EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION

Reclaiming academic ownership of the scholarly communication system

Challenges and opportunities for universities

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Introduction

Sharing and publishing research results is a fundamental part of research and knowledge production. This process relies on critical examination and discussion of the findings. Historically, the primary goals of scholarly communication were to disseminate, exchange and preserve knowledge through the publication of academic journals and books. Today's scholarly communication system has increasingly diverged from these original purposes and drifted away from the needs of the communities it is meant to serve. It now presents significant flaws and inefficiencies. It ignores bibliodiversity and multilingualism, imposes high costs on researchers and research performing organisations, restricts the rapid and wide dissemination of research results and (through its structure and operation) threatens core academic values such as trust and integrity.

This briefing describes the current status of academic publishing, highlighting the main factors shaping the system and the key challenges faced by the academic community. It also identifies opportunities for universities to play a leading role in shaping the future of scholarly communication. The active engagement of universities and other stakeholders is key to achieving a just scholarly publishing ecosystem that is transparent, diverse, affordable, sustainable, technically interoperable, and steered by the research community, as outlined in the EUA Open Science Agenda 2025.

Please note: terms defined in the glossary at the end of this document are shown in italics throughout this briefing.

Today's scholarly communication system: facts and figures

- Between 2000 and 2023, over 80 million research outputs were published globally. Around 50% are openly accessible in some form.

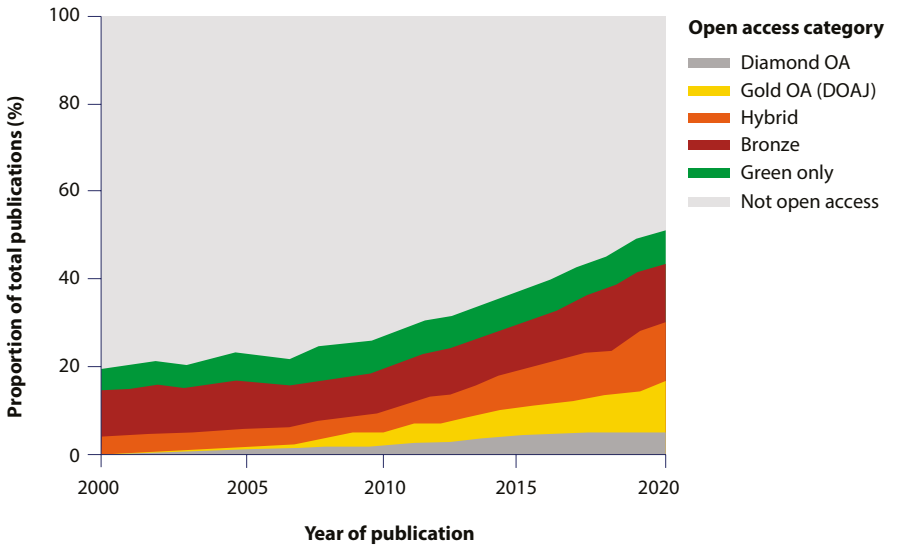

Figure 1. Proportion of scientific publications in each open access type in their year of publication.

Source: Open science outlook 1: status and trends around the world (p.36)
Notes: The definitions of the different types of open access are available in the glossary. For more information on the implications of the different open access types c.f. The new university Open Access checklist.

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Today's scholarly communication system: facts and figures

