



# How to flip a journal to (fair) Open Access

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# Flip from *Journal of Informetrics* (JOI) to *Quantitative Science Studies* (QSS)





Starting point:

- Editorial system (EVISE)
- Open citations
- Open access

Overarching question:

*Why does the publisher make so many decisions for us? Why cannot we decide ourselves?*





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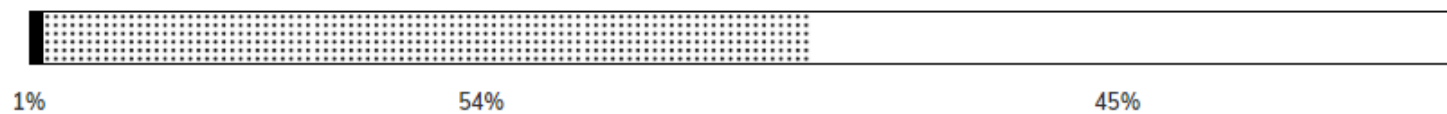
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How many citations are open today?



As of February 2019, the fraction of publications with open references has grown from 1% to 55% out of 43.2 million articles with references deposited with Crossref.

We encourage all other scholarly publishers to follow the example of these trail-blazing publishers by making their reference metadata publicly available. Please contact Crossref Support ([support@crossref.org](mailto:support@crossref.org)) for more information, or to let them know that you are ready to open up your reference metadata now. See also our list of responses to [frequently asked questions](#).





## Seven steps to flip a journal:

1. Establish a core team
2. Formulate a clear message
3. Discuss with board members and publisher
4. Make a strong plan
5. Choose a new publisher
6. Make a final decision
7. Organize the flip properly





## Step 1: Establish a core team

- Editor-in-Chief
- Associate Editors
- President of scholarly society (ISSI)





## Step 2: Formulate a clear message

- Open citations
- Open access
- Ownership





## Step 3: Discuss with board members and publisher

- Joint effort of the core team
- Individual and collective discussions with board members
- Find out how much the publisher is willing to negotiate
- Be as open and transparent as possible







## Step 4: Make a strong plan

- Ensure support from scholarly society
- Ensure legal and institutional support
- Try to find financial support
- Ask for advice; help from Fair Open Access Alliance (Saskia and Johan) was very valuable





## Step 5: Choose a new publisher

- Choose between a publisher and a publishing platform
- Make sure the publisher is willing to follow the Fair Open Access Principles:
  - The publisher does not own the journal
  - All articles will be open access
  - APCs are low and transparent
- Negotiate APCs





## Step 6: Make a final decision

- Organize a board meeting, including voting
- Provide room for differences in opinion; try to reach a decision that all board members are prepared to support
- Have a final discussion with the old publisher (perhaps they will change their mind!)





## Step 7: Organize the flip properly

- Minimize negative consequences for authors
- Remain on speaking terms with the old publisher, so that the flip can take place in an orderly way
- Create media coverage for the flip to clearly signal that the old journal will be continued under a new name



# Editorial Mutiny at Elsevier Journal

Following in the footsteps of linguistics journal *Lingua*, the editorial board of the Elsevier-owned *Journal of Informetrics* has resigned and launched a rival journal that will be free for all to read.

By [Lindsay McKenzie](#) // January 14, 2019

8 COMMENTS 

The entire [editorial board](#) of the Elsevier-owned *Journal of Informetrics* [resigned](#) Thursday in protest over high open-access fees, restricted access to citation data and commercial control of scholarly work.

Today, the same team is launching a new fully open-access journal called [Quantitative Science Studies](#). The journal will be for and by the academic community and will be owned by the International Society for Scientometrics and Informetrics (ISSI). It will be published jointly with MIT Press.

The editorial board of the *Journal of Informetrics* said in a statement that they were unanimous in their decision to quit. They contend that scholarly journals should be owned by the scholarly community rather than by commercial publishers, should be open access under [fair principles](#), and publishers should make citation data freely available.



NEWS • 14 JANUARY 2019

## Open-access row prompts editorial board of Elsevier journal to resign

*The board of the Journal of Informetrics has launched a new open-access publication.*

[Dalmeet Singh Chawla](#)



The editorial board of an influential scientometrics journal — the *Journal of Informetrics* — has resigned in protest over the open-access policies of its publisher, Elsevier, and launched a competing publication.

The board told Nature that given the journal's subject matter — the assessment and dissemination of science — it felt it needed to be at the forefront of open publishing practices, which it says includes making [bibliographic references freely available](#) for analysis and reuse, and being open access and owned by the community.

### RELATED ARTICLES

[Half of papers searched for online are free to read](#)

[Germany vs Elsevier: universities win temporary journal access after refusing to pay fees](#)





## Lessons learnt

- Proper preparation of a flip takes considerable time (about 1.5 years) and effort
- Having a strong core team and a good relationship with the scholarly society is essential
- Collaboration with FOAA has been very helpful





## Main challenges

- Obtaining funding
- Being indexed in Web of Science and Scopus and getting a journal impact factor





- Journal impact factors are overrated
- We need a more pluralistic system for valuing journals



# COMMENT

**MEDICINE** How does the human microbiome work as an ecosystem? **p.622**

**NEUROSCIENCE** How evolution shaped our biology for social living **p.627**

**STATISTICS** This time with feeling: P-values, confidence and significance pitfalls **p.628**

**CONSERVATION** Find ways to test toolkit that nudges people to protect the planet **p.630**

**Rethink impact factors: find new ways to judge a journal**

A broader, more-transparent suite of metrics will improve science publishing, urge **Paul Wouters** and colleagues, together with 18 co-signatories.





## Group discussion

1. How to organize ownership? Through a scholarly society? Or some alternative approach?
2. How to choose a publisher or a publishing platform? What is the minimum service level that is needed?
3. How to deal with the challenge of WoS/Scopus indexing and the journal impact factor?





**Thank you for your attention!**

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