

Transformative Journals: year three report [2023]

The Company of Biologists' three hybrid journals - Development, Journal of Cell Science and Journal of Experimental Biology - have chosen a Transformative Journal strategy to speed up our progress towards Open Access while also respecting author choice.

Our aim

Sustainable transformation as we progress towards Open Access.

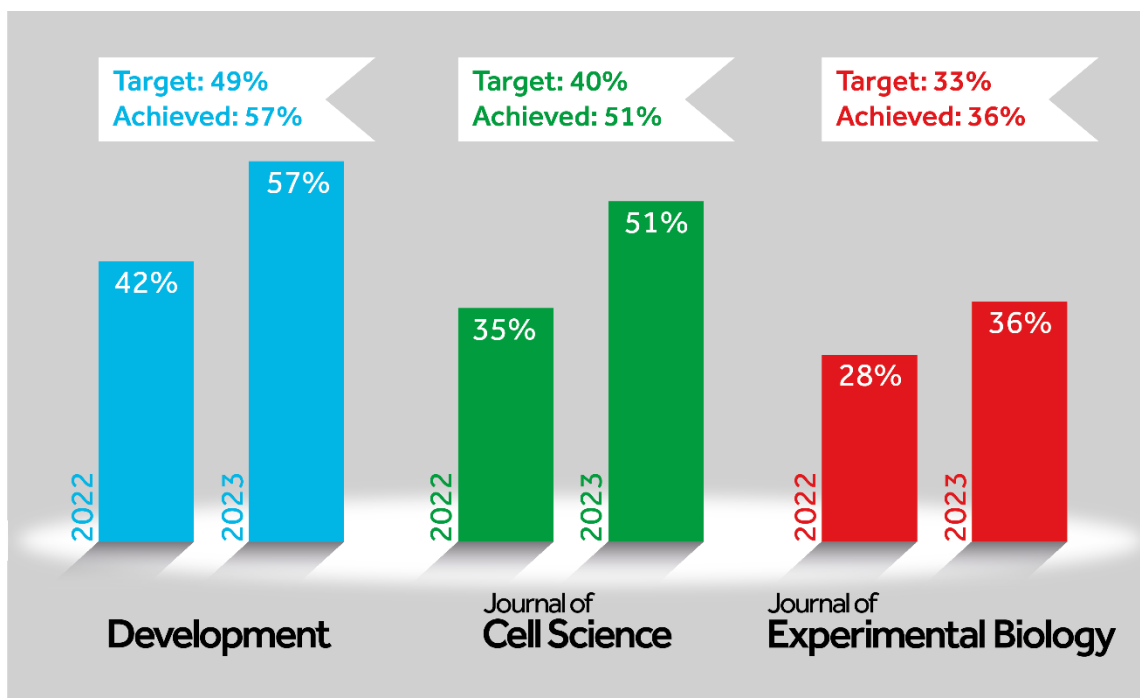
Our target

At least 5% points increase in the proportion of Open Access research content and at least 15% relative growth of the number of OA articles, over the period 2021–2024. Learn more about the [cOAlition S criteria for Transformative Journals](#).

Open Access targets for 2023 have been exceeded

All three journals exceeded their targets: in 2023 Development published 15% more OA articles compared to 2022; Journal of Cell Science published 16% more OA articles; and Journal of Experimental Biology published 8% more OA articles.

This growth in % OA content is driven by the success of our Read & Publish initiative.



Targets and achieved numbers represent the percentage of Research Articles published Open Access in 2023

Growth in % OA Research Articles in our Transformative Journals 2022 to 2023

Our target for 2023 was to meet the Plan S criteria for absolute and relative Open Access growth over the period 2022 to 2023. For our journals, this meant aiming for the following numbers:

	Total number of research articles published in 2022	Number of research articles published OA in 2022	OA as % of research articles published in 2022	TARGET: OA as % of research articles 2023 to meet absolute growth target of 5%	TARGET: OA as % of research articles 2023 to meet relative growth target of 15%
Development	350	148	42%	47%	49%*
Journal of Cell Science	250	88	35%	40%	40%
Journal of Experimental Biology	341	94	28%	33%*	32%

* as this is the higher number, this was our actual target for 2023

All targets were exceeded in 2023

	TARGET: OA as % of research articles published in 2023	ACTUAL: Total number of research articles published in 2023	ACTUAL: Number of research articles published OA in 2023	ACTUAL: OA as % of research articles 2022
Development	49%	287	163	57%
Journal of Cell Science	40%	212	108	51%
Journal of Experimental Biology	33%	267	96	36%

Open Access at The Company of Biologists

The Company of Biologists has been offering Open Access publishing options since 2004 and two of our five journals are already fully Gold Open Access. We believe that Open Access is the direction of travel and it is clear that, as well as reader benefits, Open Access provides our authors with a wider readership and higher usage for their articles.

