

Publisher-Driven Preprints

Louise Page
Chief Innovation Officer

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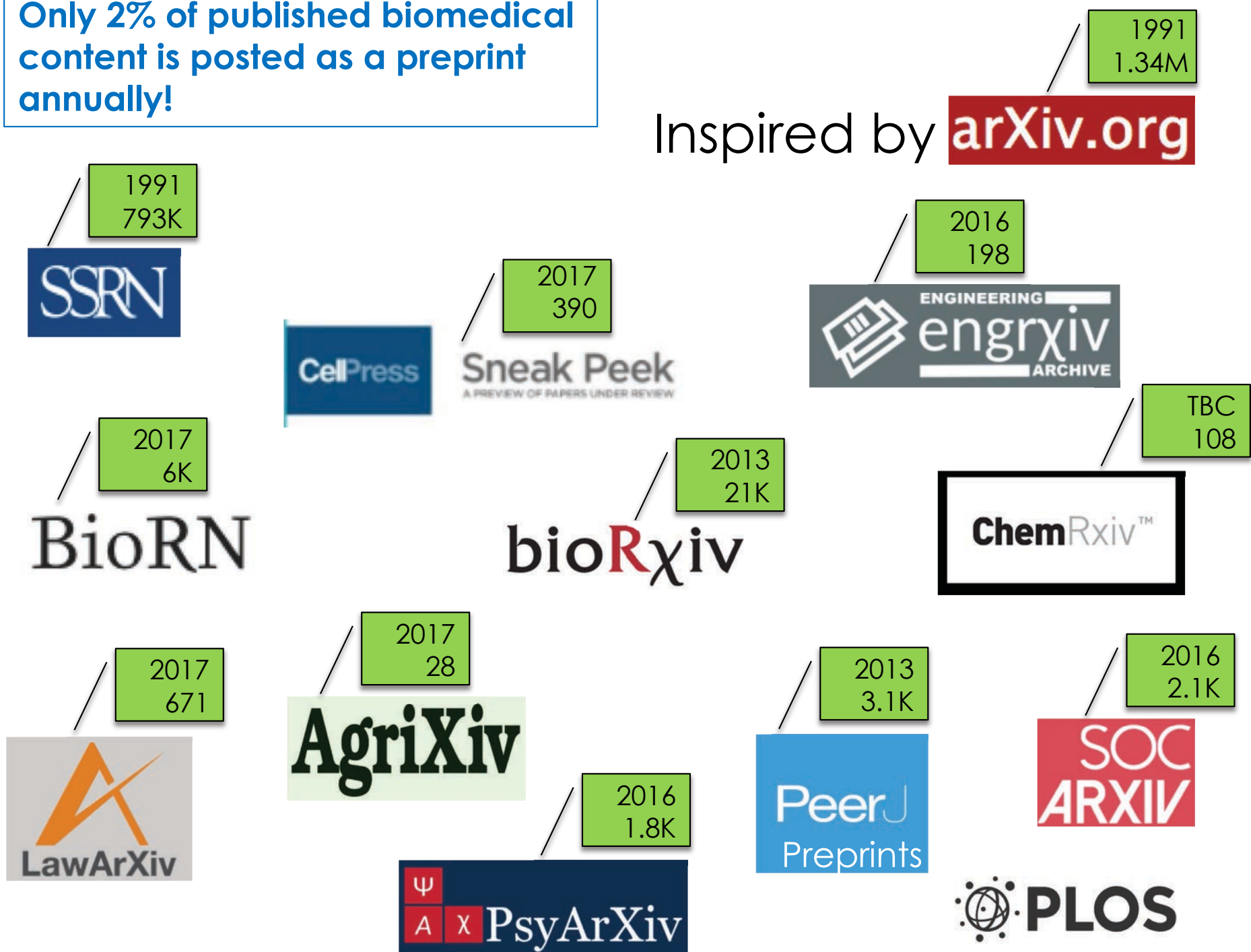


SUBMITTING TO PLOS?

Starting May 1st, authors submitting to PLOS can choose to seamlessly post manuscripts to bioRxiv.

Only 2% of published biomedical content is posted as a preprint annually!

Inspired by **arXiv.org**



What role can a **publisher** play?

Disruptive potential of preprints

Decouple the publication of research from the evaluation of its 'importance' or 'impact'

- To accelerate research communication
- To allow the possibility of credit before journal publication
- To combat publication bias
- To change the dynamic of assessment to 'post publication' peer review

2017 Highlights

ARTICLES PUBLISHED
 **23,000+**

15+ MILLION
MONTHLY ARTICLE VIEWS

2,000,000+
MONTHLY ARTICLE DOWNLOADS

2.5 MILLION
UNIQUE VISITORS
TO PLOS BLOGS*

 **380,000+**
TWITTER FOLLOWERS*

30,000 MEMBERS
OF FIELD-SPECIFIC PLOS COMMUNITIES

7,200 EDITORS 
74,000 REVIEWERS

 **108,000+**
PLOS CONTRIBUTORS WITH ORCID iDs

64 NOBEL LAUREATES
HAVE PUBLISHED
THEIR WORK WITH PLOS*

2017
*Through 2017

Add Preprints to the Publishing Workflow

- **Boost adoption** by automatically directing submissions to preprint servers
- **Set and adopt content standards** for journal submission for re-use as preprints and other journals/publishers
- **Channel vast experience** reviewing content at scale for responsible posting
- Adopt **interoperable technical standards** to facilitate advances in manuscript transfers, downstream, archiving, indexing
- **Advocate and educate** the community

PLOS and Preprints

Accelerate Progress with Early Sharing

- PLOS has long supported authors who wish to share their work early and **receive feedback before formal peer review**
- Posting a research article to a preprint server has **never impacted consideration** of the manuscript at any PLOS journal



Journals Seek Out Preprints

With its recruitment of dedicated “preprint editors,” *PLOS Genetics* makes official the practice of soliciting non-peer-reviewed manuscripts posted online.

