

Communication in Physics

Report from Working Group 2 (WG2)

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Preamble

Open access publishing and open science have become mainstream agenda points across the world during the last three to four years. Much has happened, but there are still many obstacles that need to be addressed, i.e., affordability for scientists in less favoured countries and accessibility for colleagues impacted by national sanctions programs.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has had very many negative consequences, but we have also learned from it. One positive outcome is the massive use of video conference applications, that allows many colleagues to take part in conferences that they under normal circumstances could not have been part of. It is important to carry forward the possibility for online participation also after the pandemic is over.

Initiatives like [SciELO](#), Latin America, and [Plan S](#), Europe, have contributed to put open access publishing on the agenda. More and more articles are now published open access—to the benefit of scientists around the world and to lay the foundation for open science.

Open access is also becoming relevant for monographs. The large publishers have all publishing programs offering authors and institutions to publish books under Creative Common licenses. The initiative [SCOAP³](#) has recently converted some 100 back titles in particle physics to open access—more titles, both “classics” and new should follow.

The UNESCO initiative “[Recommendation on Open Science](#)” has had an enormous impact and will most likely be approved by the General Conference in November 2021.

Activity

“Geneva Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication”

Shared information with all Commission Chairs about the session “The Future of Open Science”, a session within the event “[Geneva Workshop on Innovations in Scholarly Communication](#)”, held online in September 2021. Prof. Minh Quang Tran, Chair of C16, suggested Prof. A. Proykova, Chair of ESFRI Digital Strategic Working Group, a suggestion that was retained by the organizing committee. Prof. Proykova gave the presentation “arXiv medium as a prerequisite of open access as an important component of open science “. Thanks to the digital format of the workshop, Prof. Proykova could address an audience of 1400 professionals from around the world.

“The Future of Scientific and Scholarly Publishing”

The International Science Council (ISC) called for input to the study and action plan “[The Future of Scientific and Scholarly Publishing](#)”. The input focused on that peer review remains important. Universities are far from ready to abolish journals.

However, the evaluation mechanisms of researchers should be decoupled from the journal impact factor and commercial services like “Web of Science” and “Scopus”. The goal should be to maximise openness and keeping the academic community in control of its assets.

As part of this activity, ISC published the report “[Opening the record of science: making scholarly publishing work for science in the digital era](#)”, to which IUPAP also provided feedback.

UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science

IUPAP was represented as observer to the Intergovernmental special committee meeting (Category II) related to the draft UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, May 2021, as part of the ISC delegation. The delegation was led by Prof. Geoffrey Boulton.

Following the meeting, the ISC delegation published a [supporting statement](#) that was also signed by IUPAP.

Continuation of the working group

In spite of the activity described above, there have not been meetings in WG2 over the reference period. This is regrettable and can only be blamed on the Chair signing this report. The composition of the WG and who should chair it for the future will be discussed with the Executive Council shortly.