- The global scholarly market's average annual growth rate is estimated to be 2.3%. The growth in *Open Access (OA)* is now significantly above that of the underlying scholarly journals market.
- The value of the global scholarly publishing market reached $28 billion in 2019. It contracted in 2020 ($26.5 billion) due to COVID-19, but was projected to regain its pre-pandemic value by 2023.
- Spending on *Article Processing Charges (APC)* is increasing above market growth and OA share. A recent study estimates that APC costs almost tripled from $910.3 million in 2019 to $2.538 billion in 2023. It also estimates that the median APC actually paid was $2,450 for *Gold Open Access (Gold OA)* journals and $3,600 for *Hybrid journals*. APC costs are also widely different across journals, with some reaching EUR 9500 per article.
- Globally, from 2015 to 2018, $1.06 billion publication fees were paid to the five major commercial academic publishers: Elsevier, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley. Gold OA revenue amounted to $612.5 million, while publishing OA in hybrid journals generated $448.3 million in fees.
- Accessibility varies between regions and disciplines, with significant disparities in open access practices, but in general, the open access' share of scientific publications has been growing rapidly over the last twenty years. Latin America and the Caribbean champion open access, with over 68% of their research outputs accessible. Europe publishes just over 50% of its research output in this format.
- The Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) lists almost 21,000 open access journals. This is a substantial increase from when it launched with 300 journals in 2003.
- The Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) lists over 88,500 scholarly, peer-reviewed open access books.
- The world is home to more than 5,000 publication repositories, over 2,000 of which are based in Europe. A significant proportion of these are based at universities. The number of preprint repositories has been growing, with close to 100 listed in the Directory of Open Access Preprint Repositories.

2. Factors shaping the system

While the scholarly communication system retains many legacy features from previous centuries and the era of printed outputs, it has undergone significant transformation since the year 2000. This evolution has been driven by several interconnected factors and trends, including:

- **Hyper-competitive academic environment**: The academic landscape has become increasingly competitive, both at institutional and individual levels, as researchers and institutions compete for limited resources, such as funding and career opportunities. The academic reward system is heavily reliant on publication metrics and journal prestige, reinforcing a "publish (in high-impact journals) or perish" culture. Researchers are under pressure to publish, which can lead to compromises on research quality. The prestige of certain journals also means publication venue is often seen as a proxy for quality.

- **Digital transformation and the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI)**: Although still largely rooted in a traditional, paper-based mindset, scholarly communication is becoming increasingly digital. Traditional research papers now coexist alongside other research objects, such as datasets, codes, and methods. Digital platforms such as repositories, preprint servers, social media and other services are reshaping how research is disseminated and how researchers engage with broader audiences. More recently, AI has started to influence scholarly communication, offering the promise of increased efficiency, innovation and new forms of knowledge production. However, AI-mediated tools and practices also introduce challenges and risks, particularly concerning integrity, reproducibility, misinformation and biases.

- **Open Access and Open Science**: The past two decades have seen growing support for Open Access to research outputs and the adoption of Open Science practices, including from research funding and performing organisations. These include research data management and sharing, *citizen science, open source* and *open educational resources*. Despite the growth in Open Access, a significant percentage of publications remain behind paywalls. Furthermore, the "pay to publish" model is becoming increasingly dominant and is often seen as an unintended consequence of Open Access, contributing to the challenges to sustainable and equitable scholarly communication. There are also growing concerns about the limited reusability of Open Access content. Many publishers restrict or complicate text and data mining, which undermines Open Access' full potential, especially as the ability to train AI systems using research outputs becomes increasingly important.

- **Oligopoly of publishing service providers**: The academic publishing industry has undergone significant consolidation in recent decades. The five largest commercial publishers (Elsevier, Sage, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, and Wiley) hold a dominant market position that drives up publishing costs - a phenomenon often known as the "serials crisis". Initial hopes that Open Access would reduce the costs of scholarly publishing and diminish the influence of these large publishing groups have largely been unmet. These major commercial players have actually reinforced their position, acquiring smaller competitors or driving them out of the market. Although designed to enable legacy publishers to switch to Open Access, *transformative agreements* have largely strengthened commercial publishers' power without achieving widespread, cost-effective Open Access journals.

- **Emergence of new for-profit OA gold publishers**: Three "new" commercial OA publishers (Frontiers, Hindawi and MDPI) have gained significant market share in recent years. They frequently rely on special issue articles to attract submissions and boost visibility. While these respond to researchers' needs in the current "publish or perish" culture by offering exceptionally fast peer-review and low rejection rates, concerns about the quality and rigour of their review processes have been raised.

