Building “sustainable” infrastructure in a highly distributed environment

Members

A global repository network

COAR is an international association with 162 members and partners from 50 countries, representing libraries, universities, research institutions, government funders and others.

COAR
Confederation of Open Access Repositories

MEET OUR MEMBERS


#OAweek
Knowledge is a public good.
Let's treat it like one.
COAR
COAR and its members are paving the way for a strong and resilient global repository network, for the benefit of all.

Diamond Journals

According to the Open Access Diamond Journals Study, there are an estimated (2021) **17,000 to 29,000** Diamond Open Access journals worldwide are an essential component of scholarly communication, publishing 8 to 9% of the total article publication volume.

These journals are extremely important for the ecosystem.

They are not driven by profit or impact factor, but to publish about topics relevant to their local contexts and often in local languages. They are the holders of critical local knowledge.

Collectively, we want to do two things:

(1) Strengthen the existing diamond ecosystem (it now only represents about 10% of published articles)
(2) Increase the proportion of Diamond OA journals in the ecosystem

But,

Diamond journals are very vulnerable, and are “held back by challenges related to the technical capacity, management, visibility, and sustainability of journals and platforms”.

Not only does this make them **ripe for the picking** by commercial publishers, but also just eventually disappearing.

One obvious path forward is shared infrastructure for diamond OA

- Bring about economies of scale (lowers production costs)
- Increases the visibility of individual journals
- Acts as a nexus for expertise
- Support the adoption of good practices
- Journal quality assurance

Local journals should be considered digital research infrastructure

The Canadian Example- there are approximately 800 local journals in Canada

→We are developing a **non-commercial, open source national infrastructure** for digital scholarly publishing, dissemination, and research—combining Open Journal Systems and the erudit.org platform—as well as research investigating the Canadian scholarly publishing ecosystem.

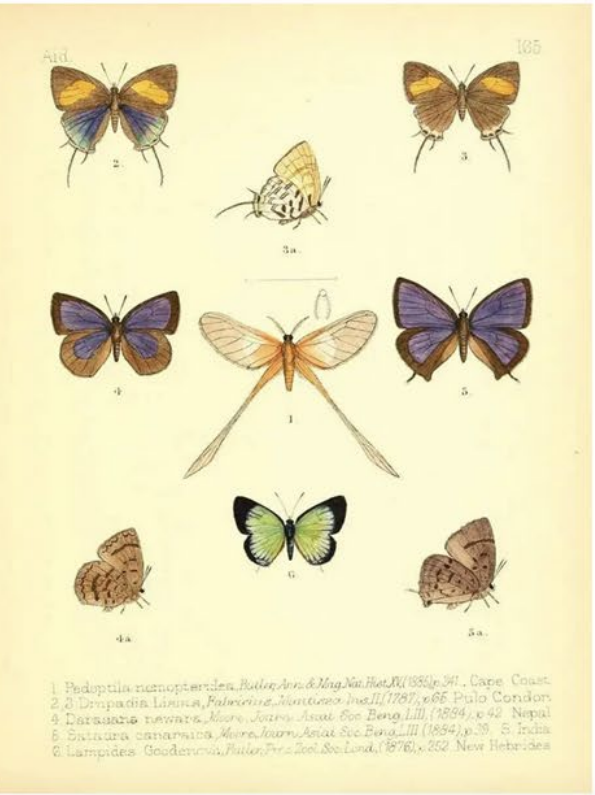
erudit.org

COALITION PUBLICA

This is a coordinated effort that is funded by **three different government agencies**, the **Canadian journal licensing consortium** and with significant **in-kind support from the academic libraries.**

Our Vision

A globally distributed ecosystem of sustainable diamond open access publishing infrastructures (and OA repositories) that can “act together” to make positive changes to the scholarly publishing ecosystem.



