



# **EIFL DIGITAL RESEARCH LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

## **‘Preprints’**

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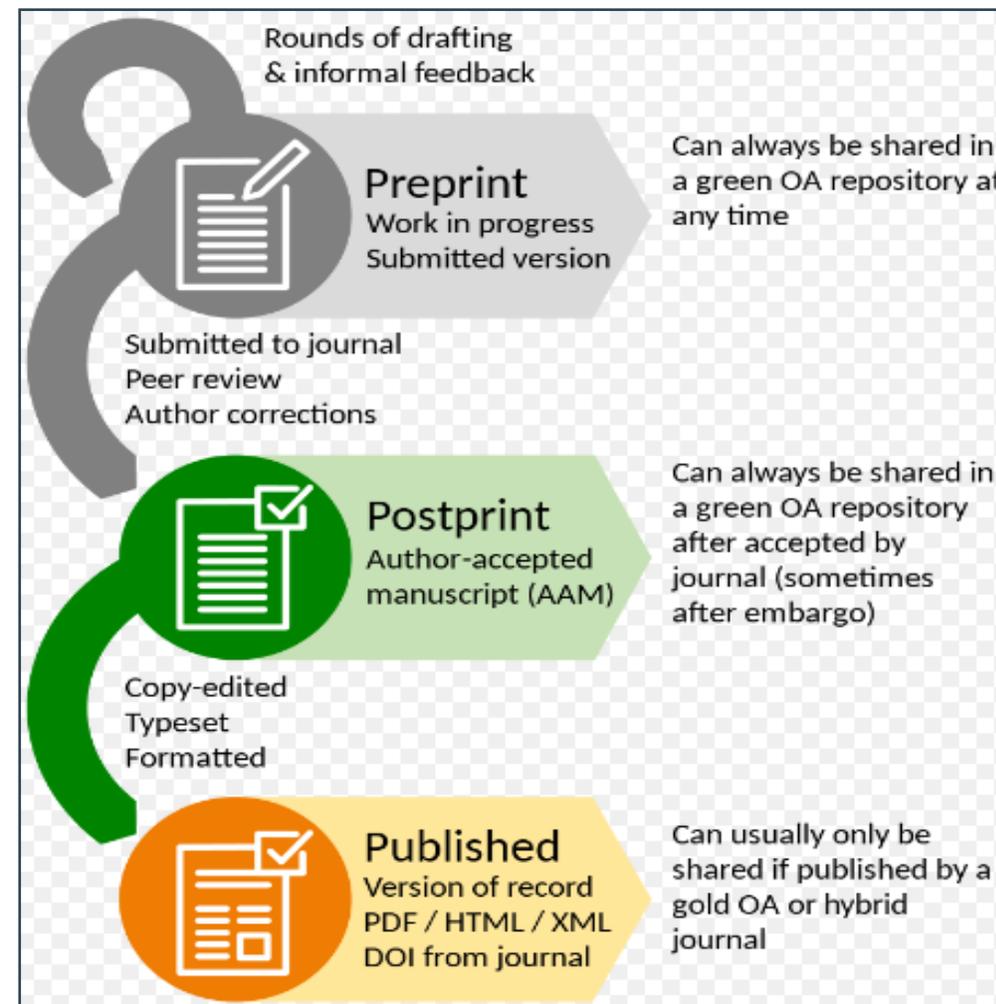
09 June 2021



# The Content



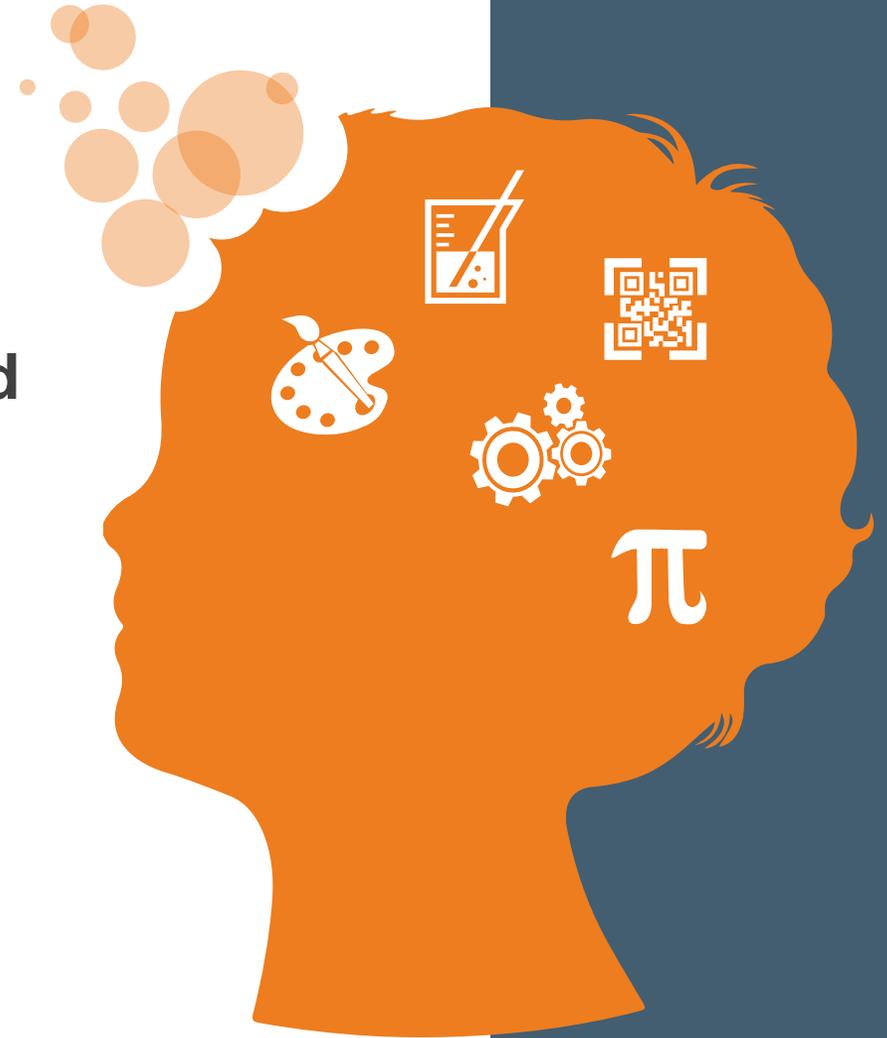
- 01** Introduction to preprints
- 02** For and against preprints
- 03** Preprints' platform to share early findings
- 04** Training for researchers – practical exercises