- **Research information at proprietary infrastructures**: Universities are increasingly reliant on the handful of private technology and data analytics companies leading a significant power shift in higher education. These companies, which often control scholarly databases, citation metrics, and research assessment tools, are consolidating their influence over the academic ecosystem. As a result, universities are gradually ceding control over their intellectual assets, research evaluation processes, and even decision-making structures. This shift raises concerns about data ownership, institutional autonomy, and the long-term implications of outsourcing core academic functions to for-profit actors.

3. Current tensions at institutional level

Universities currently face several challenges and tensions in navigating scholarly communication. These relate to core academic values, as well as the economic sustainability of scholarly publishing models. Most also concern research assessment at individual or institutional levels.

3. 1. Challenges to core academic values

- **Trust and integrity under pressure**: a highly competitive research culture coupled with mounting pressure to publish, fosters an environment conducive to questionable research practices. Moreover, the sheer volume of publications makes it difficult to organise and conduct thorough peer review. The subsequent retraction of flawed or fraudulent papers erodes trust in science and leaves researchers unsure of the reliability of published findings. Fraudulent papers, poor research practices and scientific misconduct ultimately damage the credibility of the entire research ecosystem.

- **Equity and accessibility at risk**: The traditional *subscription-based publishing model* is progressively being replaced by an Article Processing Charges (APC) system. While intended to promote Open Access, this model often perpetuates exploitative publishing practices. Institutions and researchers, particularly those from low and middle-income countries, frequently struggle to afford the fees. As a result, the promise of science as a global public asset is undermined by a publishing system that is neither equitable nor financially sustainable. Publishing costs remain excessively high, lack transparency, and disproportionately affect the participation of researchers from low and middle-income countries in the scholarly communication ecosystem.

- **Academic ownership of the scholarly publishing system at stake**: guaranteeing the independence of the scientific process from external factors enables the advance of knowledge, scientific discoveries, technological development and social innovation. However, the growing influence of commercial publishers on both publishing services and research assessment is challenging this independence. Research evaluations still often rely heavily on citation metrics (e.g. *journal impact factor*, h-index), which are controlled by publishers. Commercial publishers have also expanded their influence by developing evaluation tools and research management platforms, which are then sold to universities. This further embeds commercial interests in the core processes of assessing researchers, institutions and university performance. This risks eroding universities' autonomy when it comes to the development of key academic processes.

3.2. Challenges to the economic sustainability of scholarly communication for institutions

- **The rising costs of scholarly communication**: growing costs weigh heavily on university budgets, which are ultimately taxpayer funded. Despite numerous efforts to control these unaffordable expenses, global publishing costs continue to grow. This trend is largely due to the negotiating power imbalance between commercial publishers and academic institutions.

- **Concerns over the Transformative Agreements model**: over the past decade, universities have used transformative agreements with commercial publishers as a means to control costs. However, there are increasing doubts about their effectiveness and ability to achieve real cost neutrality. Indeed, on a global scale, expenses continue to rise.

- **New revenue streams for big publishers**: Various publication models and funding strategies have emerged in response to both the pressures of the "publish or perish" culture and the institutional push towards open access. Yet publishers have successfully identified new revenue streams in nearly every case, complicating efforts to achieve sustainable academic publishing costs.

These challenges and tensions arise out of the fact that institutions and researchers are in many ways dependent on the prestige economy (which is based on high impact factor journals, number of publications, rankings, and other proxies). Current research assessment systems often prioritise publications in high-impact journals and rely heavily on quantitative metrics such as citation counts, journal impact factor, and h-index scores. These systems therefore focus on the "container", i.e. the journal and its prestige, rather than on the "content". Journal-related metrics are often proxies for the quality, performance and impact of research and researchers, reinforcing dominant publishers' oligopoly. The emphasis on journal prestige and publication metrics has deeply influenced institutional strategies and the behaviour of individual researchers and academics, making systemic change particularly challenging. Institutions that aspire to change the system often feel compelled to play by its rules to maintain their competitiveness, attract funding, and retain their academic communities' support. Individually, some researchers benefit from the current system and see little reason to change it, while others, especially early-career researchers, feel trapped by expectations related to national research assessment systems. Ultimately, this creates a first-mover disadvantage. Universities may fear that being the first to change established scholarly communication practices would risk losing prestige, funding, or internal support. This reinforces collective reluctance to act.

