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# The Diamond Open Access model for scientific publication

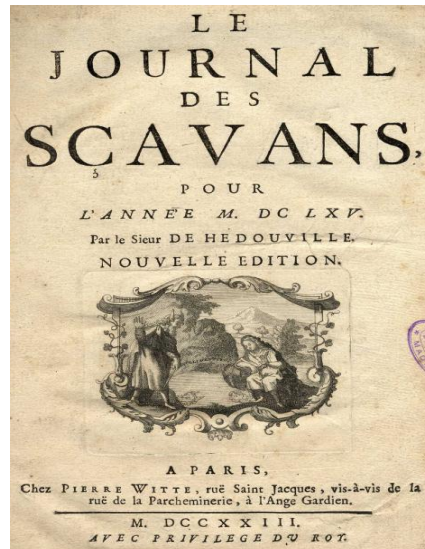
**Marie Farge**

CNRS (Centre National   la Recherche Scientifique)  
and ENS (Ecole Normale Sup rieure) Paris

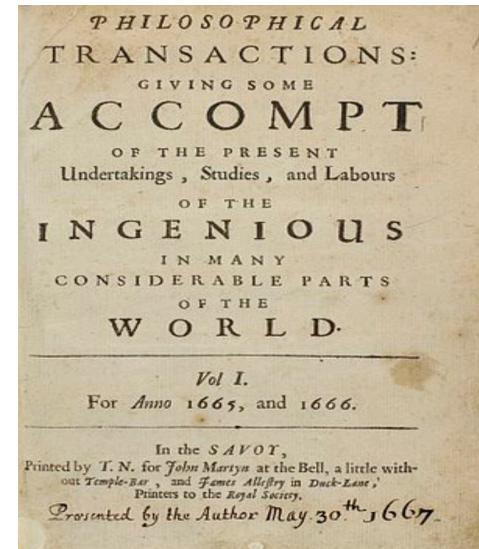
*March 10<sup>th</sup> 2020*  
*BARCAMP, Wikimedia, Berlin*



# 1665, the oldest scientific journals



Paris, *January 5th 1665*



Londres, *March 6th 1665*

In 1835 the *Journal des Scavans* became the *Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris (CRAS)*.

*CRAS were later published by Gauthier-Villars, which was then bought by Elsevier in 2000.*

# Researchers want to recover their tools

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In **2012** *Sir Tim Gowers* and 33 mathematicians founded the *Cost of Knowledge*, who called to boycott *Elsevier* and stop the *Research Works Act*, a bill to the US Congress due to *Elsevier's* lobbying. They then **proposed** a new model for publishing that they called '**Diamond Open Access**', based on :

- Neither author nor reader should have to pay to publish online,
- Research journals should belong to their editorial boards, which are in charge of peer-reviewing, but **no longer to publishers**,
- Online peer-reviewing and publishing of research journals should be done using public infrastructures developed in open source.'

*[http://openscience.ens.fr/OPEN\\_ACCESS\\_MODELS/  
DIAMOND\\_OPEN\\_ACCESS/](http://openscience.ens.fr/OPEN_ACCESS_MODELS/DIAMOND_OPEN_ACCESS/)*

# 2018, creation of the platform *Mersenne*

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Plateforme de publication en accès libre Diamant et d'évaluation par les pairs de revues académiques, créée en 2018 à Grenoble dans le cadre de la cellule *Mathdoc* (unité de service CNRS-INSMI et Université de Grenoble).

Principes directeurs:

- Qualité de l'évaluation par les pairs,
  - Service public non lucratif,
  - Archivage pérenne,
- Transparence sur les coûts et la sélection des revues.

La mise en page des articles est faite avec le logiciel libre *LaTeX*, tandis-que le processus éditorial et la publication sont faits avec le logiciel libre *OJS (Open Journal System)*.

<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



# 2018, creation of the platform *Mersenne*

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Platform for publishing and peer-reviewing  
research articles in scientific journals,

Created in 2018 in Grenoble as part of *Mathdoc*

(service unit of CNRS-INSMI and Université de Grenoble).

