

# Scholarly Communication in Times of Crisis

*The response of the scholarly communication system  
to the COVID-19 pandemic*

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# Presentation Overview

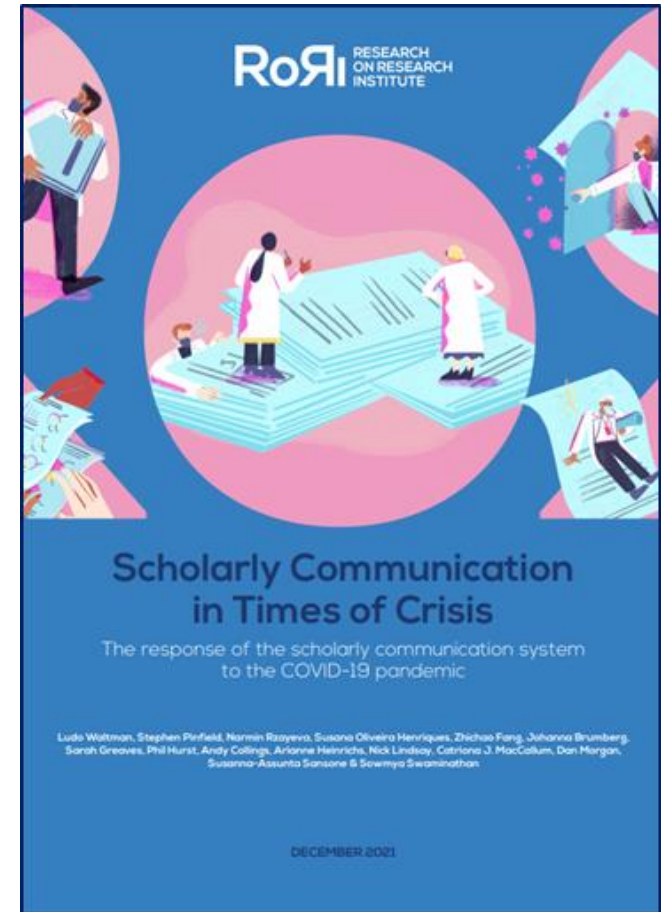
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Background to the report, ‘Scholarly Communication in Times of Crisis’

Key Findings

Comparison with other recent work

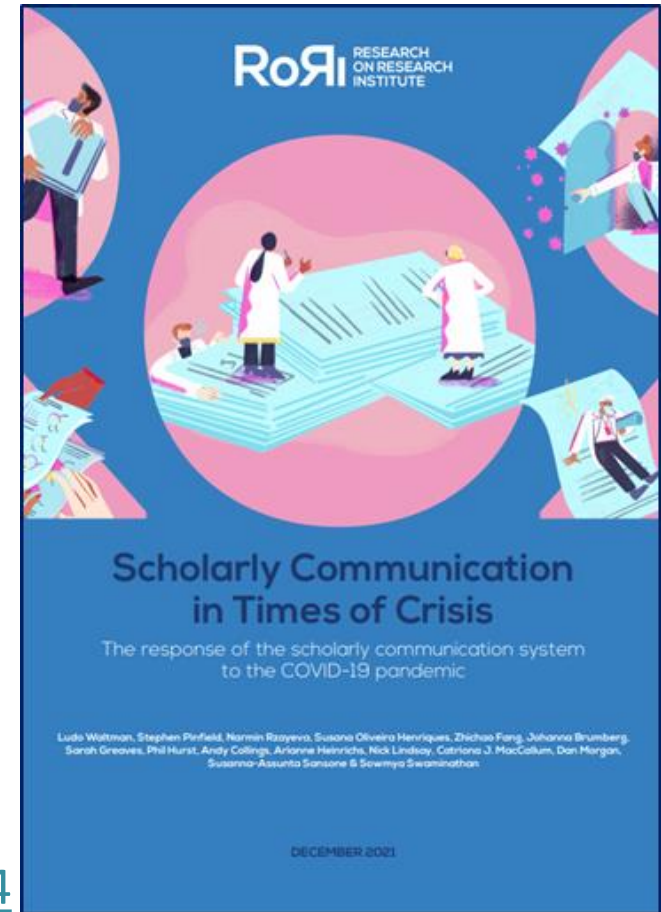
Recommendations



# Co-Designed & Co-Produced Research



**SPRINGER NATURE**



<https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.17125394>

# Commitments to Share COVID-19 Research

Press release

## Sharing research data and findings relevant to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

31 January 2020



## COVID-19 Publishers Open Letter of Intent – Rapid Review

*On 27 April 2020, a group of publishers and scholarly communications organisations announced a joint initiative to maximize the efficiency of peer review, ensuring that key work related to COVID-19 is reviewed and published as quickly and openly as possible. OASPA fully supports this collaborative approach and is pleased to host the Open Letter of Intent below.*