4. Reactions from the academic sector

The academic community has introduced various initiatives to address these challenges, focusing on two main areas: publishing and research assessment.

4.1. Publishing

Universities have emphasised the importance of bibliodiversity: meaning the availability of varied formats and means of publications, as well as diverse business models, including not-for-profit, academic and scientific community-driven publishing.

More responsible, innovative and community-oriented publishing models have emerged in recent years. These aim to reduce universities' dependence on large commercial publishers. Two complementary approaches worth highlighting include:

- Diamond Open Access (Diamond OA):

  This model provides free access to both readers and authors. It relies on open infrastructures owned or funded by institutions and/or funders and it is gaining visibility and support. In Europe, most Diamond OA publishing is performed at universities and support from institutional leaders, research funders and national policymakers is deemed necessary to ensure the system is updated and sustainable. Recently, the European Diamond Capacity Hub was established to strengthen the capacity and quality of individual journals and publishers through collaboration and federation, as well as to help flip existing journals to Diamond OA. At the international level, UNESCO announced the creation of the Global Alliance for Diamond Open Access in July 2024, presenting its vision, mission, and objectives, and including stakeholders in the collaborative effort to promote Diamond OA globally.

- Publish-Review-Curate (PRC):

  The Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) model has gained momentum, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. It allows authors to initially share their work as a *preprint* and invite peers to review it openly. Peer endorsement can lead to formal publication in journals, including *overlay journals*. PRC decouples the three traditional scholarly publishing functions: publishing/registration, reviewing/certification and curation/selection. PRC accelerates the publication process by separating these roles, while also enhancing transparency and quality through open peer review and stimulating scientific debate. This system also allows reviewers to gain recognition for their contributions to research assessment.

  Both Diamond OA and PRC have received support from funders including the European Commission and Coalition S. The European Commission launched the Open Research Europe (ORE) platform in 2020, which operates within both models. Recently a group of 10 research funding bodies, research performing organisations and national ministries committed to support and fund Open Research Europe as a collective, non-profit open access publishing platform with open peer-review.

  Universities and other research performing organisations increasingly use repositories to archive and preserve their research outputs, ensuring institutional ownership, preservation and long-term access to their research outputs (this process is known as "*Green OA*"). In order to accomplish this, many universities have adopted ***rights retention strategies*** especially for articles published in non-

OA venues. These ensure that authors retain the rights to their manuscripts, even after journal submission.

Advocacy for *secondary publishing rights* is also gaining ground in Europe, including in the university sector. Legislation in seven countries now allows publicly funded research to be re-published in open access repositories.

While these initiatives reflect progress, the academic sector still faces a significant challenge: fragmentation. A lack of coordinated action prevents universities from fully reclaiming control of the scholarly communication ecosystem.

4.2. Research assessment

Current assessment practices, particularly the way in which quality is evaluated, must change to allow alternative publishing models to achieve traction. This is the objective of several global initiatives, such as the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and, more recently, the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA). CoARA aims to reform research evaluation by recognising diverse research outputs, practices, and activities that maximise the quality and impact of research. The coalition advocates for assessment methods that prioritise qualitative evaluations, with peer review playing a central role, supported by the responsible use of quantitative indicators. By promoting these changes, CoARA seeks to reduce the overemphasis on traditional publication metrics and foster a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to research assessment. As of March 2025, CoARA includes over 700 member organisations, including universities, research organisations, funders, assessment authorities, professional societies and their associations.