Guiding principles:

- Quality of peer-review,
- Non-for-profit public service,
  - Permanent archiving,
- Transparency on costs and journal selection.

The layout of the articles is done with the free software *LaTeX*,  
while the editorial process and publication are carried out  
with the Free software *OJS (Open Journal System)*.

<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



# 2018, creation of the platform *Mersenne*

## ► Mission

The Mersenne project has been initiated to address a growing demand within the scientific community for scientific publication alternatives.

The Centre Mersenne is created as an alternative publishing venue:

- public and not-for-profit (no privatisation of the research outputs),
- open access (to foster the dissemination of research results),
- diamond open access (no fee for the reader to read and the author to publish),
- sustainable and affordable,
- created by researchers for researchers.

The Centre Mersenne has a dual purpose:

- to promote scientific publishing and foster dissemination of open access publications: existing journals as well as newly-created journals,
- to offer, at affordable price, all the necessary tools and professional services to editorial teams to help them manage their journal.

### Who the Centre Mersenne is aimed at?

- Researchers wishing to read and upload articles of those open access publications that are members of the Centre Mersenne,
- Editorial teams of scientific publications looking for a technical, editorial and organisational support.



<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



## ► Editorial policy

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### Open Access / Diamond Open Access

- The Centre Mersenne promotes the view that open access should be the normal way of disseminating research without any financial, legal or technical barrier. Research outputs should be freely, openly available to everyone over the long term.
- This involves the use of free licenses, such as [Creative Commons CC-0, CC-BY, CC-BY-ND](#).
- The Centre Mersenne's agenda is to support Diamond Open Access or Gold OA without APC (no fees required to read nor to publish).
- This is why Open Access is one of the Centre Mersenne's main selection criteria for publications willing to join.
- The Centre Mersenne adheres to the [principles stated by the International Council for Science](#).

### Peer Reviewing

- Peer-review process is one of the Centre Mersenne's selection criteria. This ensures a state-of-the-art quality-control over the published papers.
- All the articles of the publications published by the Centre Mersenne are reviewed by peers.
- The Centre Mersenne supports the Peer Review process through its service 'Support to editorial process' with the OJS software.

### Not-for-Profit

The Centre Mersenne is run by a public organization and its operation is not-for-profit, created by researchers, for researchers. It endeavours to fight research output's privatisation and outrageous profit-making out of the scientific commons.

### Long-term Preservation



The Centre Mersenne takes care of long-term preservation of every document published through the archiving solution [CLOCKSS](#).

All documents and data hosted at Centre Mersenne are archived and can be made available for free, in case the Centre Mersenne were to cease activities.

### Transparency

The Centre Mersenne is committed to be transparent on its business model, pricing structure, and selection procedure.

<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



## ► Governance

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The Centre Mersenne's decision process is lead by two governing bodies.

- **Steering committee**

It monitors the center's activity, sets its agenda, decides on priorities. It is composed of:

- INSMI's Director (National Institute for Mathematical Sciences and their Interactions, a component of CNRS);
- UGA's Research Vice-President;
- UGA's IDEX Research and Valorization Executive Director;
- Mathdoc Director;
- Mathdoc Deputy Director;
- Centre Mersenne's Operational Officer.

### Scientific council

It provides advice to the steering committee on journal acceptance, orientations and priorities. It is composed of:

- **Claude Sabbah** (président) - Research Supervisor at **CNRS - Centre de Mathématiques Laurent Schwartz (CMLS)**, École polytechnique
- **Sylvie Benzoni** - **Camille Jordan Institute (ICJ)**, Lyon - **Institut Henri Poincaré (IHP)**
- **Djalil Chafaï** - **Ceremade**, Paris Dauphine University
- **Jean-Pierre Demailly** - **Institut Fourier**, Grenoble Alpes University
- **Marie Farge** - Research Supervisor Emeritus at **CNRS - Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique (LMD)** - **Institut Pierre Simon Laplace (IPSL)** - **École nationale Supérieure Paris (ENS Paris)**
- **Frédéric Hélein** - **Institut de Mathématiques de Jussieu (IMJ)**, Paris Diderot University
- **Norbert Schappacher** - **Institut de Recherche de Mathématiques Avancées (IRMA)**, Strasbourg University
- **Christoph Sorger** - **Laboratoire de Mathématiques Jean Leray (LMJL)**, Nantes

