

# A Research Funder's Open Access Policy

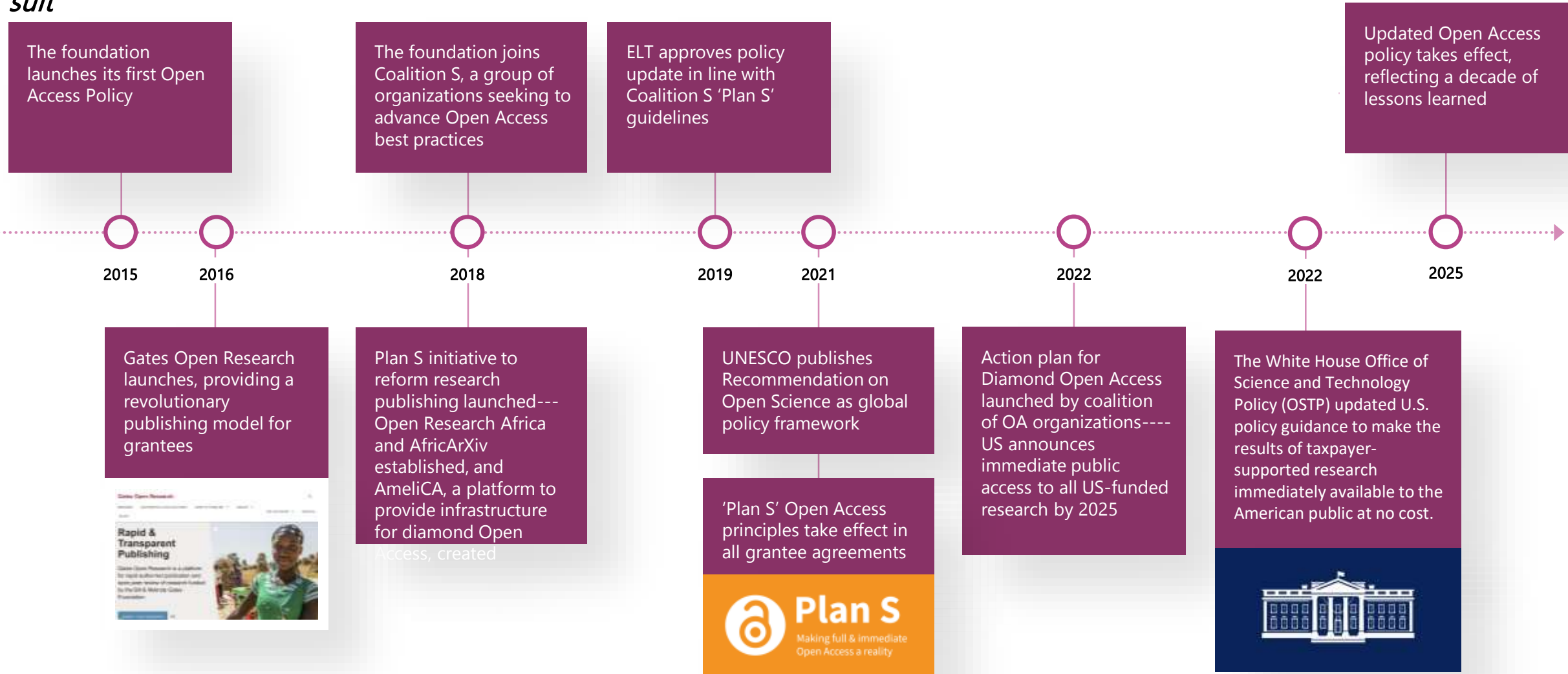


Where We've Been



# Gates Open Access Milestones

*BMGF has been at the forefront of OA from the inception and others are now following suit*



*Progress & Lessons Learned*

# A Decade of Gates Open Access



Since 2015, Open Access (OA) policy has established open publishing as an option for every grantee with OA workflows at all publishers.

[Gates Open Research](#) successfully introduced publish-review-curate model.

