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Dear colleagues,

for this issue's Publications and New Products column, I've explored the web to gather a selection of news and articles covering a range of timely and relevant topics. I hope you'll find them both interesting and useful.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest wishes to you and your families for a wonderful New Year.

FROM THE WEB

- **The Open Access Button is no longer active**
  On November 18, twelve years after its initial launch, the Open Access Button was officially retired. The OA.Works team made this decision to better address key challenges currently facing the Open Access movement and to concentrate their efforts on two main initiatives:
  OA.Report, which streamlines Open Access policy compliance checks and follow-ups, helping institutions put their OA policies into practice;
  ShareYourPaper, which simplifies repository deposits and supports APC-free publishing.
  It is possible to read more on their blog post Sunsetting the Open Access Button & InstantILL

- **Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Manuscript Preparation**
  STM released a new document, Recommendations for a Classification of AI Use in Academic Manuscript Preparation, which outlines different ways artificial intelligence can assist in preparing academic manuscripts. Rapid advances in AI—especially generative AI—have greatly expanded the ability of machine tools to support writing, editing, and even creating images and diagrams for research papers. However, publisher guidelines have not kept pace, creating uncertainty for authors (regarding when and how to disclose AI use), peer reviewers (regarding what constitutes acceptable AI assistance), and readers (regarding what content is AI-generated versus human-generated). This document is meant to provide a framework that publishers can use to develop their own policies on appropriate AI use and required declarations by authors.

- **For Equitable and sustainable scholarly publishing**
  This bilingual checklist presents 13 concrete actions researchers can take to move toward a more equitable and sustainable scholarly publishing ecosystem. Each action is classified by career stage (all, mid-career, senior) and potential risk to career advancement (low, medium, high). This checklist encourages researchers to reflect on and adapt their own publishing practices and was first published by Stefanie Haustein in a University of Ottawa, Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP) blog post "Why the economics of scientific publishing need urgent reform".

PUBLICATIONS AND NEW PRODUCTS

- **Help or hindrance? Peer review in the age of AI**
  The Peer Review Week 2025 theme of this year, Rethinking Peer Review in the AI Era, invited a timely global dialogue on how artificial intelligence is reshaping the peer review landscape and the broader scholarly publishing ecosystem. Matt Hodgkinson wrote a post for the DOAJ blog, Help or hindrance? Peer review in the age of AI, reflecting on some concerns around AI use in peer review - and flagged the inclusion of updated application guidelines with a section on artificial intelligence and other automated tools.

- **Differences between the Diamond Discovery Hub e DOAJ**
  In this blog post are underlined the differences between the Diamond Discovery Hub (DDH) e DOAJ. Although DOAJ and DDH are both committed to equitable open access, and there will be an overlap in some metadata, the two services perform distinctive roles and provide value to the community in different ways. DOAJ is a broad, global index with an independent validation process for journals of all open access business models, while the DDH is based on a partnership model with Diamond OA content providers and focuses primarily on journals within Europe. It is possible to read the entire post at DOAJ and The Diamond Discovery Hub: Working with the community to support open access.

- **The new Plan S**
  Seven years after launching Plan S, cOAlition S has outlined a new strategic plan to guide its open access efforts from 2026 to 2030. The organisation will concentrate on three interconnected priorities: strengthening the foundations for full, immediate, sustainable, and equitable open access to peer-reviewed articles; supporting the digital infrastructure that underpins Open Access; and exploring publishing systems that are both financially sustainable and equitable, while tracking their outcomes and impact. This strategy is grounded in an updated shared vision: a scholarly communication system that enables rapid, open, transparent, and equitable circulation of trustworthy scientific knowledge. It acknowledges current publishing models and highlights the need for more sustainable and fair alternatives, such as the "Publish-Review-Curate (PRC)" model, diamond open access, and preprints. For more info and the full version of the cOAlition S Strategy 2026-2030 click here.

READING SUGGESTIONS

- IFLA Journal Volume 51, No.3 (October 2025) is a special issue dedicated to the theme "Artificial Intelligence: Transforming Global Librarianship". Bringing together 18 original contributions from around the world, the issue examines how AI is reshaping library services, information literacy, policy, and professional practice across diverse contexts. Guest editors of this issue are Andrew M. Cox (University of Sheffield, UK) and Xuemao Wang (Dean of Libraries, Northwestern University, USA). It is possible to download this issue at this link: https://repository.ifla.org/items/b8ea2089-3bfa-4a6c-bdb9-36f0c830edbc

- Benson Marshall, M., Pinfield, S., Abbott, P. et al. The impact of COVID-19 on the debate on open science: a qualitative analysis of published materials from the period of the pandemic. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications 11, 1315 (2024). https://doi.org/10.1057/s41599-024-03804-w

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS
CILIP Metadata and Discovery Group Conference 2026
March 11 –13, Bristol, UK
The theme of the conference is #MetaFutures and will explore how metadata brings together resources and users as well as how to span the gap between current practices and future challenges, particularly in an age of rapidly advancing AI technologies. More info here.

49th UKSG (United Kingdom Serials Group) Annual Conference 2026
March 30 – April 1, Glasgow, UK
More info at this link: https://www.uksg.org/events/conference26/

7th International Library Staff Week
May 11-15, Istanbul, Turkey
This event will be held at the Koç University Suna Kıraç Library. Throughout the week, seminars, workshops, and interactive sessions will offer participants a platform for global knowledge exchange and collaboration on the theme "Rethinking Higher Education and Libraries in the Age of AI". For further details and to complete the registration process, it is possible to visit their comprehensive LibGuide. For further questions, it is possible to contact the organization at intllibweek@ku.edu.tr.

ALA 2026 Annual Conference & Exhibition
June 25 – June 29, Chicago, IL
More info at: https://2026.alaannual.org/

Please feel free to contact me (annarita.barbaro@iss.it) if you have any further suggestion about initiatives or events you would like to promote