<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>





## ► Business model

- The Centre Mersenne aims at providing a quality and long-term support to scientific publications, while keeping costs low.
- Publishing a journal implies recurring costs, and the business model chosen by the Centre Mersenne involves the following: most of the costs are covered by institutions supporting Mathdoc. In parallel, a financial contribution may be required in order to cover running costs (such as article preparation and typesetting, editorial management).
- The Centre Mersenne cost structure and corresponding funding sources are as follows:

Cost structure	Funding Sources
<b>Infrastructure, maintenance and coordination</b>	<i>Funding by founding organisations</i> Institutions supporting Mathdoc (CNRS, UGA) provide the Centre Mersenne with the necessary resources for the smooth development and running of the infrastructure.
<b>Implementation costs for a publication</b>	Costs associated with the implementation of each journal and with initial support to editorial teams can also be covered by existing funds, up to a limit of 4 new journals/year.
<b>Initial support to the editorial team</b>	
<b>Recurring costs induced by the editorial flow of each journal</b>	<i>Funding by journals</i> Recurring costs induced by each publication shall be borne by the journal itself. The following services: typesetting, plagiarism detection, managing editor, editing and printing, will be billed to the journal publisher or to the institutions supporting the journal.  Fees might be adjusted if Centre Mersenne receives support by third parties (libraries, consortia, foundations, etc.), either for its whole operation, or specifically for a given publication.

<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



## ► Institutional supports and partners

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The Centre Mersenne is:

- In partnership with **UGA Éditions**, the new publishing house of the Université Grenoble Alpes.
- Supported by **CNRS**, the National Center for Scientific Research, a public research organization under the responsibility of the French Ministry of Education and Research.
- and **Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA)**,
- with financial support from **IDEX de Grenoble** (French excellence initiatives) ANR-15-IDEX-02.



<https://www.centre-mersenne.org/>



## ► Journals



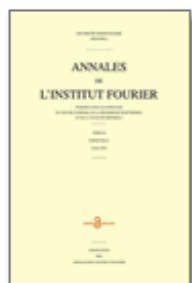
Algebraic Combinatorics  
Mathematics



Annales Henri Lebesgue  
Mathematics



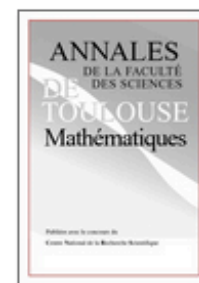
Journal de l'École  
polytechnique  
Mathematics



