

# The Publishing Research Consortium

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Embargo: Embargo: 00.01, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

## Early career researchers increasingly interested in publishing their research open access, study shows

Early career researchers are increasingly interested in publishing their research open access, a report by the Publishing Research Consortium and Ciber has shown.

The report, which aims to assess changes in the attitudes of early career researchers, shows that since the last study 12 months ago researchers are more interested in publishing open access due to the perceived benefits of outreach and increased citation.

However, especially in the US and UK, the report shows that researchers are still more focused on publishing in high impact journals rather than open access.

Other changes found since the last report include:

- Changing career aims brought on by a precarious environment and increased competition
- Authorship/ publishing practices and policies tightening up
- More interest in metrics, with altmetrics being thought about more
- Increase in sharing and collaboration, which was boosted by social media and online network use.

An additional question about perceptions of mega journals, which was not included in the first-year study, showed that whilst early career researchers were attracted by their higher acceptance rates, higher citations and speed of publishing, they also perceive these journals as having low standards of acceptance and processing meaning that quality is variable.

Principal Investigator for Ciber, David Nicholas said:

*“Early career researchers look to be leading the way to a more open, collaborative, transparent and outward facing scholarly communication environment and one in which emerging reputational systems play a bigger role. The pace of change appears to be increasing as ECRs mature and we look forward to re-visiting them next year.”*

Chief Executive of the PA and Chair of the Publishing Research Consortium, Stephen Lotinga said:

*“Just a year since the first study was conducted and there are already signs that early career researcher’s attitudes are beginning to change, spanning from their career aims to their attitudes towards open access. Early career researchers will shape the future of the research landscape and it is important that we understand how their attitudes and behaviours are evolving.”*

Notes to editors:

The report is based on the second year of data from a planned three-year qualitative study. It is based on personal interviews with 116 early career researchers from seven countries (UK, US, China, France, Spain, Poland and Malaysia)

Publishing Research Consortium is a group of associations and publishers that support research into global issues that impact scholarly communication, in order to promote evidence-based discussion. Our steering group comprises representatives from the International Association of STM Publishers, The Publishers Association, Association of American Publishers, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis, Elsevier, Springer Nature, and Wiley.