The Transformative Journal strategy signals more clearly our commitment to move our three ‘hybrid’ journals towards Open Access, while allowing us to provide publishing options that support all our authors as we approach this change in the publishing landscape.

This helps us balance these two priorities:

- making research accessible to everyone, as quickly as possible
- supporting our whole author community - whatever their funder or financial status

Call for support from funders

We call on more research funding bodies to fund paid Open Access mandates for their authors - this will make a real difference in the numbers of authors selecting Gold Open Access in our journals.

Call for support from libraries / consortia

We call on more libraries/consortia worldwide to explore our cost-neutral and uncapped Read & Publish agreements - this supports authors who want to choose Open Access without the financial complications of paying an article processing charge (APC). More information is available through our [library hub](#).

What are Transformative Journals?

Transformative Journals proactively champion Open Access publishing and have Open Access growth targets. By providing a transition period, the Transformative Journal model acknowledges that not all of our authors are ready for Open Access (which requires support from their funders and institutions) and ensures that every author in our community can continue to publish with us.

How are Transformative Journals different from hybrid journals?

As hybrid journals, Development, Journal of Cell Science and Journal of Experimental Biology already offered Open Access publishing options.

As Transformative Journals they will continue and extend their Open Access support by:

- gradually increasing share of Open Access research content year on year
- promoting the benefits of Open Access publishing
- continuing to provide transparent metrics for published articles: usage, citations and online attention (altmetrics)
- providing comparative metrics for Open Access articles compared with subscription content
- providing greater transparency on the services covered by the article processing charge (APC)
- offering ‘transformative’ Read & Publish agreements to libraries / consortia
- continuing to offset subscription revenue to avoid ‘double dipping’

What does this mean for authors?

Authors will still have the same three routes to publication as we transition towards Open Access:

Free publication (not Open Access)

With this option, the author pays nothing at all. The article is available to our subscribers for six months and is then freely available to everyone after this time.

This option might appeal to authors whose funders and institutions do not mandate Open Access and authors who do not want to choose Open Access or pay an Open Access fee. This option could be important given the financial challenges within the university sector.

Gold Open Access (author pays)

The author will pay an article processing charge (APC) to publish their article Gold Open Access. Articles will be published under a CC BY licence and will be available to everyone immediately upon publication.

This option will appeal to authors whose funders or institutions mandate Gold Open Access or to authors who prefer to publish Open Access.

Read & Publish agreements

The third option is for authors whose institutions have taken up one of our [Read & Publish agreements](#). These cost-neutral arrangements, agreed with librarians, provide unlimited access to all of our content and allow corresponding authors from that institution unlimited free Open Access publication for research articles. These agreements therefore support institutions and authors working to meet funding requirements and to make Open Access the default publishing choice.





Template for 2023 annual reporting on Plan S approved Transformative Journals

The Company of Biologists

Addendum A - Template for 2023 annual reporting as submitted to cOAlition S for The Company of Biologists' Transformative Journals

Name of journal	ISSN	Baseline data (as provided)				2023		2024 - targets		Information on usage comparing subscription and OA content				Comments observations	
		Total number of articles published in 2022 [As reported previously]	Total number of articles published in 2022 [As reported]	2022 OA penetration rate (Actual %)	2023 OA penetration rate target (%)	Total number of articles published in 2023	OA penetration rate (Actual) as a %	TI target met: Yes / No	2024 OA Target (% of articles published OA)	Average number of citations for subscription articles published in 2023	TI target met: Yes / No	Average number of citations for OA articles published in 2023	Average number of downloads for subscription articles published in 2023		Average number of citations for OA articles published in 2023
Development	1477-9129	350	148	42	48	287	163	57	Yes	66	66	1.12	959	1.1	1942
Journal of Cell Science	1477-9137	250	88	35	40	212	108	51	Yes	59	59	1.35	947	1.66	1947
Journal of Experimental Biology	1477-9145	341	94	28	33	267	96	36	Yes	41	41	1.09	718	1.47	2384