# Commitments: Summary

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Making COVID-19 research outputs **open or free access**

**Preprinting** of COVID-19 research

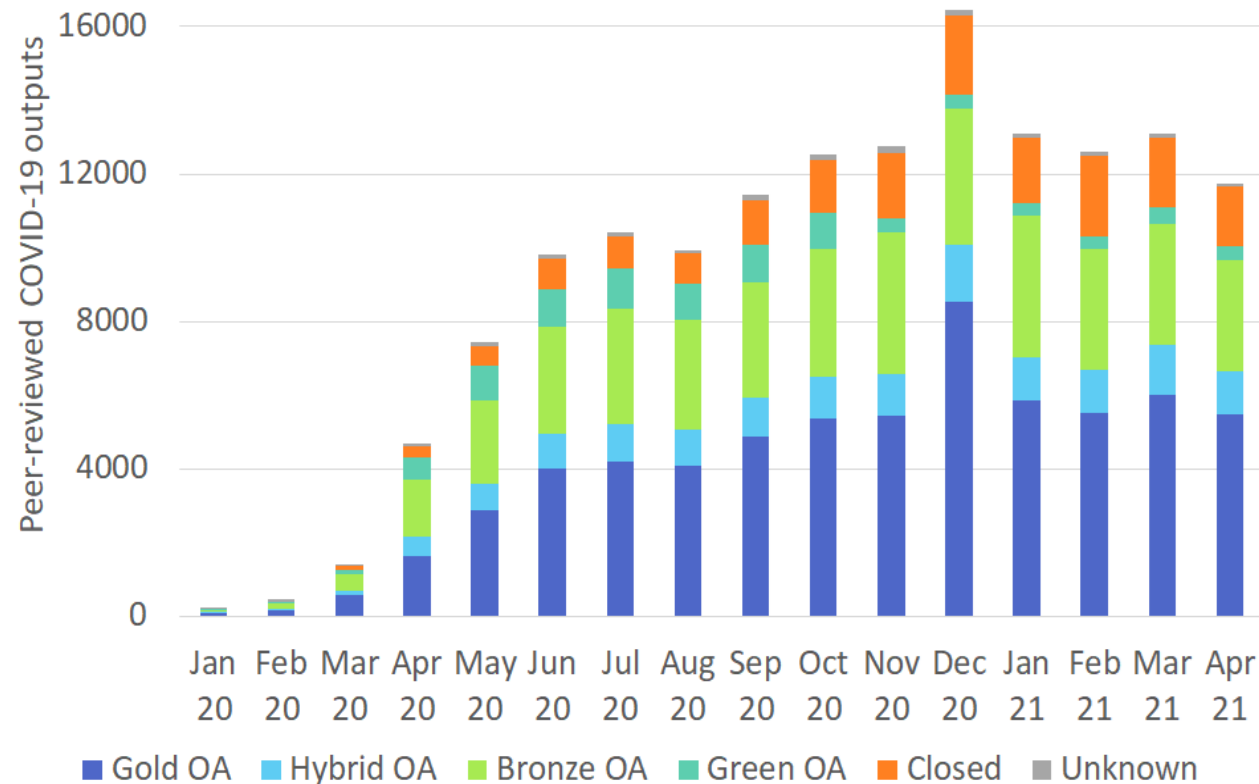
**Sharing data** from COVID-19 research

**Speeding up publication times** of COVID-19 articles

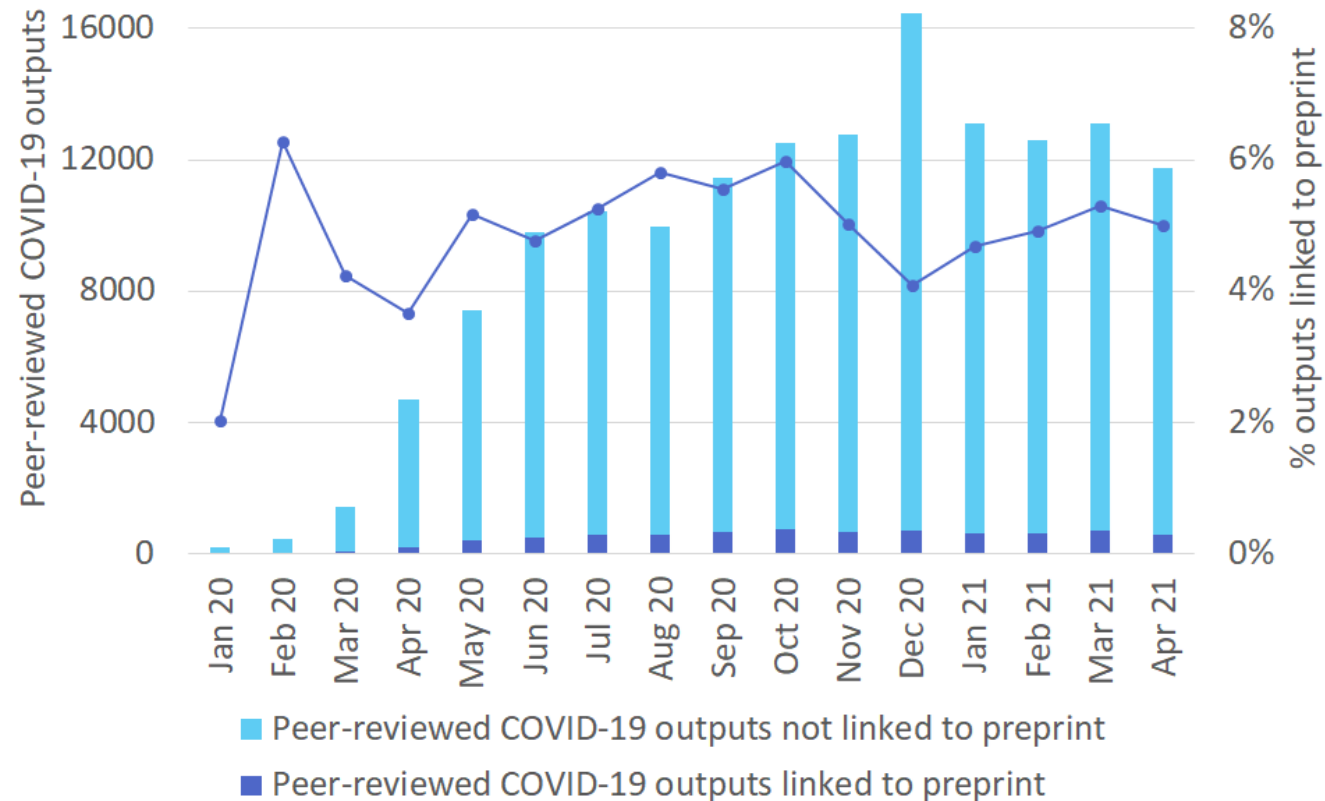
