

Royal Society Publishing: a journey to open access

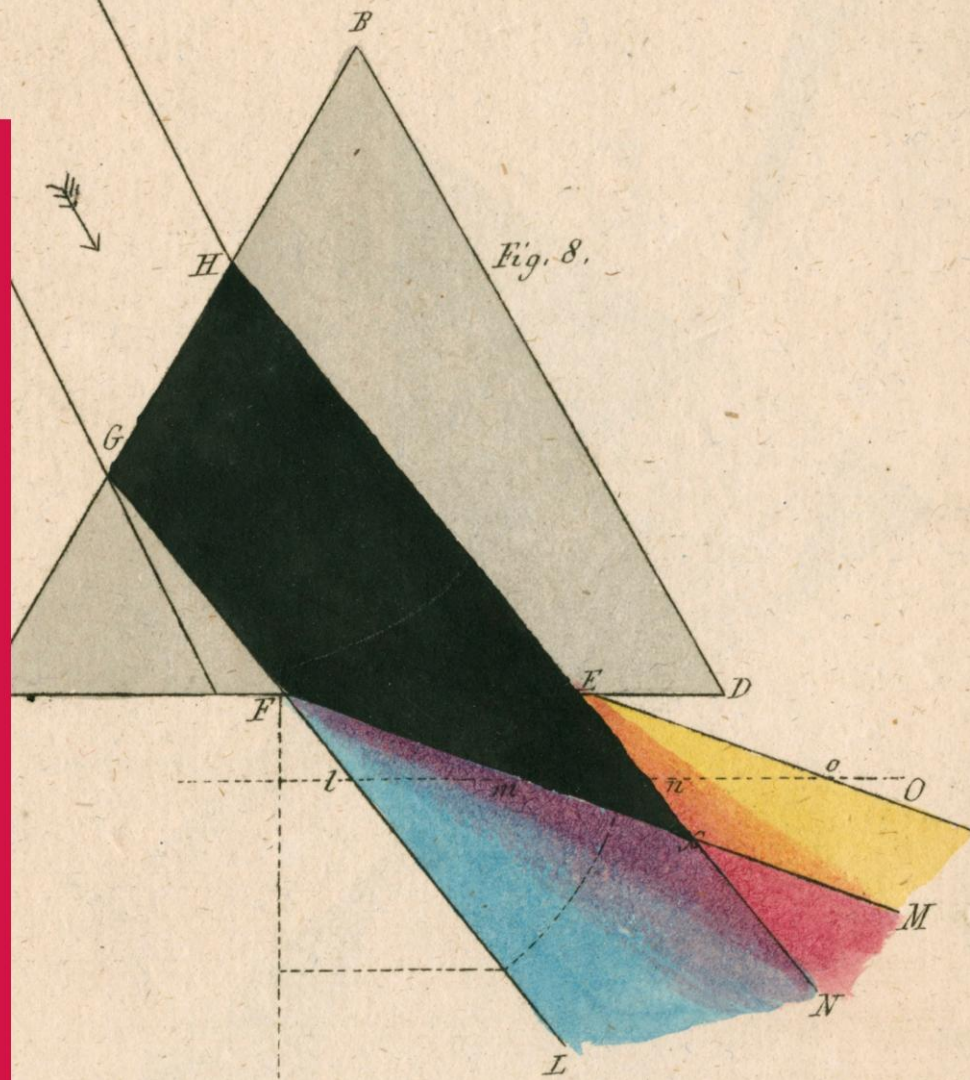
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Head of Sales and Marketing

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THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY





About the Royal Society

The Royal Society is a self-governing Fellowship of many of the world's most distinguished scientists drawn from all areas of science, engineering, and medicine. The Society's fundamental purpose, as it has been since its foundation in 1660, is to recognise, promote, and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.

The Society has been publishing scientific research since 1665.

The future of scientific publishing

Review of the STEM publishing
landscape, with white paper coming in
2026

Broad recommendations for the next
10+ years

Conference on topic held at the Royal
Society in July, summary note
available



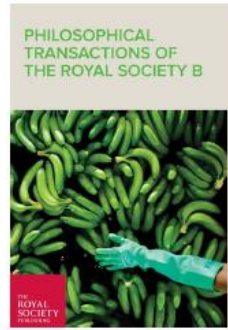
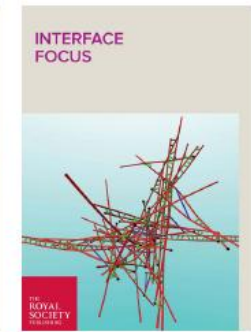
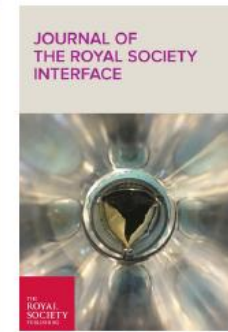
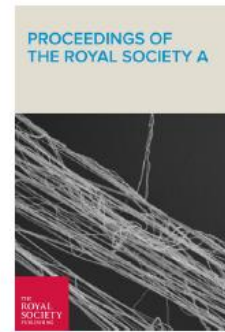
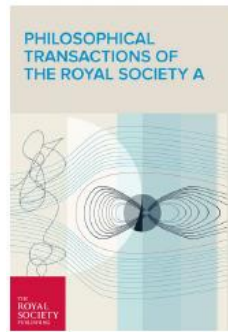
Above: Sir Mark Walport FRS, Foreign Secretary and Vice President of the Royal Society.



Our journal portfolio

11 journals covering the breadth of science, engineering and mathematics.

High quality, open and ethical publishing.



Our open access journey so far



- 71% of our content OA in 2024
- Currently over 675 Read & Publish institutions
- Royal Society Open Access Equity Scheme

→ How do we enable full OA by 2026 as originally pledged?

Subscribe to Open



- Aiming to make our content 100% OA from 2026
- Subscription spending → OA
- 8 Hybrid journals will be free to publish
- Cost-effective, high-impact and equitable
- Currently working with libraries and consortia to see if possible for start of 2026

Challenges and lessons learned

- Subscribe to Open is conditional and requires support from institutions
- Clear communication of value to all stakeholders (authors, librarians, Funders, and the Society)
- Multiple approval points in member organisations
- Sufficient lead times for adapting journals strategies
- A simple offering that works for all markets globally
- Making use of existing system and workflows for simplicity
- Ensuring the shift to full open access is sustainable for the Royal Society, and demonstrating the benefit to our communities

Support has been encouraging so far!

Looking ahead

- We hope to be in a position to announce something by end January 2026
- Review annually to maintain financial viability
- Keep dialogue open with libraries, maintaining Read & Publish model as most inclusive
- Ensure the quality and integrity of our research
- Demonstrate the increased readership and citations
- Outreach and engagement with community of authors is essential

This is the next stage in our open access journey, models likely to evolve further in the coming years.

Getting in touch



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