Thomas Shafee - Own work; adapted from diagram by Ginny Barbour (CC BY 4.0)

# Characteristics of preprints

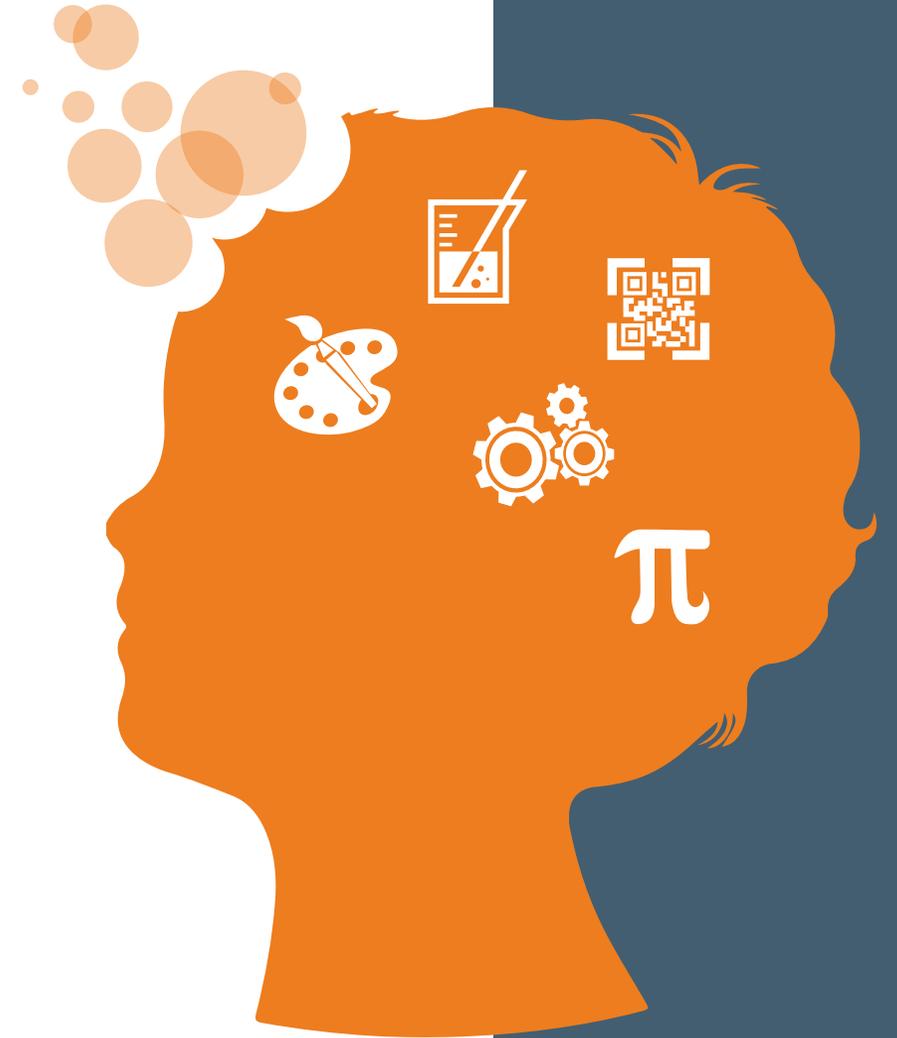
- preprints are preliminary scientific reports that are made publicly available online for anyone to read, comment , and discuss before they have been peer reviewed,
- preprints enable rapid release and discussion of data,
- working in progress with constant feedback,
- preprints are often not indexed in mainstream bibliographic services...