Facilitating **peer review of preprints** of COVID-19 research

“This report examines the implementation of the key commitments made in the Wellcome-coordinated COVID-19 statement and the COVID-19 Rapid Review Initiative”

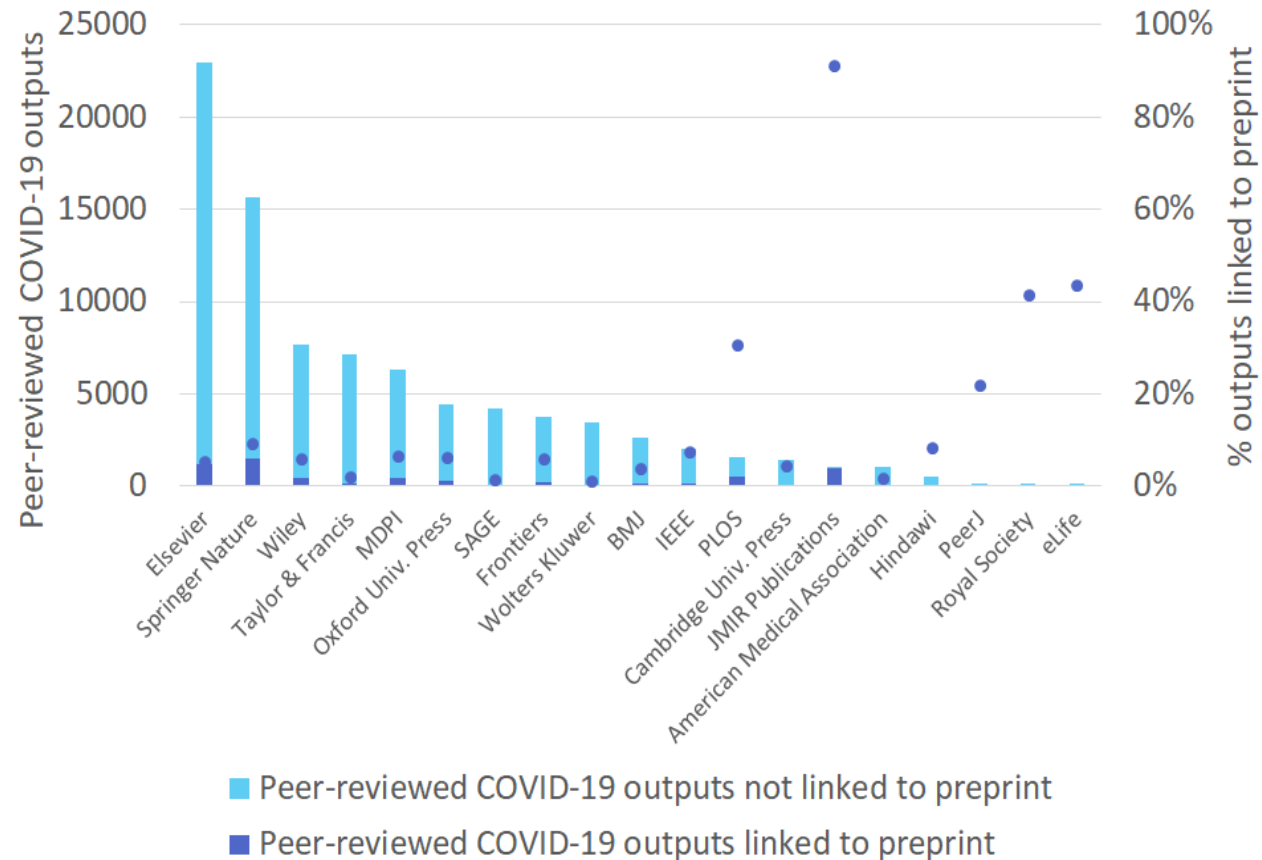
# Making COVID-19 Research Outputs Open or Free Access