Annales de l'institut  
Fourier  
Mathematics



Open Geomechanics  
Geomechanics



Annales de la faculté des  
sciences de Toulouse  
Mathematics



Annales mathématiques  
Blaise Pascal  
Mathematics



Confluentes Mathematici  
Mathematics



Journal de théorie des  
nombres de Bordeaux  
Mathematics



MathS In Action  
Applied mathematics



Publications  
Mathématiques de  
Besançon  
Mathematics



SMAI Journal of  
Computational  
Mathematics  
Applied mathematics



# 2012, Recommendation about CRAS

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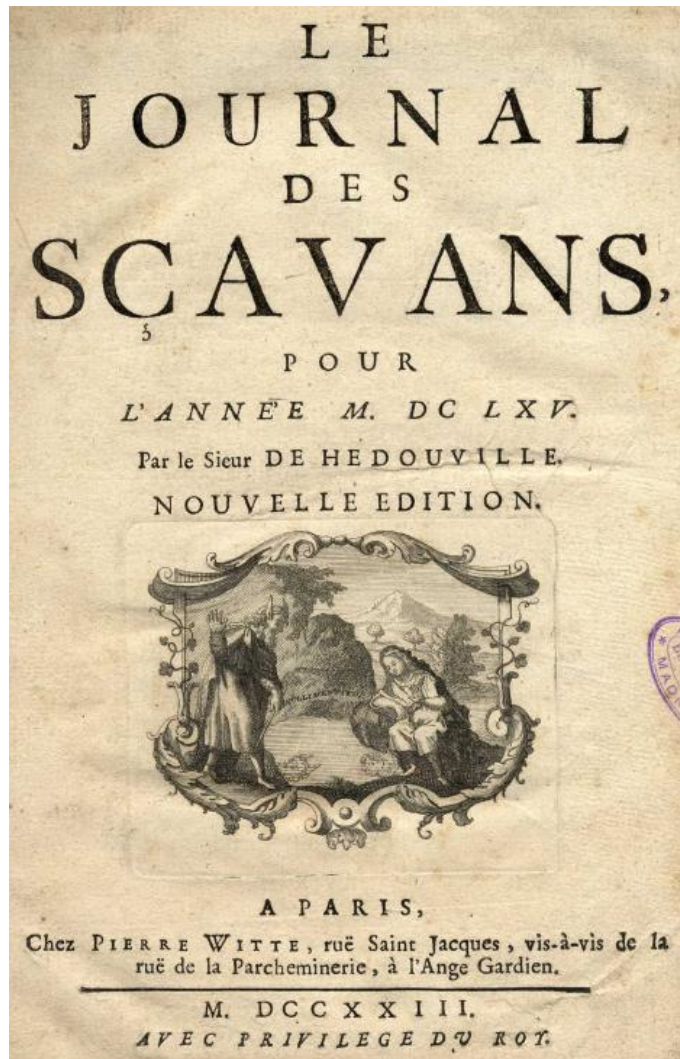
The *comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris (CRAS)* should be published in 'Diamond Open Access'

Ce serait une excellente publicité pour l'Académie des Sciences de Paris que ses Comptes-Rendus (CRAS) soient publiés en 'Diamond OA'. En effet, ce serait la première académie à le faire, et cela donnerait aux CRAS une nouvelle envergure. En effet, s'il n'y a pas de frais de publication à payer et si les articles sont mis en accès libre dès qu'ils ont été acceptés par le comité de lecture, nombre de chercheurs ayant perdu l'habitude de publier dans cette revue le feraient à nouveau. Les CRAS sont actuellement publiés par Elsevier mais nombre d'académiciens ne sont pas satisfaits de cette situation. Toutefois, comme l'Académie possède le titre de la revue, il devrait être assez facile de mettre fin à son contrat avec Elsevier et poursuivre la publication des CRAS selon un modèle 'Diamond OA' de publication en accès libre.

*Marie Farge, Note pour la ministre de la recherche, Juin 29<sup>th</sup> 2012*  
[http://openscience.ens.fr/MARIE\\_FARGE/](http://openscience.ens.fr/MARIE_FARGE/)



# 2020, CRAS are in Diamond Open Access



Paris, 5 Janvier 1665

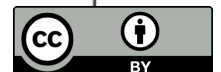
In 1835 the *Journal des Sçavans* became the *Comptes-Rendus de l'Académie des Sciences de Paris (CRAS)* and were published by Gauthier-Villars, bought by Elsevier in 2000.