The foundation has inspired and advocated for similar initiatives: [Office Science Technology & Policy Nelson Memo](#), [cOAlition S](#), [Open Research Funders Group](#)

## Despite this progress, more must be done:

- **OA compliance has risen steadily but flattened.** Publishers are slow to change and have pushed back when revenue is threatened.
- **APCs (article processing charges) are the predominate business model** and new models are slow to grow and gain adopters.
- **Community agreement that APCs are inequitable**, and costs range up to \$12,000/article.
- Publish-review-curate is the cornerstone for preprints but penetration as an alternative to traditional journals is slow and would **benefit from new curation models for trust and verification.**
- Article compliance is high, but **open data availability lags.**
- Alliances with similar funders **accelerate change.**

# Meeting the Moment

*The Next Chapter in Open Access*

Together, we've ignited tangible change in scholarly publishing, **but our journey towards equity in knowledge remains unfinished.**

As part of our mission to promote equity for all people around the world, we **must work toward a more inclusive future in research dissemination.**

A young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white lab coat, is focused on examining a multi-well plate. She is holding the plate with both hands, and the wells contain a blue liquid. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment and shelves. A purple banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text "Where We're Going".

Where We're Going

# Our Vision

*Foster a publishing ecosystem that is equitable and inclusive*

In 2025, the foundation will rollout a refreshed Open Access policy to address **inequitable practices in scholarly publishing** and drive broader change in the field.

The policy aims to inspire a **cultural shift away from prestige and privilege in publishing**, to one that champions equity and access above all.



# Open Access Policy Refresh

## *Key Objectives*

### Require preprint posting

Making research publicly available on submission to a journal (before any peer review), while ensuring authors retain their intellectual property rights

### Discontinue support for Article Processing Charges (APCs)

Dismantling inequities caused by APCs, which makes Open Access publishing an option only for the most well-funded, well-connected researchers

### Support new Open Access business models and infrastructure

Fostering an Open Access publishing ecosystem that shows promise for equity in scholarly publishing, by channeling funding into new technology and systems that ease the compliance burden to grantees

# Open Access Policy 2025 Refresh

## *Championing Preprints*

### What are Preprints?

- Early versions of research that are made accessible upon submission.
- Have yet to undergo a formal peer review process yet allow for broad & early community feedback.
- Bypass lengthy publishing timelines that delay access to research.
- Posted and accessed on preprint servers with a CC-BY license.

### Why do they matter?

- Allow researchers to share their work openly and rapidly at no cost to them.
- Enable researchers to cite and build upon research more quickly.
- Provide the most equitable benefit to grantees, researchers and the scientific community.
- Preprints are journal agnostic – the research can be evaluated on its own merit.

## What does this mean for how and where grantees can publish their research? Will this place overly burdensome restrictions?

- The 2025 policy update will not pose any restrictions on where and how grantees can publish their work.
- While researchers and authors can continue to publish in their journal of choice, preprints will help prioritize access to the research itself as opposed to access to a particular journal.
- This will allow grantees to have more freedom, agility and ultimately impact in their work.

## Will the 2025 policy impact the quality of foundation-supported research?

- Preprints are a viable starting point in which review and curation can be layered, allowing for ongoing innovation and collaboration.
- Preprints have been shown to address misinformation by enabling the broader scientific community to engage with and respond to research as soon as possible.
- There is growing evidence that there are few significant changes from the preprint version to the peer-reviewed one.

## Will grantees retain their copyright when sharing their work as Open Access?

- The foundation's 2025 policy update will continue to adopt the Plan S guidance that authors (or their organizations) must retain sufficient copyright to comply with their Open Access requirements.
- We will ensure funding contracts or agreements outline that authors must retain copyright as well as the rights that are necessary to make a version immediately available under an open license.

# What does Equity look like in action?

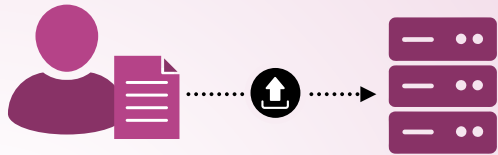


- While we aim to achieve equity within open access publishing & policy there are potential unintended consequences until more of the ecosystem changes
- Open Access policy can't solve for all the inequalities in the broader research culture – such as funding, hiring & promotion, research tools - but these need to change to eliminate more inequities in publishing
- First, it's necessary to stop doing what is keeping systemic issues in action.
  - Stop valuing journal prestige & brand (largely only in the Global North)
  - Stop using faulty metrics
- Second, we need to listen more