# Preprinting of COVID-19 Research: Preprints vs. Peer-reviewed Outputs



# Preprinting of COVID-19 Research: Breakdown by Publisher



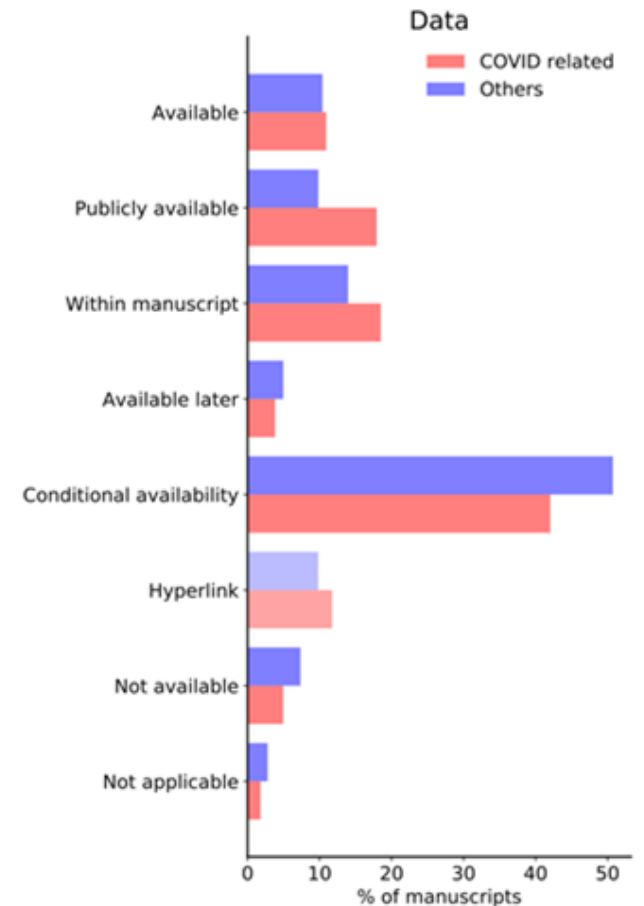


# Sharing Data from COVID-19 Research

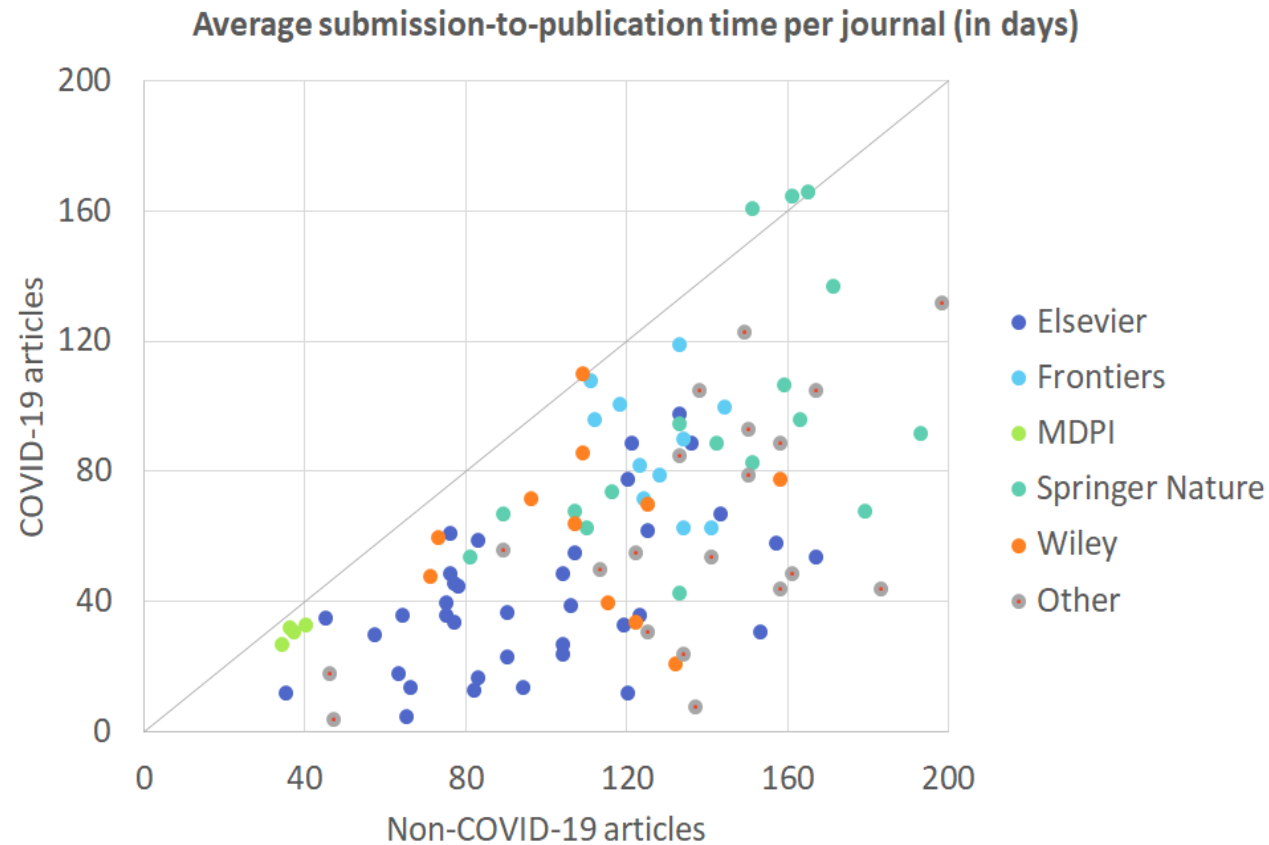
Studies of sharing of COVID-19 research data:

- Collins and Alexander (*arXiv*, 2021)
- Gkiouras et al. (*European Journal of Clinical Investigation*, 2020)
- Larregue et al. (*LSE Impact Blog*, 2020)
- Lucas-Dominguez et al. (*Scientometrics*, 2021)
- Maxwell et al. (*Zenodo*, 2021)

General conclusion: **Commitment to sharing of COVID-19 research data has not been fulfilled**, but sharing of genome sequencing data is positive exception