# Benefits

- Credit
- Feedback
- Visibility

List of funder policies:  
<https://asapbio.org/funder-policies>



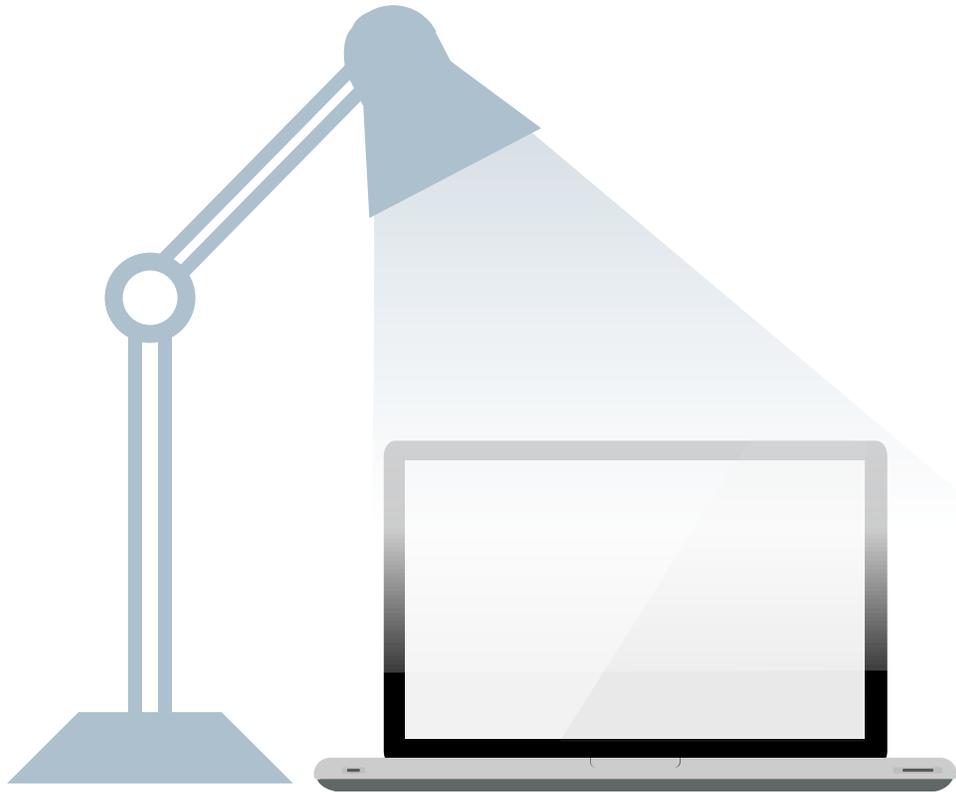
# Social Science, Natural Science & Humanities...



## **\*Rapidly adopted\***

- immediate availability to their peers and the public,
- avoiding lengthy peer-review processes prior to release,
- readers can leave comments...

# Issues with preprints

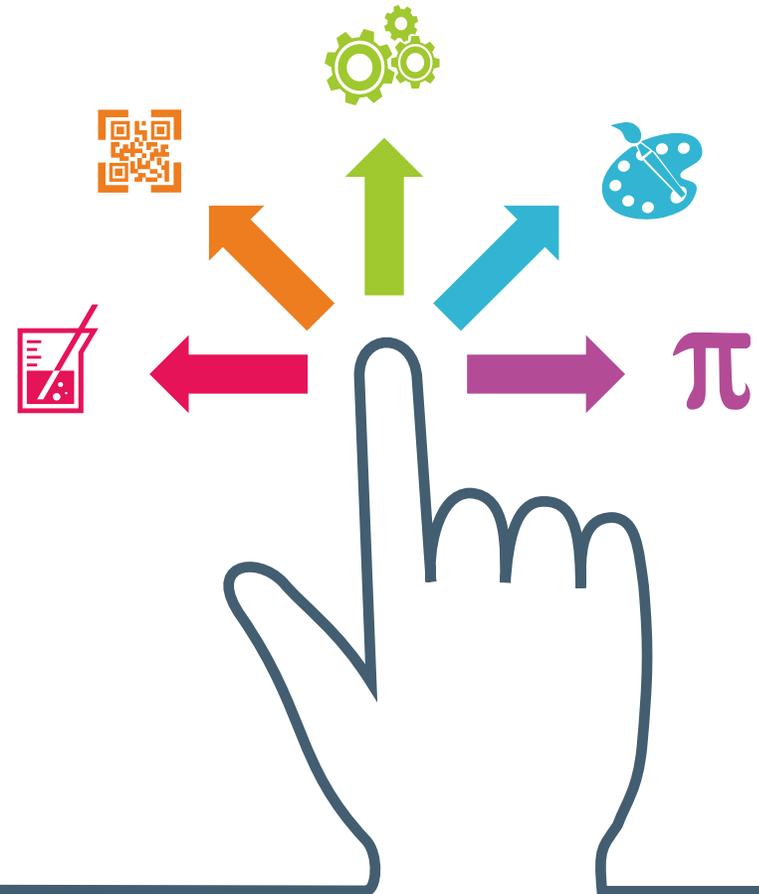


- Pressure to publish quickly,
- Many preprints are never revised,
- Preliminary results could be reported by the media or posted and discussed on social media with little regard,
- **Retrospective “tagging” won’t have much effect.**

# Suggested solutions...



- References should clearly disclose that the source is a preprint (DOI, preprint link...),
- Preprints should not be used as references in any medical publication,
- Watermarking the article,
- Highlighting that the findings have not been formally peer reviewed,
- Pre-publication checks by server hosts,
- Preprints marked and linked via DOI to the subsequently fully published article.



# Directory of preprint server policies and practices:

<https://asapbio.org/preprint-servers>



## arXiv.org

arXiv is a free distribution service and an open-access archive for 1,876,092 scholarly articles in the fields of physics, mathematics, computer science, quantitative biology, quantitative finance, statistics, electrical engineering and systems science, and economics. Materials on this site are not peer-reviewed by arXiv.

Subject search and browse:

Physics

### News

Read about recent news and updates on [arXiv's blog](#). (View the former "what's new" pages here). Read [robots beware](#) before attempting any automated download.