Efforts to promote non-profit open information systems associated with research monitoring and evaluation have also gained traction in Europe. A notable example is the 2024 publication of the Barcelona Declaration on Open Research Information, which aims to ensure research information remains open, transparent, and governed by the community rather than controlled by commercial entities. It calls on universities, funders, and policymakers to support non-profit infrastructure, adopt open metadata standards and resist the privatisation of scholarly metrics and research evaluation systems.

5. Opportunities for universities to move forward

In its EUA Open Science Agenda 2025, the Association defined as a key priority area Open Access to scholarly outputs in a just scholarly publishing ecosystem, one "that is transparent, diverse, economically affordable and sustainable, technically interoperable, and steered by the research community and its institutions through coordinated policies".

Despite the deeply entrenched nature of the current publishing system and the significant challenges of transforming it, universities have a unique opportunity to shape the future of scholarly communication. Awareness of the system's flaws and negative impact is increasing, along with growing political support and momentum for change. The European Commission, the Council of the European Union, several Member State governments and funding agencies have been calling for, promoting and supporting innovative, not-for-profit publishing models and venues that do not rely on APCs or other publishing charges, such as Diamond OA publishing.

To capitalise on this favourable political climate and shape a scholarly communication system that reflects academic values (including integrity, trust, freedom, equity, quality and diversity,) and the broader interests of society, universities are encouraged to reflect on the following key considerations:

1. **Accelerate the reform of research assessment**. Most of the issues in the current publishing system are rooted in how academic staff are evaluated. Research assessment reform is essential to break the cycle of dependence on high-impact commercial journals and related metrics. Universities should consider broadening the criteria used in academic evaluation, to ensure that recognition goes beyond research to include teaching, innovation, leadership, open science practices, and societal outreach. While institutional, regulatory, and cultural factors can either facilitate or hinder reforms, many universities are already taking the initiative and implementing changes (even in countries with centrally regulated academic career assessment processes).

2. **Strengthen institutional publishing services and infrastructures**. A robust, sustainable and interoperable scholarly publishing ecosystem requires each university to properly curate their research contributions and outputs, through institutional or shared infrastructure and services (e.g. repositories, publishing platforms, and CRIS systems). Strengthening these institutional capacities may require reallocating resources and cooperation (see points 3 and 4). This should also apply to the various institutional departments (libraries, research management, etc.) and staff needed to support academics and researchers.

3. **Cooperate and coordinate with other universities, research performing and funding organisations, as well as researchers' associations and learned societies**. The challenges of scholarly publishing are systemic, and no single institution can tackle them alone. Universities should align their efforts with other academic organisations, funders and research institutions. Cooperation and coordination can be valuable for advocacy, policy development and implementation, as well as for shared or "horizontal" services and infrastructures. Cooperation can also take place within regional, national, European and global frameworks.

4. **Critically evaluate expenditure on commercial research publishing and information products and services**. As new not-for-profit publishing alternatives emerge and consolidate, universities should regularly evaluate their expenditure on commercial products and services, including journal publication costs and research databases. By promoting cost transparency and cost efficiency, institutions can make informed decisions that support innovation and reinvest funds into institutional publishing services and infrastructure (see point 2). Where feasible, preference should be given to not-for-profit solutions, ultimately reducing costs and ensuring sustainability.

5. **Support and promote the use of rights retention by the university community**. Rights retention should be used to regain academic ownership of scholarly communication. Universities should actively advocate for legislative reforms that allow researchers to retain their rights and freely share their research. They should also educate and inform their faculty and researchers of the importance of rights retention and provide legal support. Where legally feasible, institutions should implement and enforce rights retention policies to ensure that publicly funded research remains publicly accessible.

6. **Ensure researcher engagement**. Any transition toward a more equitable and sustainable scholarly communication system must involve the academic community. Universities should raise awareness of the systemic issues in scholarly publishing and create spaces for dialogue, reflection, and co-design to discuss how to address them at institutional level. Engaging researchers early and consistently can help shift perceptions, foster a sense of shared responsibility and build support for long-term cultural change.