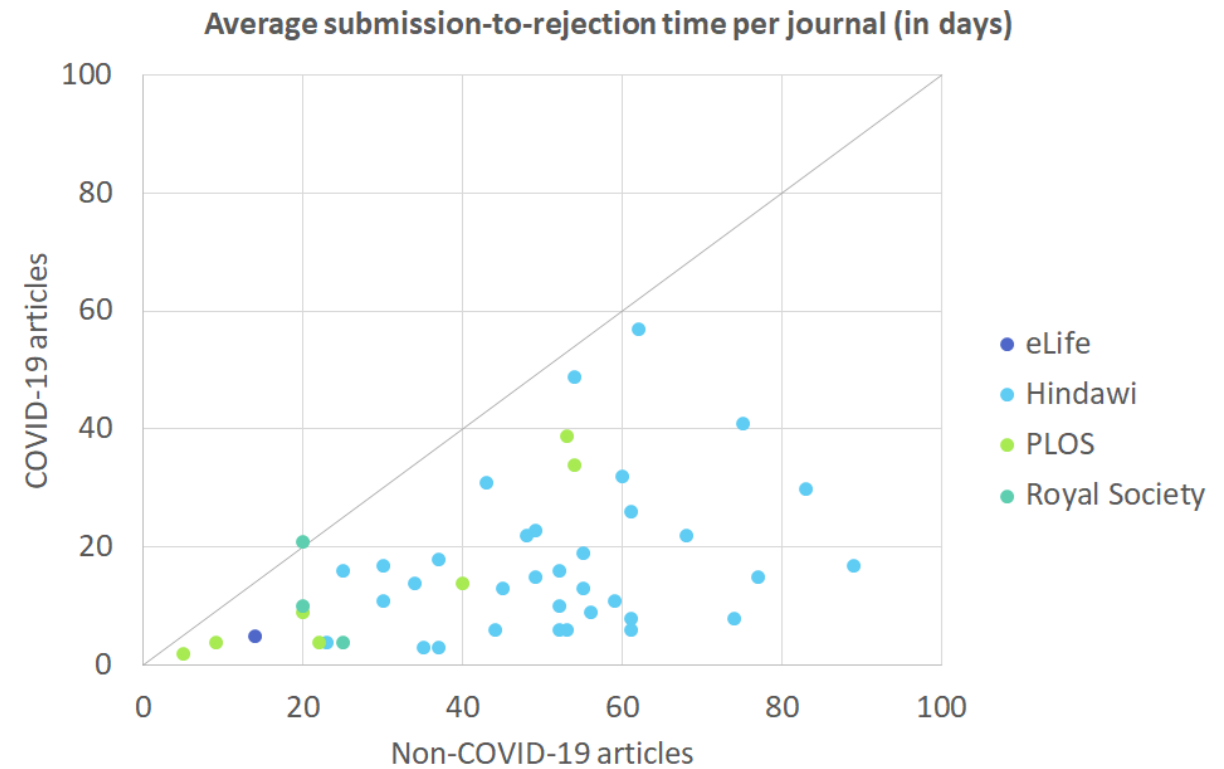
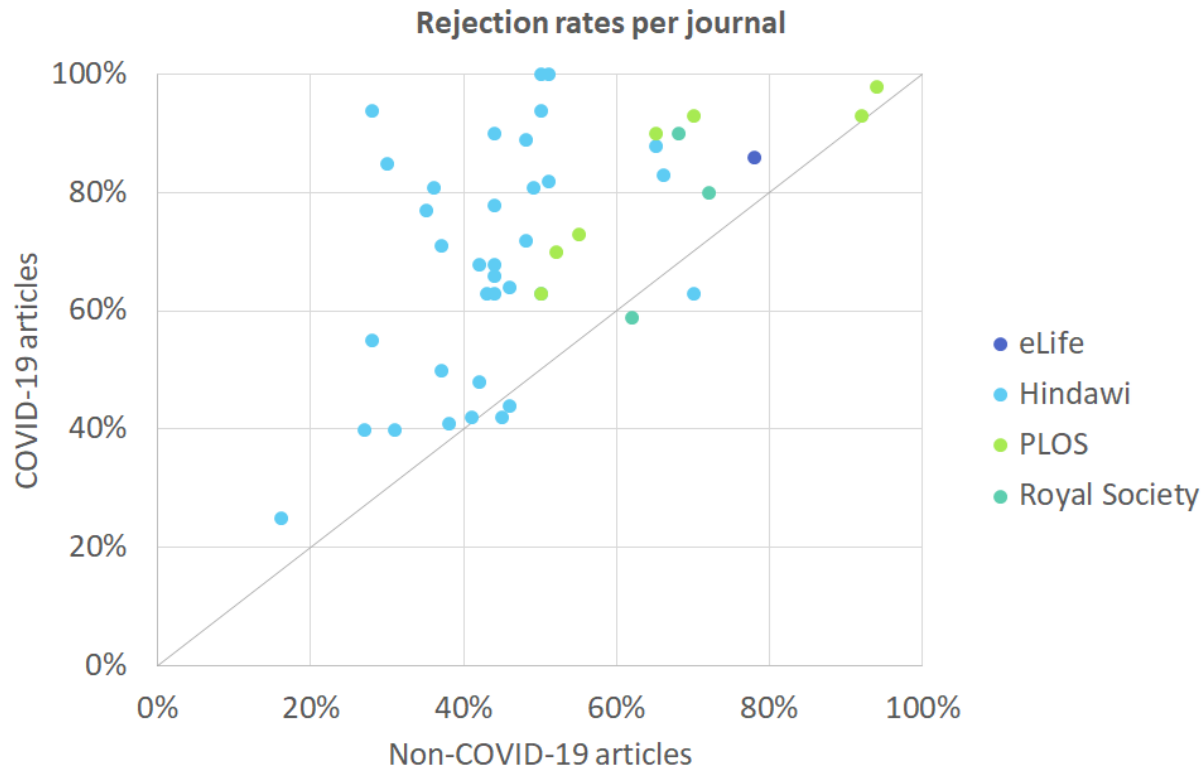