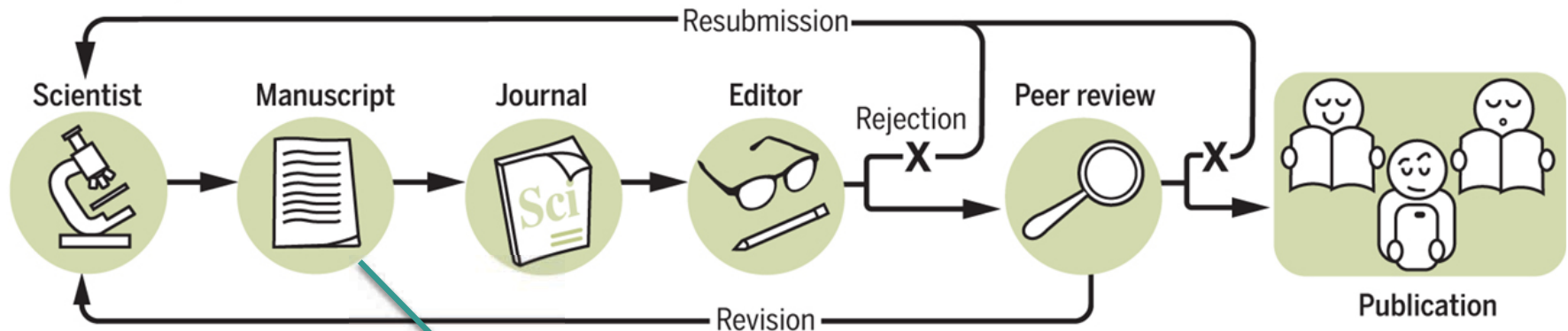
By Tracy Vence | January 18, 2017



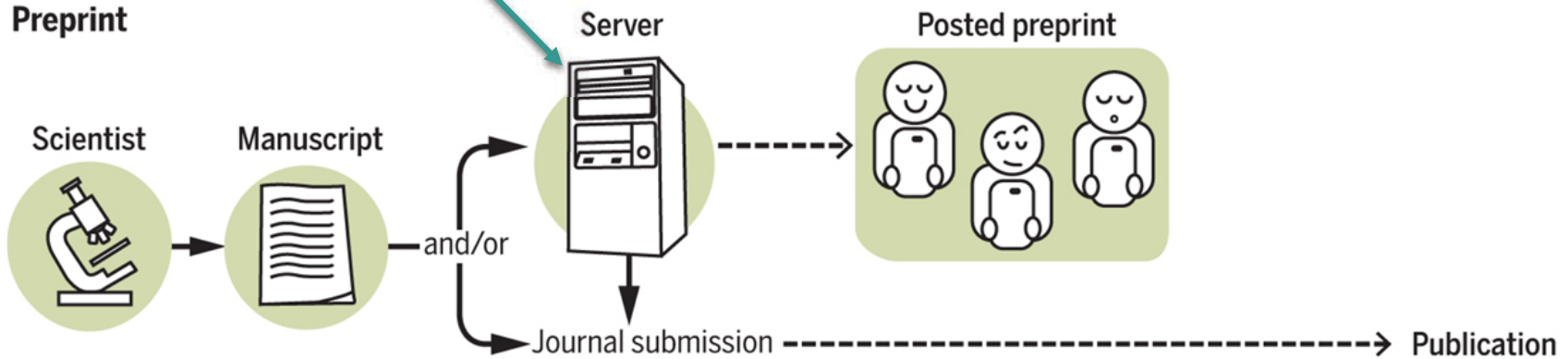
PIXABAY, PEXELS

"Preprints" for the life sciences

Peer review publication



Preprint



Survey Results

- **Majority of authors** would opt to let PLOS post their manuscript as a preprint
- **Variations by journal** with biggest pickup from PLOS Pathogens
- **Education is needed** as some respondents still did not know what a preprint is

- PLOS specific site vs. community site
- Adoption is key to demonstrating change
- Focus resources on differentiators
 - Scalable screening technology
 - Adapt existing workflows
- Partner benefits
 - Aligned thinking
 - Joint roadmaps
 - Shared responsibility for innovation
 - Greater impact in community

bioRxiv screening

RISKS:

Ethical breaches,
privacy

Inappropriate, non-
scientific content

Risk to global public
health or the
environment

Reputational risk to
research community

Pseudo-science

- Scope:
 - Primary research
 - Life sciences only
 - Not already posted on bioRxiv
- Inflammatory/defamatory language
- Pseudo-science
- Plagiarism
- Identifying information or images
- Dual Use Research of Concern/biosecurity risk
- Conclusions which, if proven wrong, would pose potential risk to public health
- Information that would pose risk to the environment or endangered species

Roadmap Outlook

- Increased advocacy and education
- Extend existing publishing standards to preprints
 - Formats, indexing, DOIs, archiving, preservation
 - Recognition and credit
- Bolster screening with AI and ML tools
- Experiment with new assessment models
- Badges and new indicators of integrity
- Explore sustainability



Thank you