional editor or the academic one? Rachael Pells analyses the pros and cons of each.

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## Are academic or professional editors the best for journals?

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/are-academic-or-professional-editors-best-journals>

Global survey finds that unclear publishing policies place an additional burden on many scientists who don't speak English as a first language.

## Scientists struggle with confusing journal guidelines

[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07326-9?utm\\_source=briefing-dy&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=briefing&utm\\_content=20181108](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07326-9?utm_source=briefing-dy&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=briefing&utm_content=20181108)

If we really want transdisciplinary research, we must ditch the ordered listing of authors that stalls collaborative science, says Gretchen L. Kiser.

## No more first authors, no more last authors

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06779-2>

## 'Journalologists' use scientific methods to study academic publishing. Is their work improving science?

[https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/09/journalologists-use-scientific-methods-study-academic-publishing-their-work-improving?utm\\_campaign=news\\_daily\\_2018-09-19&et rid=64477846&et\\_cid=2379951](https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/09/journalologists-use-scientific-methods-study-academic-publishing-their-work-improving?utm_campaign=news_daily_2018-09-19&et rid=64477846&et_cid=2379951)

Delving even deeper into journal publishing operations there has been considerable coverage about the process of peer review. One such example comes from the *Times Higher Education*.



## Peer review: how to be a good referee

Peer review is lauded in principle as the guarantor of quality in academic publishing and grant distribution. But its practice is

often loathed by those on the receiving end. Here, seven academics offer their tips on good refereeing, and reflect on how it may change in the years to come.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/peer-review-how-be-good-referee>

The European Plan S (requiring funders to mandate researchers publish solely in fully Open Access journals) has

received increasing news coverage since its unveiling in the Fall of 2018.

## Radical open-access plan could spell end to journal subscriptions

Eleven research funders in Europe announce 'Plan S' to make all scientific works free to read as soon as they are published.



[https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06178-7?utm\\_source=briefing-dy&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=briefing&utm\\_content=20181105](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-06178-7?utm_source=briefing-dy&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=briefing&utm_content=20181105)

## Plan S: The ambitious initiative to end the reign of paywalls

A funder-driven push for freely accessible scholarly literature has divided the scientific community.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/plan-s--the-ambitious-initiative-to-end-the-reign-of-paywalls-65231>

## Open-Access plan in Europe bans publishing in paywalled journals

Research funding agencies in Europe will require grantees' papers to be free to read when they are available online.

<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-opinion/open-access-plan-in-europe-bans-publishing-in-paywalled-journals-64748>

## Europe's Plan S aims for expansion to US and beyond

Open-access agreement's founder says enthusiastic response has already increased ambition.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/europes-plan-s-aims-expansion-us-and-beyond>

## Wellcome and Gates join bold European open-access plan

The Wellcome Trust has also announced how it will implement the plan, which could provide a blueprint for others.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07300-5>

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### Scientific societies worry Plan S will make them shutter journals, slash services

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/01/scientific-societies-worry-plan-s-will-make-them-shutter-journals-slash-services>



Finally, in addition to Plan S, we are seeing publishers strike some interesting agreements with libraries, universities, and even countries! Or not, as the last article published on February 5, 2019 in *Nature* reports.

### Offsetting as a path to full Open Access: MIT and the Royal Society of Chemistry sign first North American 'read and publish' agreement

<http://intheopen.net/2018/06/mit-rsc-read-and-publish-agreementn-access-mit-and-the-royal-society-of-chemistry-sign-first-north-american-read-and-publish-agreement/>

### Dutch universities, journal publishers agree on Open-Access deals

Despite some difficult negotiations, academic institutions in the Netherlands have been securing subscriptions that combine publishing and reading into one fee.  
<https://www.the-scientist.com/news-analysis/dutch-universities-journal-publishers-agree-on-open-access-deals-30860>

### Thousands of scientists run up against Elsevier's paywall

Researchers have been left without access to new papers as libraries and the major publisher fail to agree on subscription deals.  
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00492-4>

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