Glossary

Article Processing Charges (APCs)

Article processing charges (APCs) are fees paid by the author to publish their research article in immediate Open Access. The cost of an APC varies greatly depending on the publisher: it may be set cost-effectively (non-profit OA), or it can include a profit margin (for-profit OA). There are also OA journals that do not charge APCs, allowing authors to make their articles available in OA without having to pay for them (Diamond OA).

Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.

Bibliodiversity

Bibliodiversity is cultural diversity applied to the world of books [and publishing]. Echoing biodiversity, it refers to the critical diversity of products (books, scripts, eBooks, apps, and oral literature) made available to readers.

Source: Alliance Internationale des Éditeurs Indépendants, available here.

Bronze OA

Bronze Open Access refers to a model where a subscription-based journal makes certain articles freely available without charging author fees. However, these articles lack an open license (e.g. a Creative Commons license), meaning the publisher can revoke free access at any time. Occasionally, books are made freely available in the same manner, typically for a limited period of time. This temporary availability is often for marketing purposes or in response to events like the COVID-19 pandemic. Since reuse and sharing are restricted, Bronze OA is not considered true Open Access. Publications in this model are typically labelled as 'Free Access' or 'Free Article/Book' rather than 'Open Access'. Similarly, older articles or books may be made temporarily available under terms like 'Free Archive' or 'Open Archive', again without an open license.

Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.

Citizen Science	Citizen science and citizens' participation have developed as models of scientific research conducted by non-professional scientists, following scientifically valid methodologies and frequently carried out in association with formal, scientific programmes or with professional scientists with web-based platforms and social media, as well as open source hardware and software (especially low-cost sensors and mobile apps) as important agents of interaction. For the effective reuse of the outputs of citizen and participatory science by other actors, including scientists, these products should be subject to the curation, standardization and preservation methods necessary to ensure the maximum benefit to all. *Source: UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, available here.*
CRIS system	A Current Research Information System (CRIS) records, processes, and presents - in the form of open data – metrics and figures related to research activity throughout its life cycle. These systems are designed to store, manage, and exchange contextual metadata for research activities funded by research funders or conducted at research-performing organisations. CRIS platforms typically include information about: researchers and their affiliations; research projects and funding sources; publications, datasets, and other research outputs; collaborations and partnerships; and facilities and equipment. These systems support various functions such as research assessment, administration, reporting, and strategic planning. They also facilitate interoperability with other systems like institutional repositories and national research databases. *Source: definition adapted from The International Organisation for Research Information (euroCRIS), available here.*
Diamond OA	Diamond OA is a scholarly communication model in which research outputs are openly available, without charging fees to either authors or readers. In this model, all content-related elements are led and owned by scholarly communities. *Source: Conclusions and way forward of the 1st Global Summit on Diamond Open Access, available here.*
Gold OA	Gold OA is a form of open publishing where the publisher makes the published version of the research work immediately and freely available to the public. The cost of publishing is either carried by the author (who pays an author fee) or by a third party (as in Diamond OA), but never by the reader. The fee can be cost-effective (non-profit Gold OA) or profitable (for-profit Gold OA). There are different types of Gold OA, such as Full OA and Hybrid OA *Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.*

Green OA	Green OA, also known as self-archiving or open archiving, means that a digital copy (usually the accepted version) of the publication is archived in an online repository. This archival copy is made available to the public, often after an embargo period. *Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.*
Hybrid journals	A Hybrid OA journal, in contrast to a Full OA journal, is a subscription-based journal that offers authors the option to publish their individual articles in OA by payment of an author fee (Article Processing Charges, APCs). The articles that are published in OA are freely available to the readers, but the journal as such is still published behind a paywall. *Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.*
Journal Impact Factor (JIF)	The Journal Impact Factor (JIF) is the average number of citations of articles published in that journal in previous years. The higher the value, the more prestige a journal has. This number gains content when compared to the impact factors of other journals in the same field. *Source: University of Amsterdam, here.*
Open Access (OA)	Open Access is a set of principles and a range of practices through which research outputs are distributed online, free of access charges or other barriers and free to (re)use. *Source: DIAMAS project glossary of terms, available here.*
Open Educational Resources (OER)	Open Educational Resources (OER) are learning, teaching and research materials in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution by others. *Source: UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resources (OER), available here.*
Open source software	Open source software refers to programs whose source code is made publicly available, in a timely and user-friendly manner, in human- and machine-readable and modifiable format, under an open license that grants others the right to use, access, modify, expand, study, create derivative works and share the software and its source code, design or blueprint. *Source: UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science, available here.*