Preprints

HOW IT WORKS  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUTHORS

SUBJECT AREAS  
ADVISORY BOARD

SCREENING PREPRINTS  
ABOUT

WEEKLY/MONTHLY ARTICLE FEEDS

## The Multidisciplinary Preprint Platform

Keyword/Title Author Subject Categories Subjects

# bioRxiv

## THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

# agRxiv

Preprints for agriculture and allied sciences – Supporting open science and research

# medRxiv

## THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

Search

[Advanced Search](#)

# HAL

archives-ouvertes.fr

Preprint server ▾	Disciplinary scope ▲	Ownership type ▲	Screening processes ▲	External content indexing ▲	Permanence of content ▲	Preservation of content ▲	Commenting ▲
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+ arXiv	Multiple scientific fields, including quantitative biology*	Academic institution	Content within scope, Text overlap detection, Misconduct or integrity checks, Legal compliance, Ethical compliance	Google Scholar, PrePubMed (q-bio only), Europe PMC, SciLit, SHARE, INSPIRE-HEP, The NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS), The arXiv Search Interface from the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences (also in Chinese), PubMed (NIH-supported COVID preprints only)	Permanent with no removal options (as long as archive exists)	Persistent access through mirror sites, no external preservation services used as yet	no
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URL: <https://arxiv.org/>

**Platform description:** "Open access to...e-prints"

**Launch date:** 1991-08

**Ownership:** Cornell University

**For-profit or not-for-profit:** Non-profit

**Sustainability of the service:** External financial support (grants and membership program: libraries, research labs, philanthropy, government funding)

**Platform technology, openness of source code:** SWORD, open source

**Advisory board (and researcher representation):** Yes (includes researchers)

**Content language(s) accepted:** Any language - abstract must be in English

**Content types accepted:** Research manuscripts only

**Permitted submission formats:** PDF, LaTeX, HTML

**Machine-readable full-text content:** Require full-text to be submitted in machine-readable format

**Unique identifier type and versioning approach:** Platform-specific ID (e.g. arXiv ID), each version receives its own non-DOI citable identifier

**Versioning policy:** Accepts any new versions

**Commitment to FAIR principles:** None as yet

**Clear statement that content is not peer-reviewed on article page:** No

# 300,000 preprints discoverable in Europe PMC

from arxiv, bioRxiv, medRxiv, ChemRxiv, PsyArXiv, BioHackrXiv, Authorea Preprints, Beilstein Archives, Research Square, SSRN, F1000Res and F1000-powered Open Research platforms



**99,000** preprints  
were **published** in a journal



**12,000** preprints  
have been **cited**



**113,000** preprints  
were claimed to **ORCID**



**20,000** preprints  
have links to **data**



**2900** preprints  
have a preprint **peer review**



**270** preprints  
have a **lay summary**



Europe PMC  
@EuropePMC\_news

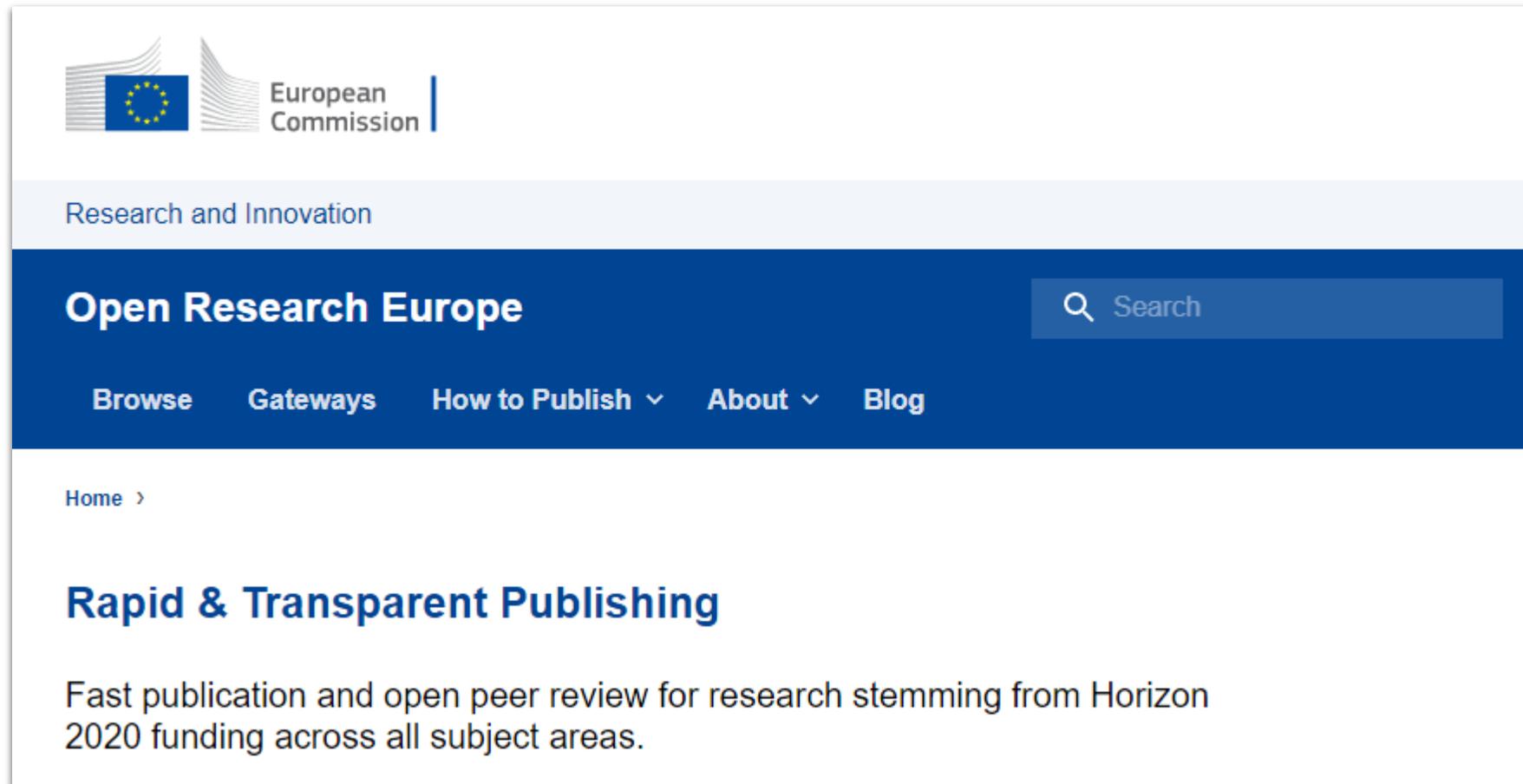
You can now find over 300K preprints in Europe PMC. Linked to published versions and citations via [@CrossrefOrg](#). Enriched with resources from [@ORCID\\_Org](#) [@PeerCommunityIn](#) [@outbreaksci](#) [@preLights](#) [@GrowKudos](#) [@biomodels](#) [@MetaboLights](#) [@PGSCatalog](#) [@PANGAEAdataPubl](#) [@EMDB\\_EMPIAR](#)