COAR launches task force on sustainable and interoperable PIDs models

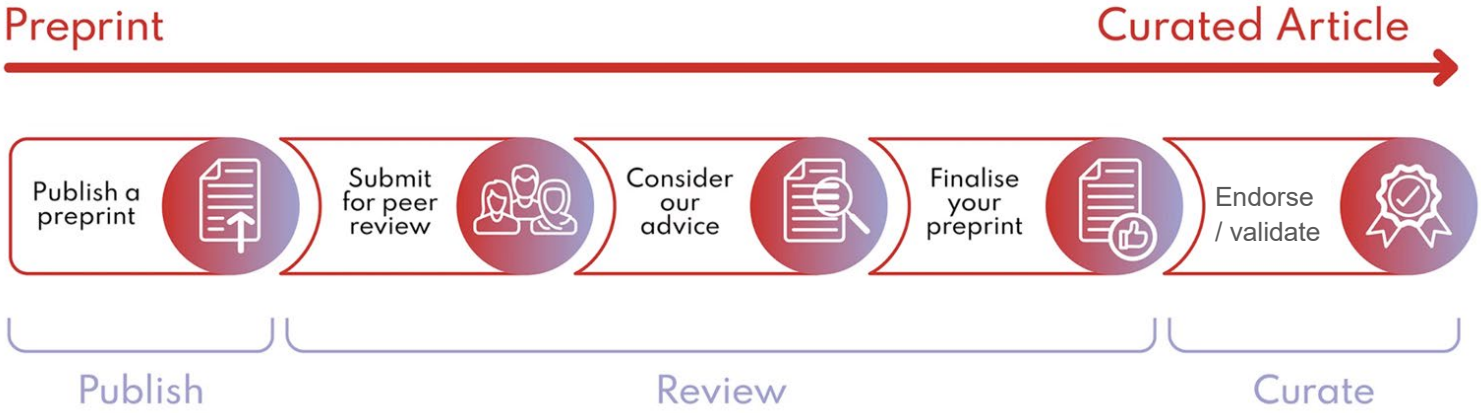
Persistent Identifiers (PIDs) are an important part of the scholarly ecosystem. However the current global approach to PIDs excludes many developing regions and contributes to creating significant inequalities in the scholarly ecosystem. The costs of minting DOIs, for example, makes them unaffordable in most parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America, where there are often... Read more

Acting together means thinking about the **impact of certain infrastructure** decisions

Pay to play services don't work in developing countries. They need to build and manage their own infrastructure

Introducing innovation into Diamond OA

COAR believes the **Publish, Review, Curate** model could play an important role in the diamond OA ecosystem in the future and addressing the sustainability challenge



PRC can give us a **competitive advantage** over the traditional commercial publishers!