Overlay journals	An overlay journal is a scientific journal whose articles are held in one or more repositories. Published documents are not hosted on the journal's website but on an open repository or preprint server such as arXiv, HAL, Zenodo, bioRxiv, medRxiv, etc *Source: Episciences, available here.*
Preprints	The term preprint is used to refer to both: 1) The author's original, unreviewed manuscript that is submitted for publication to a journal (submitted version); 2) The author's original, unreviewed manuscript that is published on a preprint server (such as arXiv, bioRxiv, etc.). Publishing a preprint makes research publicly accessible much faster, which accelerates scientific progress and promotes Open Science by allowing immediate access to the research work. *Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.*
Publish-Review-Curate (PRC)	Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) is a model of scientific communication that breaks the process of publishing down into distinct parts. In the publish stage, search artefacts (e.g., article, dataset, study registration) are made public by a researcher. In the review stage, reviewers transparently evaluate the research artefact and provide feedback. In the curate stage, research artefacts are compiled into collections, and they may have summary judgements or evaluations applied to them. The PRC model supports decentralisation by design, with different services executing different parts of the scholarly communication process. *Source: Understanding the Publish-Review-Curate (PRC) Model of Scholarly Communication, available here.*
Rights Retention Strategy (RRS)	The Rights Retention Strategy (RRS) enables authors to exercise the rights they have on their manuscripts to deposit a copy of the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in a repository on publication and provide open access to it. *Source: Plan S Rights Retention Strategy, available here.*
Research data management	Research data management (RDM) refers to those practices aimed at organising, storing, documenting and preserving data that is generated and collected during the research data lifecycle. The research data life cycle identifies several stages which research data go through before, during and after a research project. While the specific stages may vary, they generally include data collection, data analysis and interpretation, publication and sharing, and preservation and archiving. Proper research data management is crucial in all the different stages as it helps ensure that data is efficiently and responsibly handled throughout a research project. *Source: EUA Digital Transformation Map, available here.*

Secondary Publishing Right	The Secondary Publishing Right refers to the right to republish publicly funded research in an internet searchable open access repository or elsewhere alongside its publication in academic journals. Certain rights may also be provided by licensing them for onward use by third parties. Currently, the following seven European countries have enacted legislation granting secondary publishing rights: Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and The Netherlands. *Source: Knowledge Rights 21 Position Statement on Secondary Publishing Rights, available here.*
Subscription-based publishing model	Traditional subscription-based publishing is a model in which readers or institutions pay a subscription fee to access the content published in a journal. Within this model, articles are available only to users who have subscribed to the journal or the publication platform. These users can access the content for personal or academic purposes. Subscribers can download and use articles for their research, academic study, and reference. However, for commercial use or redistribution (such as publishing the article in a book or on another platform), explicit permission must be obtained from the publisher. *Source: STM Journals, available here.*
Transformative Agreements (TAs)	Transformative agreements (TAs) are contracts with publishers that shift the business model of scholarly journal publishing from subscription-based access towards Open Access publishing. These agreements typically fall into two categories: Read-and-Publish or Publish-and-Read. On the one hand, Read-and-Publish agreements bundle payment for reading and publishing into a single contract. On the other hand, in the Publish-and-Read agreement model, the publisher receives payment solely for publishing, while reading access is included at no additional cost. *Source: KU Leuven Scholarly Publishing and Open Access Glossary, available here.*