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25 ретвитова 2 твита са цитатом

43 свиђања

# Open Research Europe



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Open Research Europe website. At the top left is the European Commission logo, featuring the European Union flag and the text "European Commission". Below this is a light blue bar with the text "Research and Innovation". The main header is a dark blue bar containing the text "Open Research Europe" on the left and a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and the word "Search" on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with the items "Browse", "Gateways", "How to Publish" (with a dropdown arrow), "About" (with a dropdown arrow), and "Blog". The main content area is white and starts with a breadcrumb "Home >". The primary heading is "Rapid & Transparent Publishing" in a large, bold, blue font. Below this is a paragraph of text: "Fast publication and open peer review for research stemming from Horizon 2020 funding across all subject areas."

<https://open-research-europe.ec.europa.eu/>



# Welcome Open Research

The screenshot displays the Wellcome Open Research website interface. At the top, there is a teal navigation bar with the site name, a search icon, and a 'SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH' button. Below the navigation bar, the main content area features a breadcrumb trail 'Home > How It Works' and a large heading 'How it Works'. Underneath, a section titled 'Rapid & Transparent Publishing' explains that the platform allows researchers to publish results quickly, with transparent peer review and open access to source data. A second section, 'The Publishing Process', is illustrated with a flow diagram. The process starts with 'Article Submission' (represented by a document icon), followed by 'Publication & Data Deposition' (represented by a document with a plus sign and a bar chart), then 'Open Peer Review & User Commenting' (represented by a speech bubble icon), and finally 'Article Revision' (represented by a document with a pencil icon). A dashed blue arrow indicates a feedback loop from the revision stage back to the peer review stage.

**Wellcome Open Research** [SUBMIT YOUR RESEARCH](#)

BROWSE GATEWAYS & COLLECTIONS HOW TO PUBLISH ▾ ABOUT ▾ BLOG MY ACCOUNT ▾ SIGN IN

[Home](#) > [How It Works](#)

## How it Works

### Rapid & Transparent Publishing

Wellcome Open Research provides all Wellcome researchers with a place to rapidly publish any results they think are worth sharing. All articles benefit from rapid publication, transparent peer review and editorial guidance on making all source data openly available.

