

# How can researchers regain control of publication?

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Electronic publishing is a technological revolution that makes it possible to publish articles at virtually zero marginal cost. A few commercial publishers have anticipated this evolution and bought the main journals that researchers need to share their results, and whose articles they peer review.

In the past, researchers sent their manuscripts to publishers to be formatted, printed and distributed by post. Today, publishers require researchers to submit their articles camera-ready and give their copyright to them free of charge. Publishers thus acquire exclusive ownership of research articles, from the date of publication until 70 years after the death of the last surviving co-author, enabling them to sell articles at any price they wish. Since publishers own most of research journals they control the entire process, from electronic submission and peer review to article processing charges, subscription prices, journal impact factors, and much more...

I will present a model that we have proposed in 2012 to regain control of the peer review and publication of our articles, based on the following principles:

- editorial board members collectively own the journal because they are responsible for peer review,
- authors retain their copyrights and allow free access to their articles under a CC-BY licence (<https://creativecommons.org>),
- readers and authors pay nothing as articles are processed by an electronic publishing platform, which is an infrastructure to which research journals can apply on a competitive basis to obtain the service free of charge (e.g., <https://www.centre-mersenne.org>).

These publishing platforms are designed to meet the needs of researchers and are developed in open-source software, so that algorithms and data processing can be verified and shared. Our aim is that commercial publishers become service providers rather than content owners, a model that dates back to the days of the printing press which they are determined to retain.

**Keywords:** Publication, peer-review, open access

## References

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