# Investing in Infrastructure

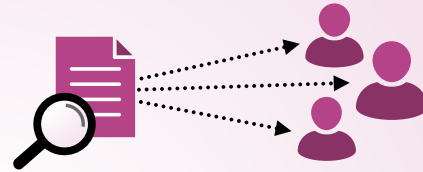
## Compliance Tracking, Reporting, & Follow up

### Publish



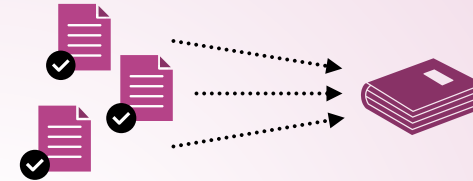
*Researcher publishes preprint & posts to preprint server*

### Review



*Researcher reviews preprint & shares reviews*

### Curate



*A journal curates preprints from already published and reviewed sources*

#### Preprint Servers & Data

- Popular servers for grantees: bioRxiv, medRxiv, Research Square
- Data deposited in open repositories and identified in Data Availability Statements

#### **In Development:**

Gates Open Research preprints, data deposit, and enhanced checks

#### Preprint Review

- Dozens of emerging systems and models
- eLife journal model changed to “Reviewed Preprint” in 2023

#### **In Development:**

RR\ID investment to publish reviews of BMGF preprints

PREreview community support

#### Indexing & Discovery

- EuropePMC indexing all preprints
- PubMed indexing overlay journals
- PubMed and PMC pilot indexing NIH preprints may expand to funders

#### **Available now:**

BMGF preprints indexed by EuropePMC. Grantees can upload their AAM to PubMed Central

OA.report for active compliance numbers and follow up with non-compliant grantees

#### **In Development:**

Expanded reporting on data compliance and preprint compliance

#### **In Development:**

Individualized compliance tools for Program Officers to facilitate grantee follow up

# Gates Open Research Expansion

## *Introducing VeriXiv*

Coming in August 2024, the foundation will expand the *Gates Open Research* platform so that all submissions begin as preprints. The new system will leverage existing automation, AI tools, deep experience with the publish-review-curate model, and resource capacity to redefine how preprints are checked prior to public release.

In addition, open data verification will continue to be a top priority for the system and authors will need to continue to demonstrate compliance.

Authors will be allowed to transfer their preprint to any other journal for publication.