Image adapted from: https://www.sciencecolab.org/biophysics-colab

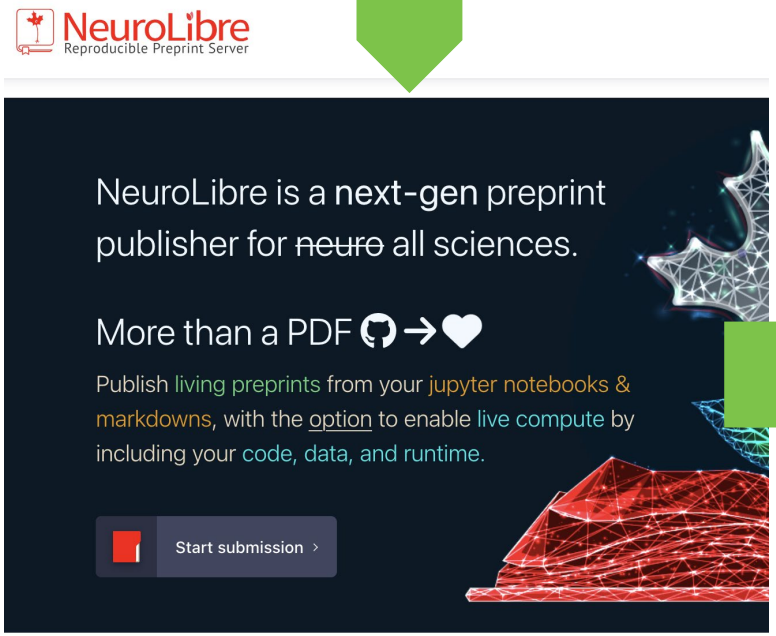
Benefits of PRC

COAR organized PRC workshop - Oct 2024

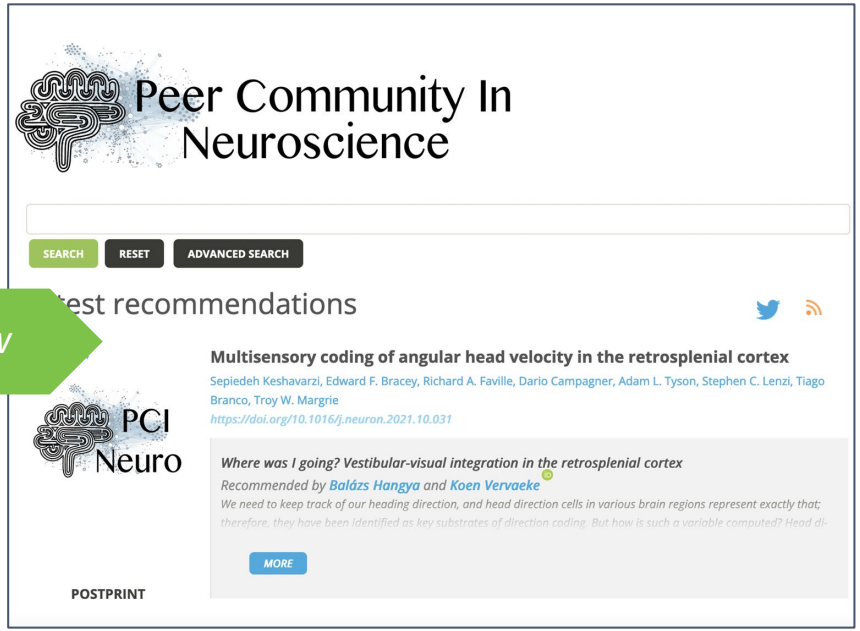
1. Rapid dissemination of research results
2. Creates transparency across the publishing process
3. Is horizontally scalable and highly flexible. Works across disciplines, research outputs, and supports multiple workflows
4. **Is a lower cost alternative that can work in many jurisdictions**
5. Is based mostly on community-owned infrastructure and is in the hands of the research community.
6. Creates resilience because of the distributed nature of the infrastructures

“Publish, Review, Curate” can be extremely powerful

Submit



Request Review



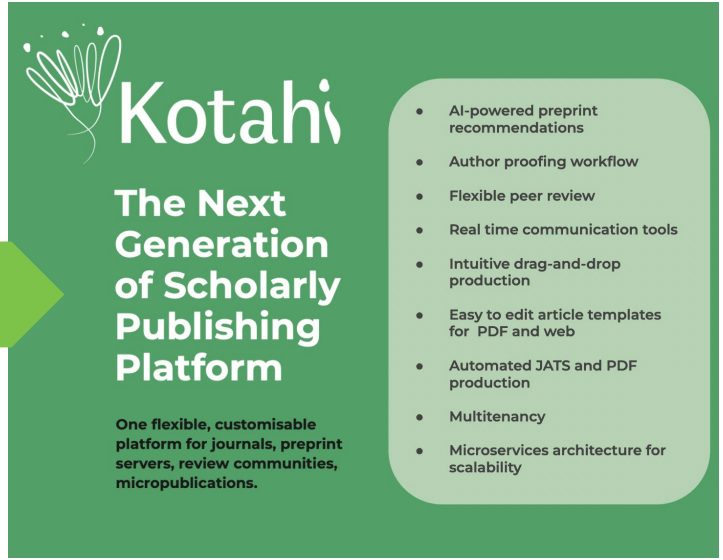
Innovative preprint

Innovative peer review

“Publish, Review, Curate” is already being implemented in Africa (and elsewhere)

Submit

Request Review



A bold prediction:

COAR
Confederation of Open Access Repositories

In the next 5 years, 15% of the diamond ecosystem will be publishing using a PRC model

PRC is ~~publisher-led science~~ science-led publishing

Thank you!