# Speeding Up Publication Times of COVID-19 Articles



Data for articles  
submitted in April 2020

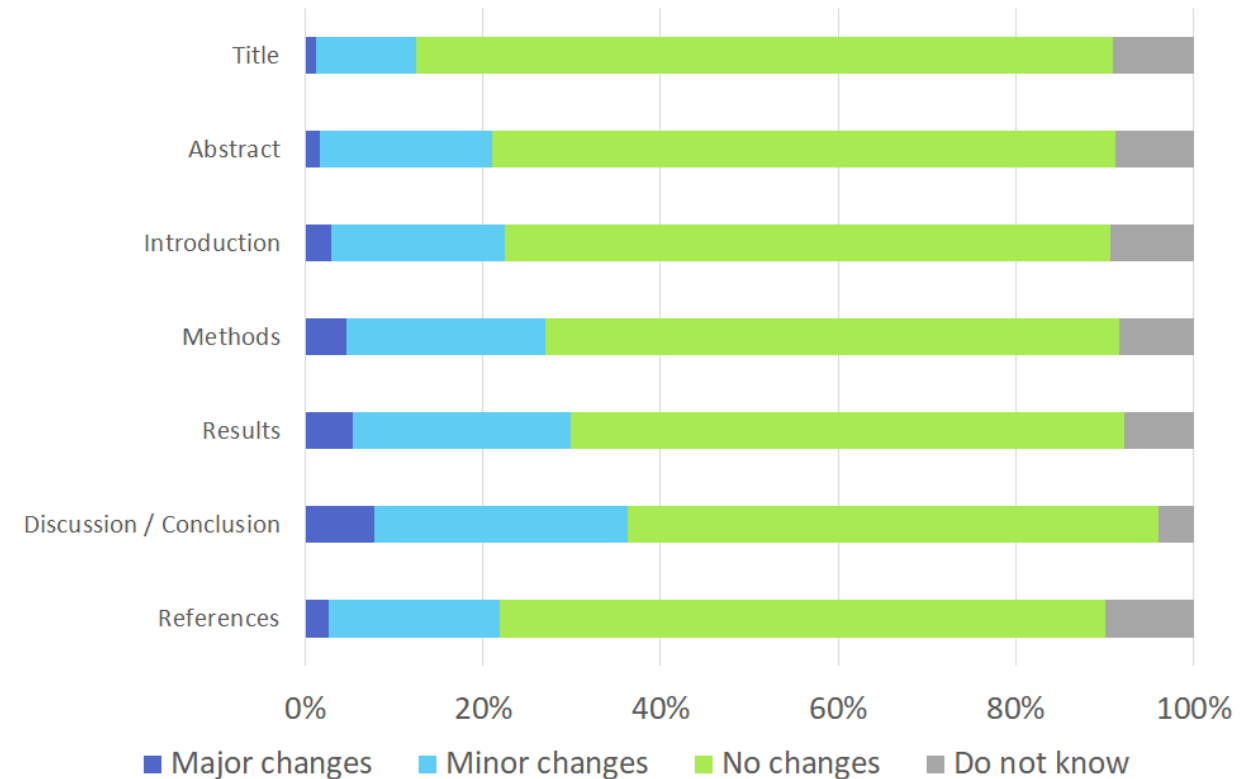
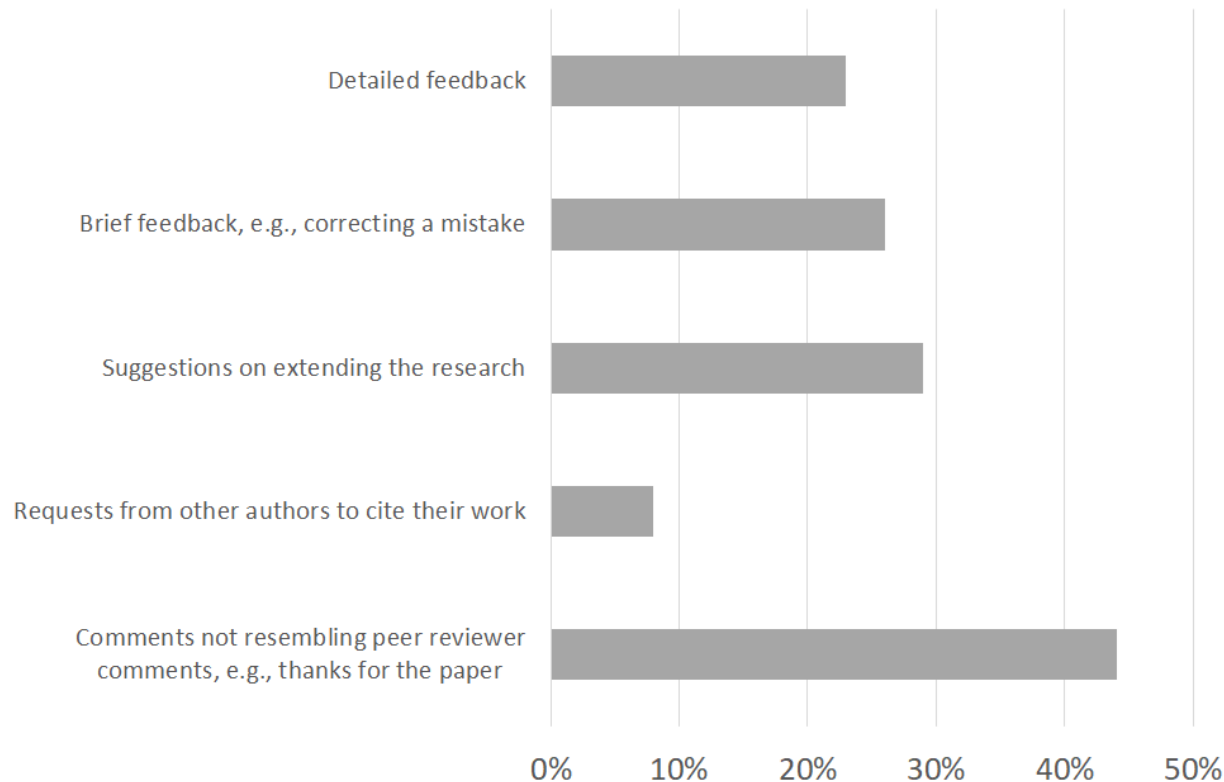
# Speeding Up Publication Times of COVID-19 Articles: Rejections



Data for articles submitted in April-June 2020

# Facilitating Peer Review of COVID-19 Preprints: Survey of Preprint Authors

53% of the preprint authors had received feedback on their preprint



# Facilitating Peer Review of COVID-19 Preprints: New Initiatives

Get involved with rapidly PRereviewing COVID-19 preprints and then view our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) of PRereview activities and recommendations.