### The Publishing Process

Article Submission

Publication & Data Deposition

Open Peer Review & User Commenting

Article Revision

<https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/>



# SciELO Preprints

Register Login

Español Português



Scientific Electronic Library Online

Preprints Submission Areas of Knowledge ▾ About ▾ FAQ Announcements

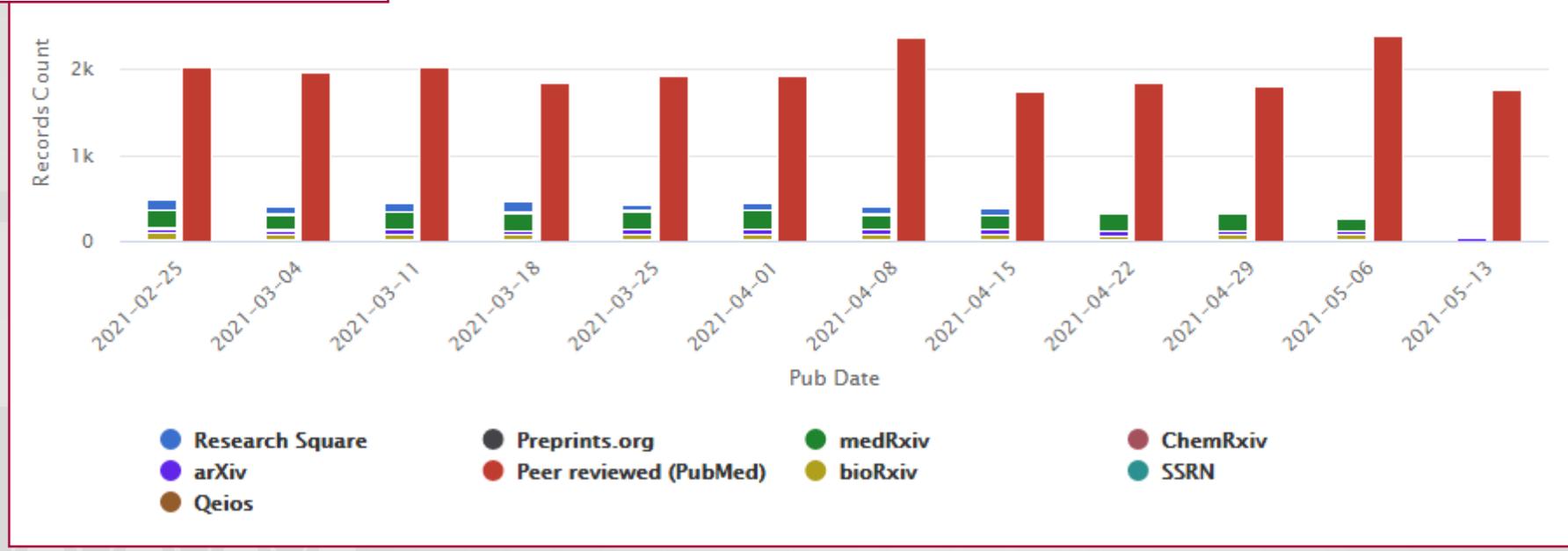
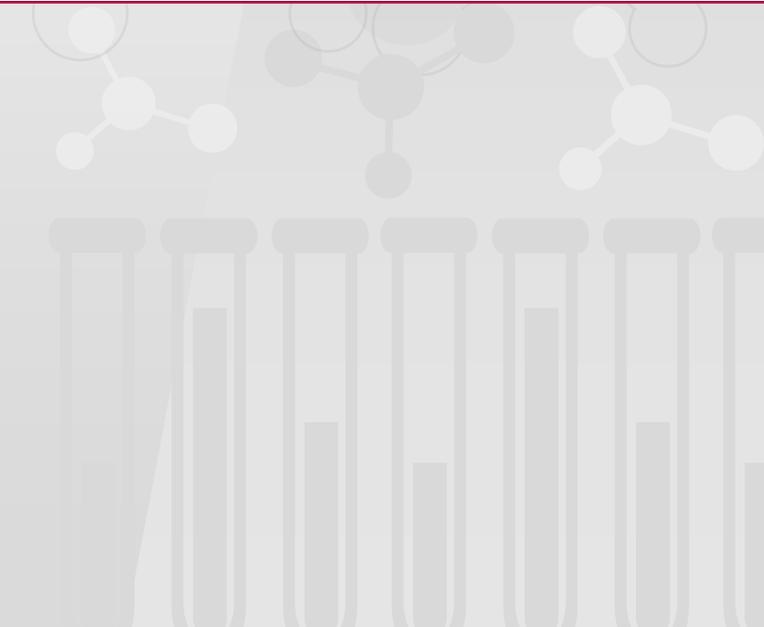
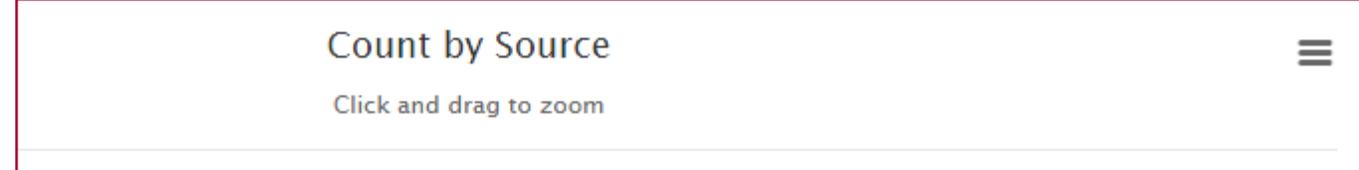
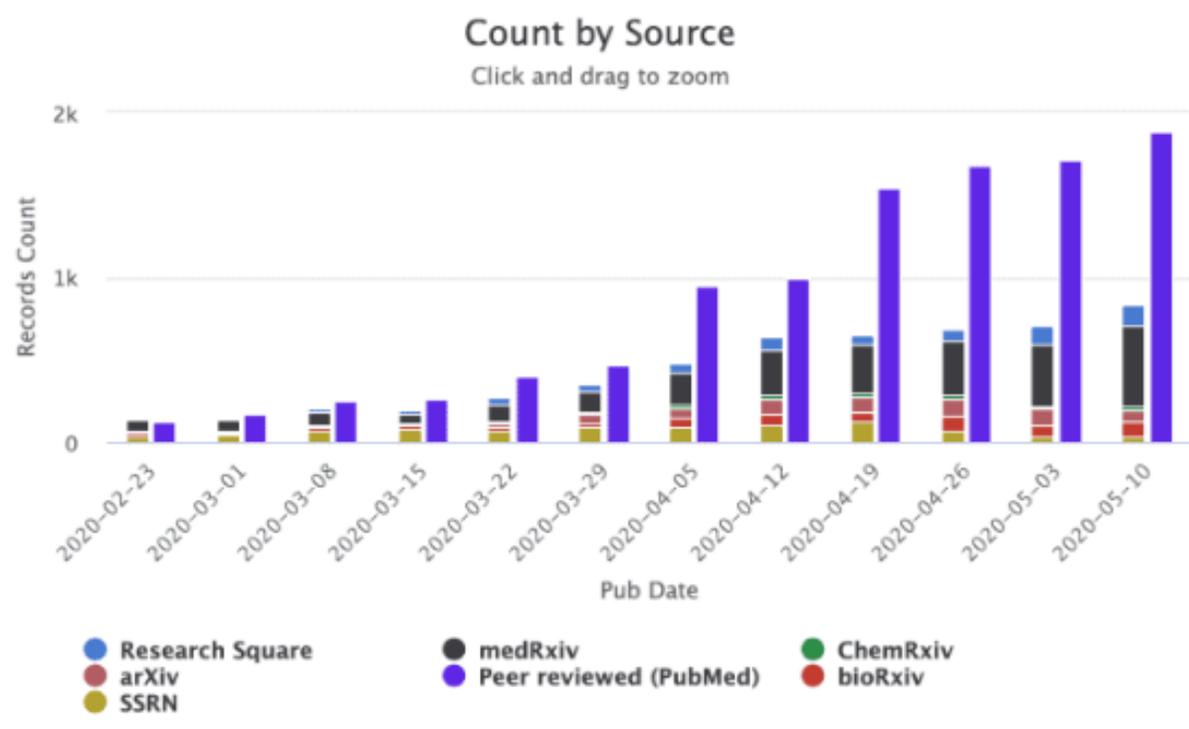
Search

Preprints are manuscripts either not evaluated by a journal or already evaluated but in process of publication.

