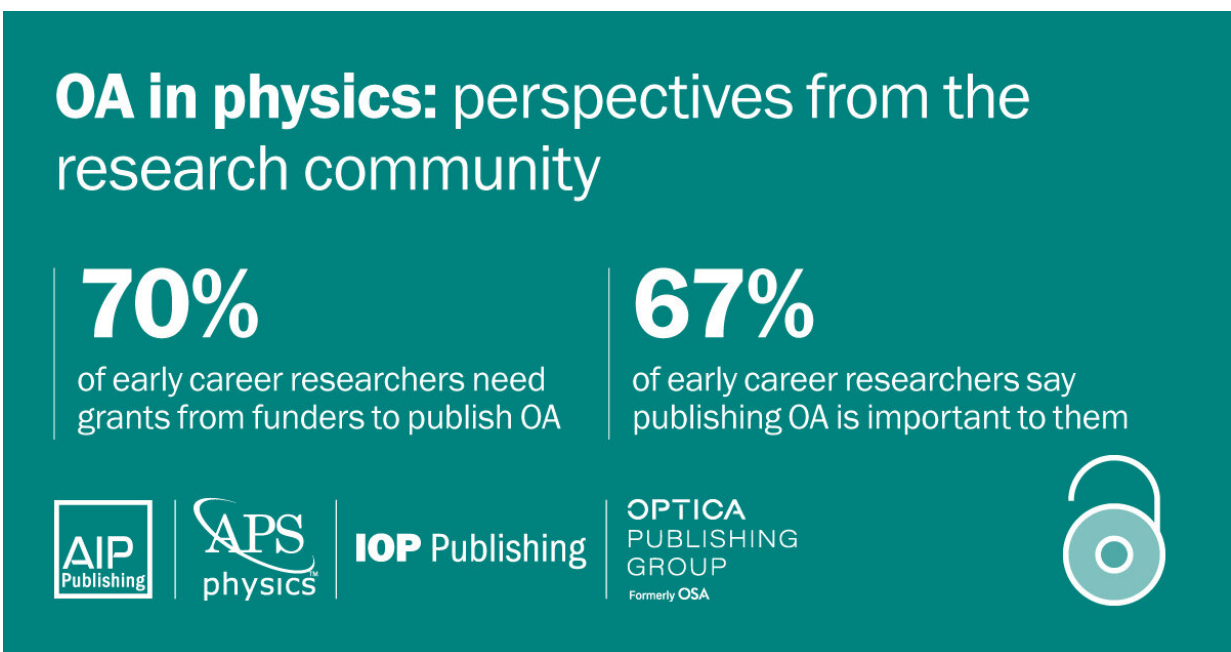


Majority of early career researchers in physical science want to publish open access, but face financial barriers

July 21 2022, by Juliet Hannay



Statistics showing 67% of early career researchers want to publish open access but 70% lack the funds to do so from a new global study from IOP Publishing, AIP Publishing, the American Society of Physics and Optica Publishing Group (formally OSA). Credit: n/a

A new global study from AIP Publishing, the American Physical Society (APS), IOP Publishing (IOPP) and Optica Publishing Group (formerly

OSA) indicates that the majority of early career researchers (ECRs) want to publish open access (OA) but they need grants from funding agencies to do so.

Over 3,000 physical science researchers from across the globe participated in the OA in physics: researcher perspectives study, which was carried out by the [physics](#) society publishers to better understand and meet the needs of the physical sciences community as it relates to OA.

67% of ECRs say that making their work openly available is important to them. Yet, 70% have been prevented from publishing OA because they have not been able to access the necessary monies from [funding agencies](#) to cover the cost. When asked why ECRs favor OA publishing, agreeing with its principles and benefitting from a wider readership were cited as the top two reasons.

Daniel Keirs, head of journal strategy at IOP Publishing says that "the OA views of the next generation of physicists are important as they are the harbingers of change when it comes to scholarly communications. What we see from this study is that ECRs believe that OA is the future, and they want to be able to reap the benefits of unrestricted access to research. Good progress has been made, but the transition to full OA must neither put researchers at a disadvantage nor disregard the costs necessary to produce, protect and preserve the quality and integrity of scholarly articles and the scientific record."

Elizabeth Nolan, deputy [executive director](#) and chief publishing officer at Optica Publishing Group, formerly OSA says that "as society publishers, we want to be sure that the transition to OA does not create a divide between those who can pay to publish their work OA, and those who can't. We believe that all authors should have the opportunity to publish their work, and the work published should represent the diversity

of the global science community. Collaboration amongst all key stakeholders, a sustainable approach and a shared commitment to supporting high-quality OA publishing are key to overcoming barriers and developing OA policies, funding mechanisms and [publishing](#) options that ensure that ECRs are fully supported in the future."

Provided by Institute of Physics

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