

## Transformative Journals: year zero report [2020]

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 progression towards full 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% growth of the number of OA articles, over the period 2021–2024.

### Annual reporting

To promote transparency we will report on our transformative progress annually.

To set the scene, this report reviews our Open Access history over the past decade and Open Access initiatives implemented during 2020 as 'year zero' of our transformative journey.



## 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 full 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 agreement 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 full 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 expected in the university sector due to COVID-19.

#### 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 CCBY 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.

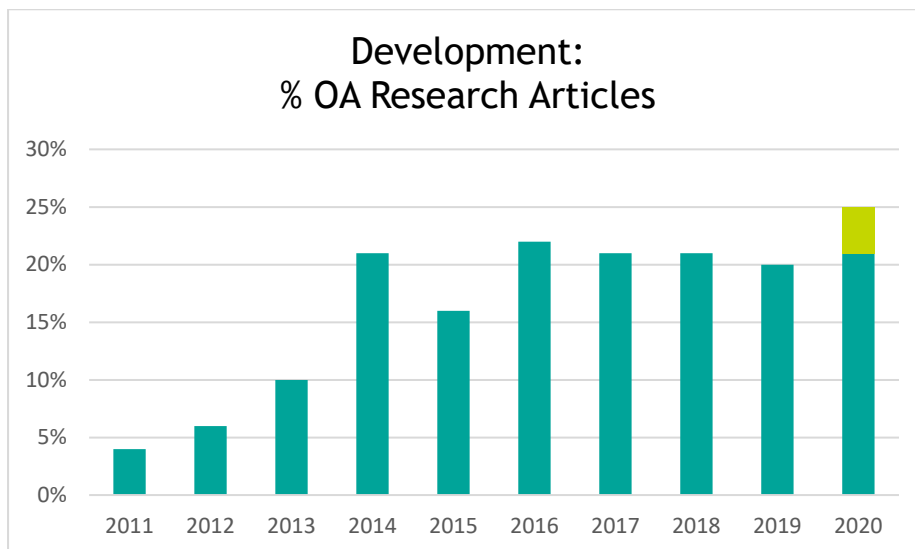
#### Read & Publish agreements

The third option is for authors whose institutions have taken up one of our new [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.

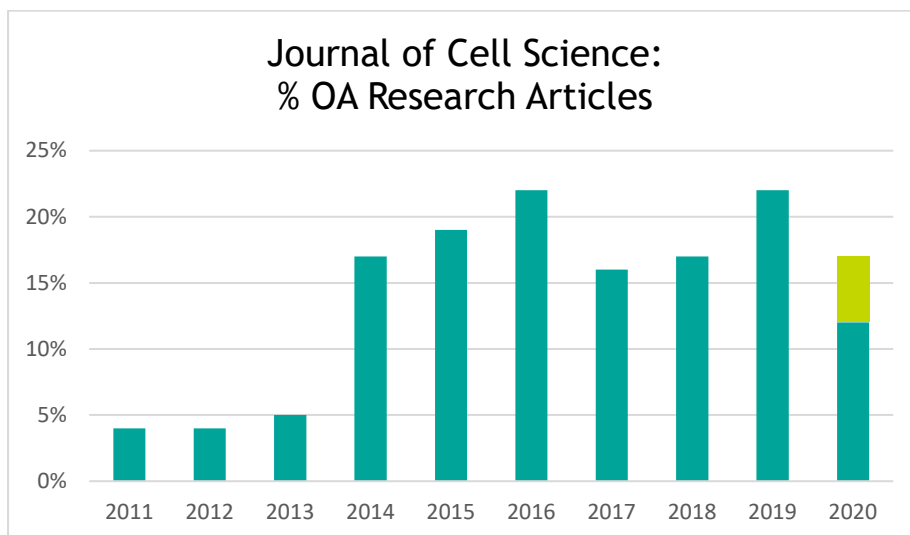
### Historical % OA Research Articles in our Transformative Journals

The Company of Biologists has been offering Open Access options since 2004. During 2020, we were the first journals to be afforded transformative status, with 2021 as the first year of the transition period. Below we show the journey of our journals to 2020 as year zero.