<https://preprints.scielo.org/>



# Preprints & COVID-19



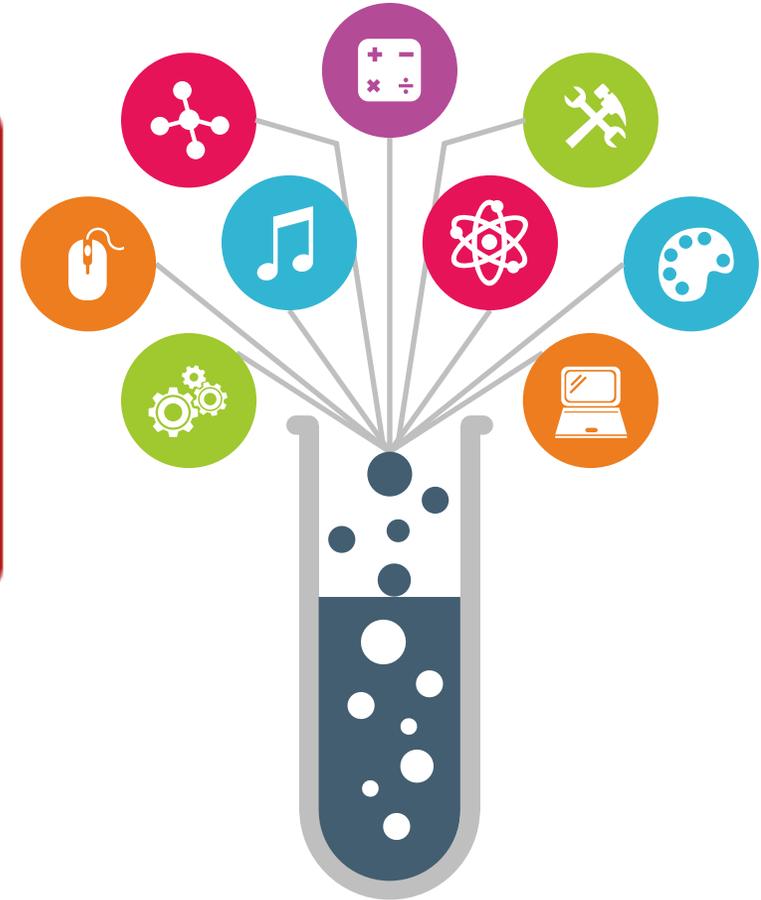
# Preprints & COVID-19

## COVID-19 Quick Links

See COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 preprints from

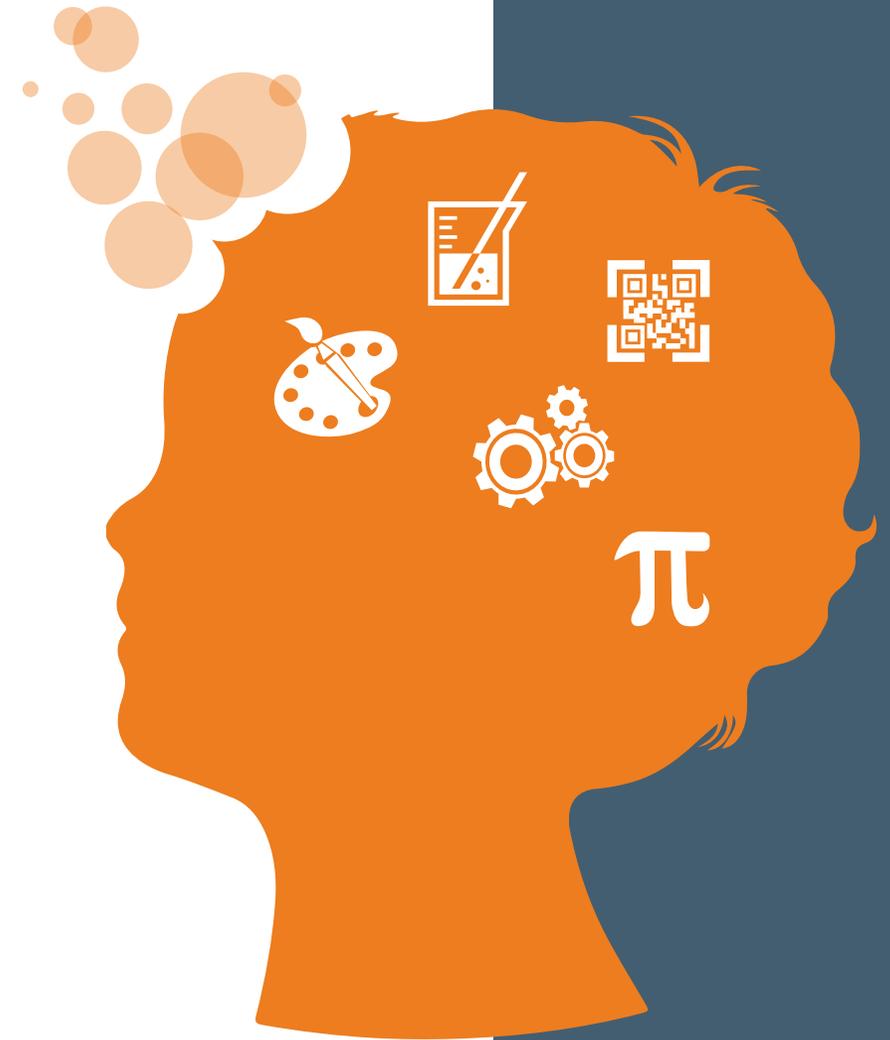
- arXiv → **4,075 results**
- medRxiv and bioRxiv → **15,742 articles (12,161 + 3,581)**

**Important:** e-prints posted on arXiv are not peer-reviewed by arXiv; they should not be relied upon without context to guide clinical practice or health-related behavior and should not be reported in news media as established information without consulting multiple experts in the field.