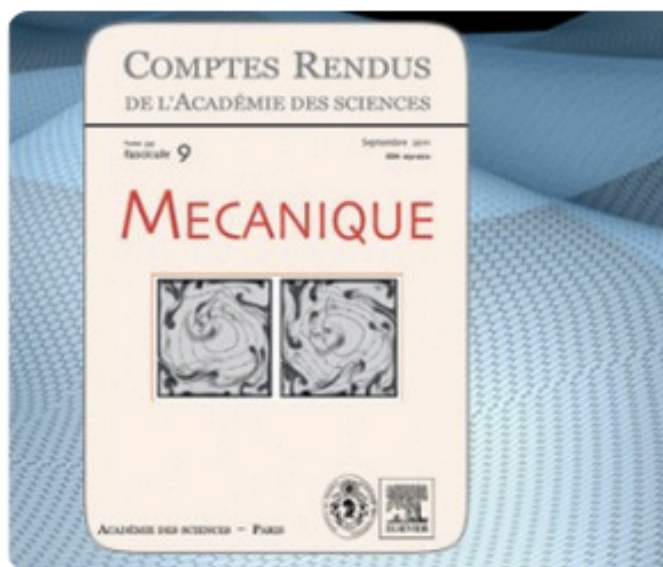
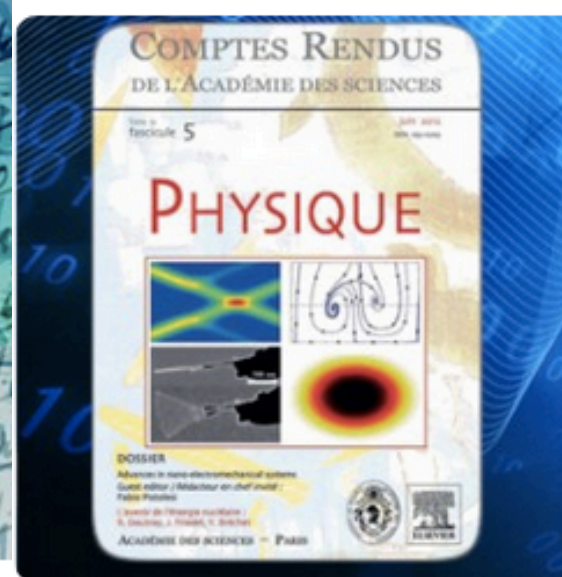
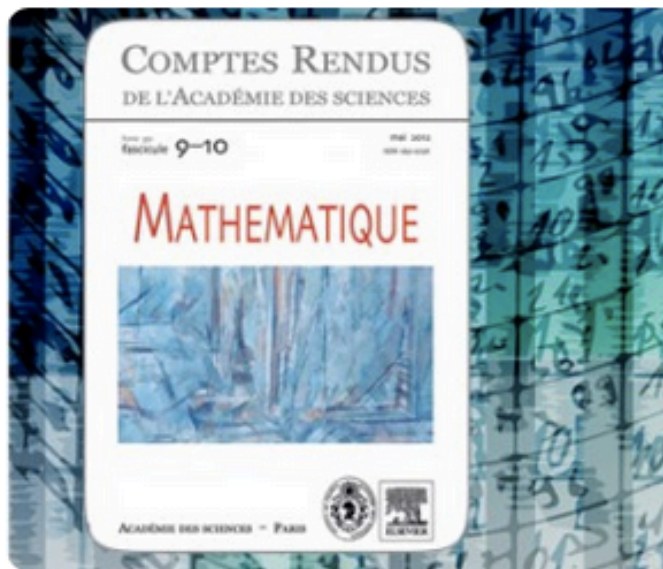
Since January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 CRAS are published in Diamond Open Access by *Centre Mersenne*.

## Évolution des modalités de consultation des Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des sciences

À dater du 1er janvier 2020, les Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des sciences seront publiés par le centre Mersenne pour l'édition scientifique ouverte (<https://www.centre-mersenne.org>), pour les séries Mathématique, Physique, Mécanique, Chimie, Géoscience et Biologies, et par le Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (<https://www.mnhn.fr>) pour la série Palevol.

Les sept revues seront accessibles en libre accès diamant (accès libre et gratuit pour tous aux articles) sur le site : <http://comptes-rendus.academie-sciences.fr> (<http://comptes-rendus.academie-sciences.fr>)





<https://www.academie-sciences.fr/fr/les-comptes-rendus.html>



*'Scholarly publishing and peer-reviewing in open access' by Marie Farge,  
in 'Europe's Future: Open Science, Open Innovation, and Open to the World',  
European Commission, DG Research, Science and Innovation, April 2017*

*[http://openscience.ens.fr/MARIE\\_FARGE](http://openscience.ens.fr/MARIE_FARGE)  
<marie.farge@ens.fr>*