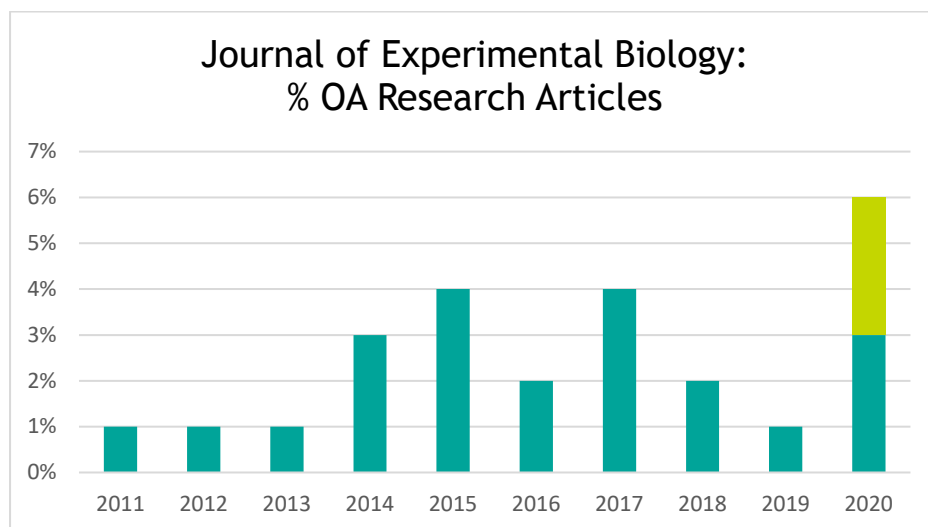
Development saw a significant increase in % Open Access Research Articles in 2014 (reflecting changes in funder mandates), but has plateaued over the past six years (at around 20% Open Access). During 2020, Research Articles published Open Access as a result of Read & Publish agreements (shown in lime green below) contributed to a +5% growth in Open Access research content.



Journal of Cell Science saw a significant increase in % Open Access Research Articles in 2014 (reflecting changes in funder mandates), but has plateaued over the past six years (at around 15–20% Open Access). During 2020, despite the contribution of Read & Publish agreements (shown in lime green below) the journal showed no increase in % Open Access (in fact we saw -5% Open Access research content from 2019 to 2020 as the journal returned to 2018 Open Access levels).



Journal of Experimental Biology has remained at very low levels of Open Access research content. During 2020, Research Articles published Open Access as a result of Read & Publish agreements (shown in lime green below) contributed significantly to the journal producing a +5% growth in Open Access research content.



	% Open Access Research Articles 2020	Growth in % Open Access Research Articles 2019 to 2020
<b>Development</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>+5%</b>
<b>Journal of Cell Science</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>-5%</b>
<b>Journal of Experimental Biology</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>+5%</b>

## Appendix 1: Read & Publish: participating institutions 2020

During 2020, we had Read & Publish agreements in place with three leading national library consortia: [Jisc](#) in the UK, [MALMAD](#) in Israel and [IReL](#) in Ireland. The list of participating institutes for 2020 is shown below.

As this grows year on year, please refer to our updated [list of participating institutions](#).

Ireland	UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dublin City University</li><li>• Maynooth University</li><li>• National University of Ireland Galway</li><li>• Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland</li><li>• Technological University Dublin</li><li>• Trinity College Dublin</li><li>• University College Cork</li><li>• University College Dublin</li><li>• University of Limerick</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aberystwyth University</li><li>• Bangor University</li><li>• Cardiff University</li><li>• Imperial College London</li><li>• Lancaster University</li><li>• Liverpool John Moores University</li><li>• London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</li><li>• Manchester Metropolitan University</li><li>• Oxford Brookes University</li><li>• Scottish Association for Marine Science</li><li>• St George's University of London</li><li>• The Open University</li><li>• University of Birmingham</li><li>• University of Cambridge</li><li>• University of East Anglia</li><li>• University of Edinburgh</li><li>• University of Exeter</li><li>• University of Lincoln</li><li>• University of Liverpool</li><li>• University of Portsmouth</li><li>• University of Oxford</li><li>• University of Reading</li><li>• University of St Andrews</li><li>• University of York</li></ul>
<p><b>Israel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bar-Ilan University</li><li>• Ben Gurion University</li><li>• Hebrew University of Jerusalem</li><li>• Israel Institute of Technology</li><li>• Tel Aviv University</li><li>• University of Haifa</li><li>• Weizmann Institute of Science</li></ul>	