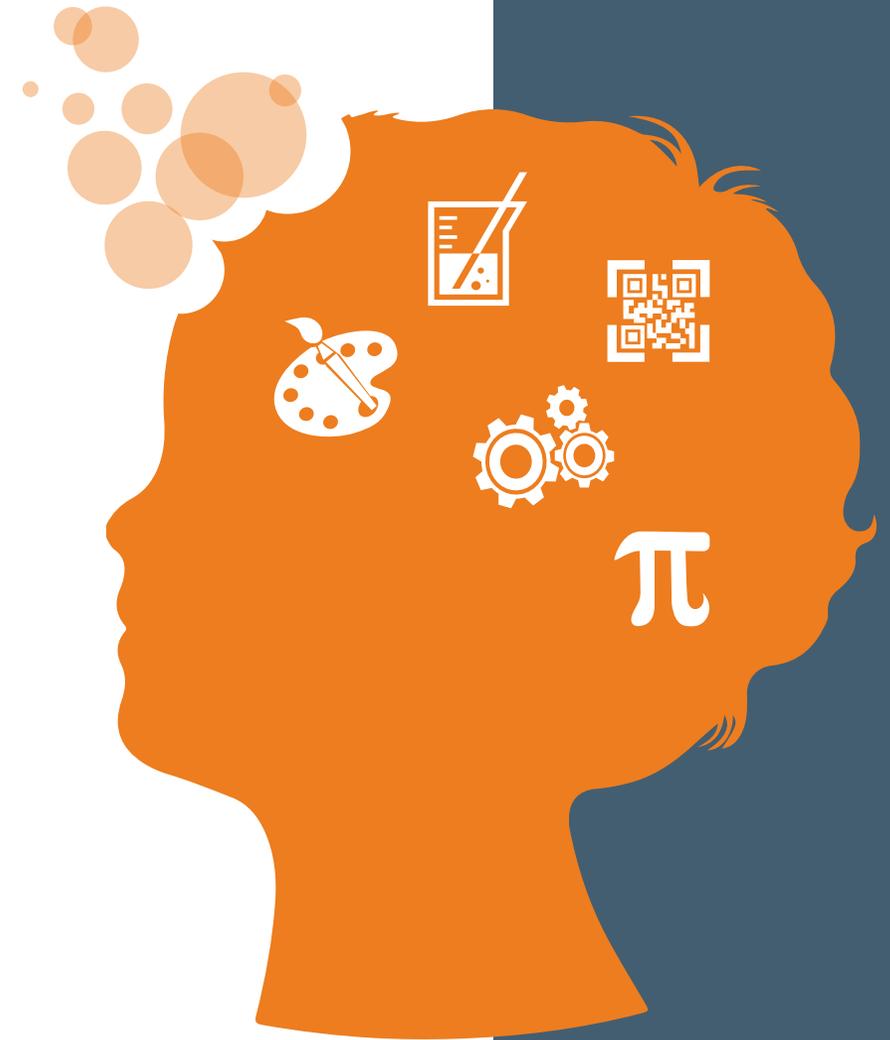
# Training focus

- Breaking fears,
- Explain why traditional journals do not meet the needs of modern scientific communication,
- Explain Open Research Europe and new trends at the international level.



# Approaches

- Education should include lively discussion,
- Not everyone should be expected to accept immediately,
- It is useful to invite a researcher who has published preprints to share their experience.



# Formats

Format	Methods	Technical requirements	Topics
Lecture + demo for researchers (90 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbal presentation</li><li>• Preprints features: demonstration</li><li>• Registration and depositing: demonstration</li><li>• Participants are free to ask any questions they may have during the presentation</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Computer + video beam</li><li>• Online</li></ul>	Full range
In person (~45 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to preprints</li><li>• Preprint servers and searching literature</li><li>• Participant is free to ask any questions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Live – in library</li><li>• Online</li></ul>	Depends on researchers' or librarians' prior knowledge

# Practical

Researchers should be reminded that they have to take into account journal policies.

## In Serbia

- Local physicists, mathematicians and engineers have been using arXiv for a long time and they know benefits of preprints,
- This practice is sporadically present among local psychologists:  
<https://osf.io/3fjqk/>, <https://psyarxiv.com/discover?q=serbia>,
- Chemists are quite conservative, they publish in traditional journals and with major commercial publishers,
- Researchers who work more intensively with colleagues from abroad are more likely to publish a preprint,
- **A major problem** is the research evaluation system which relies on the Impact Factor,
- The most suitable target group for education are researchers who are involved in EU projects.

# Tricky issues: Traditional model of publishing vs. Preprints

## Traditional way

- Small number of reviewers,
  - The review process is not transparent (a paper might have been accepted despite a negative review, but the readers don't have access to this information),
  - Is slow,
  - Paywalls (one can't have an opinion on a paper they can't read),
  - Too many papers are published, some of which are never read
- The common opinion is that the published results are certainly good (while publishers are still reluctant when it comes to publishing replication studies which demonstrate that some results are not so good)
- The part of the evaluation system which relies on the impact factor,
- Publishers constantly encourage publishing through the traditional model (personal gain).

## Preprints

- Open access to a large number of researchers around the world,
  - Commenting, discussing and providing feedback (which may not be relevant, but it's at least transparent),
  - Even more preprints are published, some of which are never read,
- The common opinion is that preprints are not verified and that anyone can write them
- Preprints are not recognized in many countries and officially accepted in the research evaluation system,
- Publishers often do not allow the publication of a preprint in their journals, which may discourage authors from setting up a preprint first and then publishing the paper.

# References

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# Questions?



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