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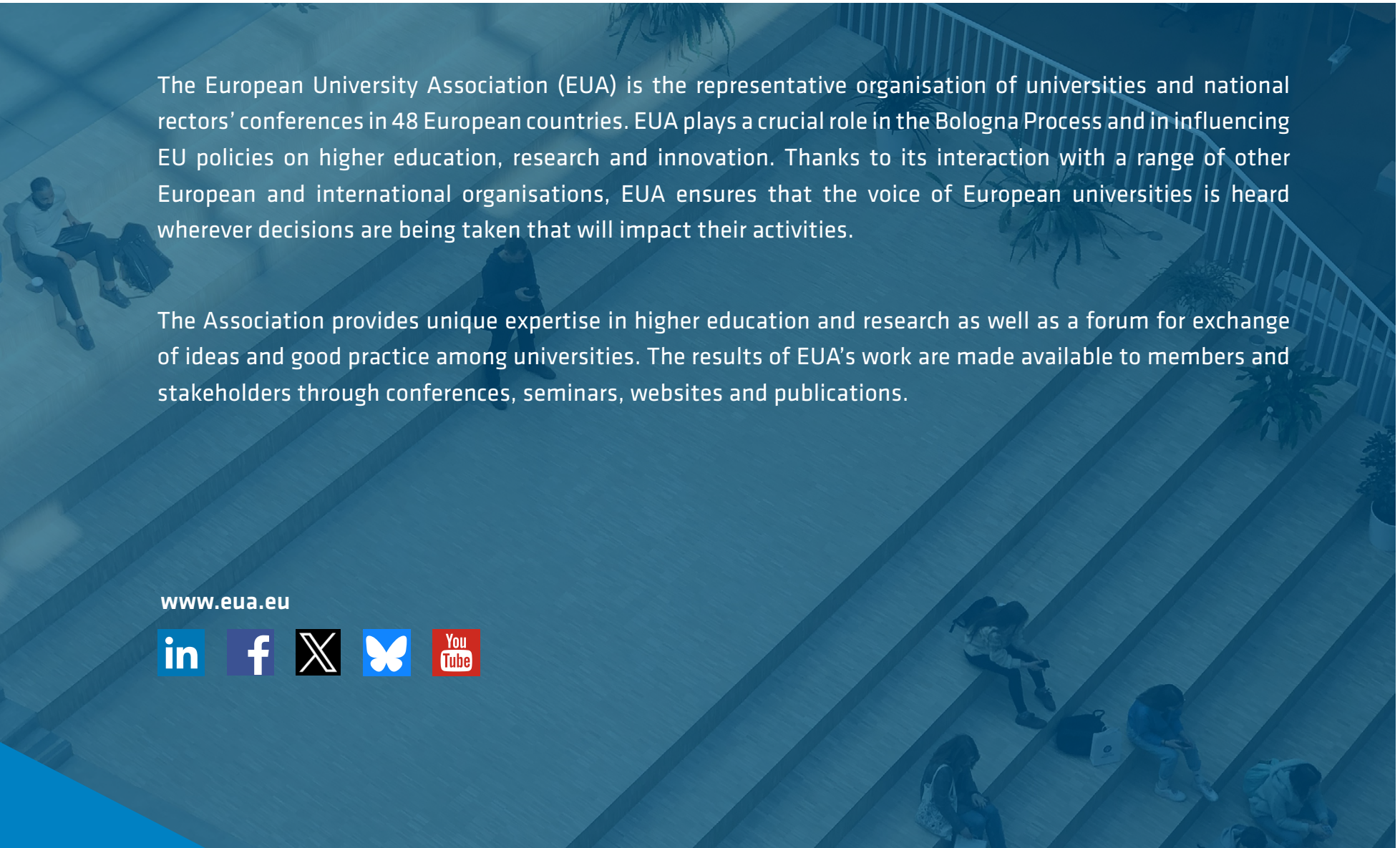

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