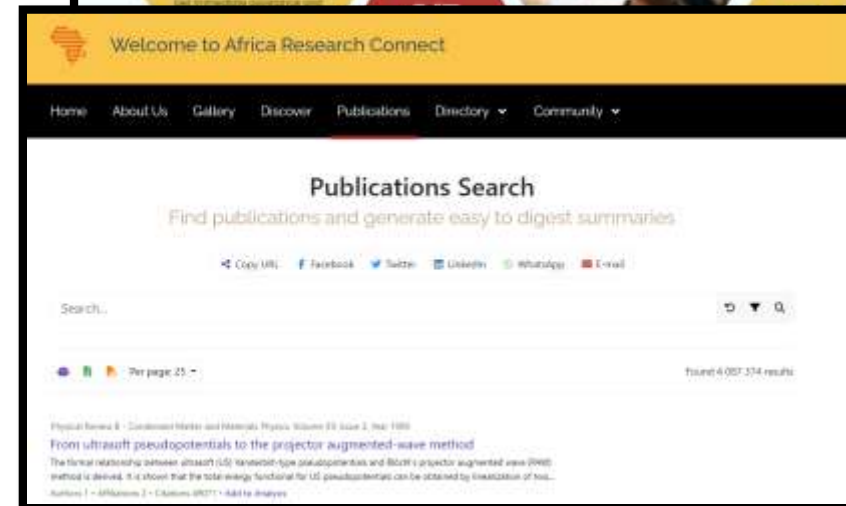
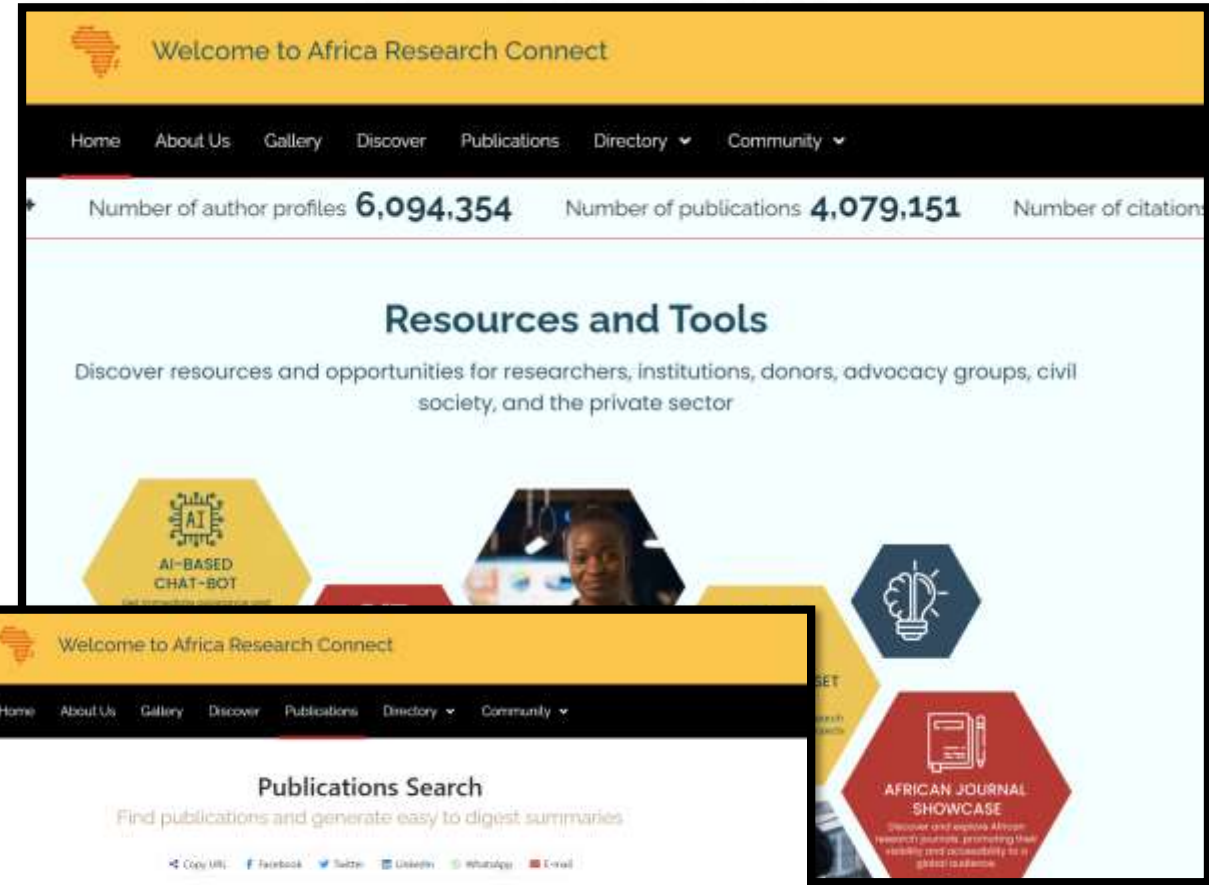


*From the [announcement](#)*

- Twenty different ethics and integrity checks will assess a range of issues, including plagiarism, image manipulation, author verification, and competing interests
- Open research transparency checks will check whether the data is available in an appropriate repository and that methods have been included to support reproducibility
- Each preprint will have clear labeling so that readers know the level of verification conducted on the article, and which levels have been passed
- Authors can choose to have their preprint peer reviewed prior to publication on *Gates Open Research* or they can submit it to any other publication for consideration
- Alternatively, researchers may decide not to take the paper any further, whereupon the preprint will remain openly accessible as a verified preprint on VeriXiv

# The Importance of PIDs & Discoverability

- Tracking grant outputs is important, not only for reinforcing policy requirements, but to evaluate impact
- With more information being “published” increases the need to track versions & make stronger connections across the entire ecosystem
- Funders are beginning to use DOIs for grants to improve tracking out grant outputs



# Contact Information



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- I would love to hear from you and engage with your organization!