

## Transformative Journals: year one report [2021]

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

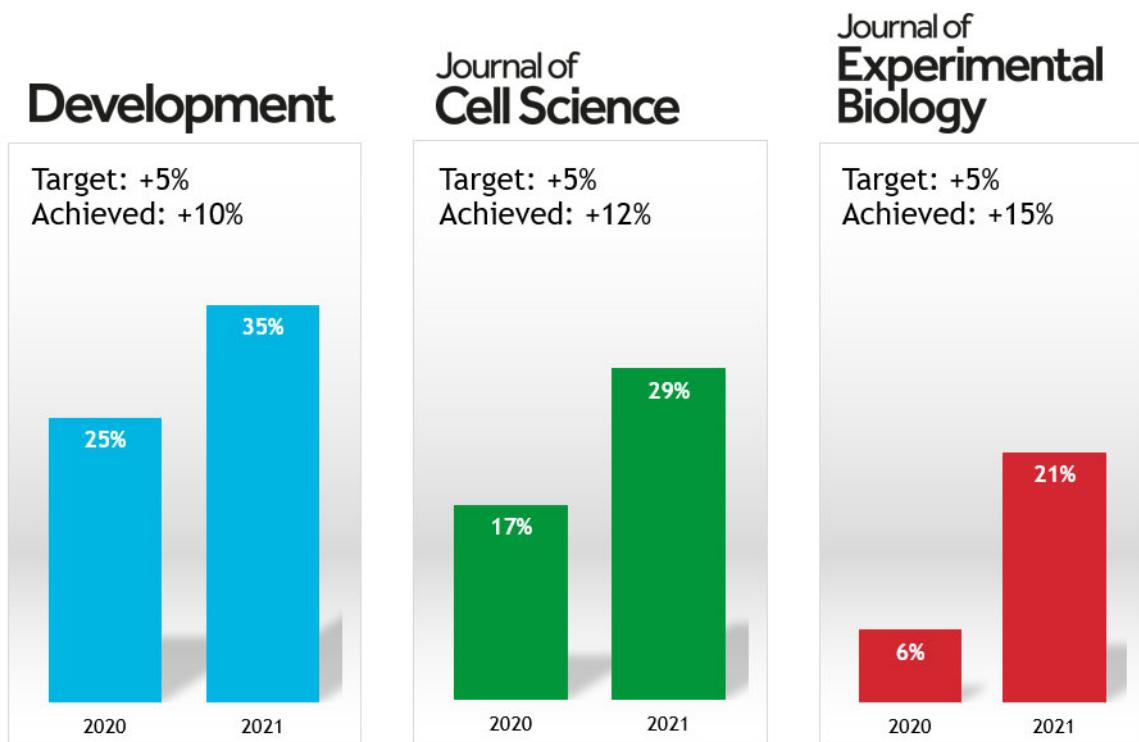
Sustainable transformation as we progress towards Open Access.

### 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.

### Open Access targets for 2021 not only met but exceeded

All three journals exceeded their +5% targets: *Development* ~10%; *Journal of Cell Science* ~12%; and *Journal of Experimental Biology* ~15% points increase.



## Growth in % OA Research Articles in our Transformative Journals 2020 to 2021

Our target for 2021 was to achieve at least 5% points increase in the proportion of Open Access research content and at least 15% growth of the number of OA articles (the former being the higher, therefore actual, target).

	Total number of research articles published in 2020	Number of research articles published OA in 2020	OA as % of research articles published in 2020	TARGET: OA as % of research articles 2021 to meet 5% growth	Total number of research articles published in 2021	Number of research articles published OA in 2021	ACTUAL: OA as % of research articles published in 2021
Development	315	80	25%	30%	305	107	35%
Journal of Cell Science	336	57	17%	22%	320	94	29%
Journal of Experimental Biology	445	26	6%	11%	404	84	21%

## 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 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.