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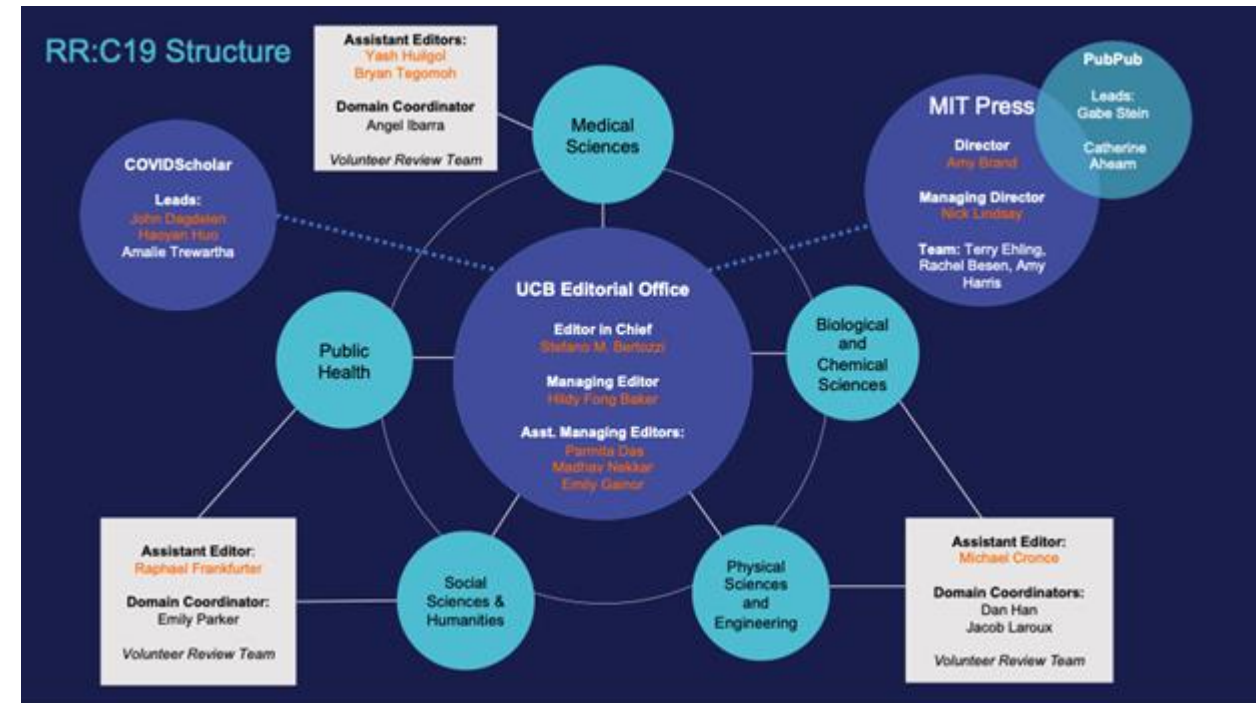
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# Key Insights

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The pandemic has illustrated the **essential role of openness** — open access, open data, and open science more widely

Improving scholarly communication is a joint responsibility that requires **collaboration and coordinated action** across stakeholders



# Recommendations: Key Themes

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The report makes 16 detailed recommendations in the following six areas:

Efforts to promote **open science**, particularly open access of publications and open sharing of data, need to be further intensified

Need for more concerted action in the area of **preprinting**

Need to increase **data sharing** through joint efforts of key players

Need for ongoing innovation in **journal peer review processes**

Need for additional investments in **preprint peer review** platforms to scale up operations and develop best practices

Efforts need to be intensified to improve the availability and quality of **(meta)data on scholarly publishing**

# Recommendations: Open Sharing Report (June 2022)

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Recommendations on open sharing commitments:

Strengthen expectations in relation to the sharing of research data and preprints

Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the level of success of the initiative

Present commitments for signatories in a more granular way, including guidance on their operationalisation

Build knowledge sharing mechanisms to foster learning and collaboration between signatories

Carefully consider the long-term policy impact of specific statement commitments

Assess the impact of statement commitments on low- and middle-income countries



<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6620854>



***Thank you for your attention!***

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