

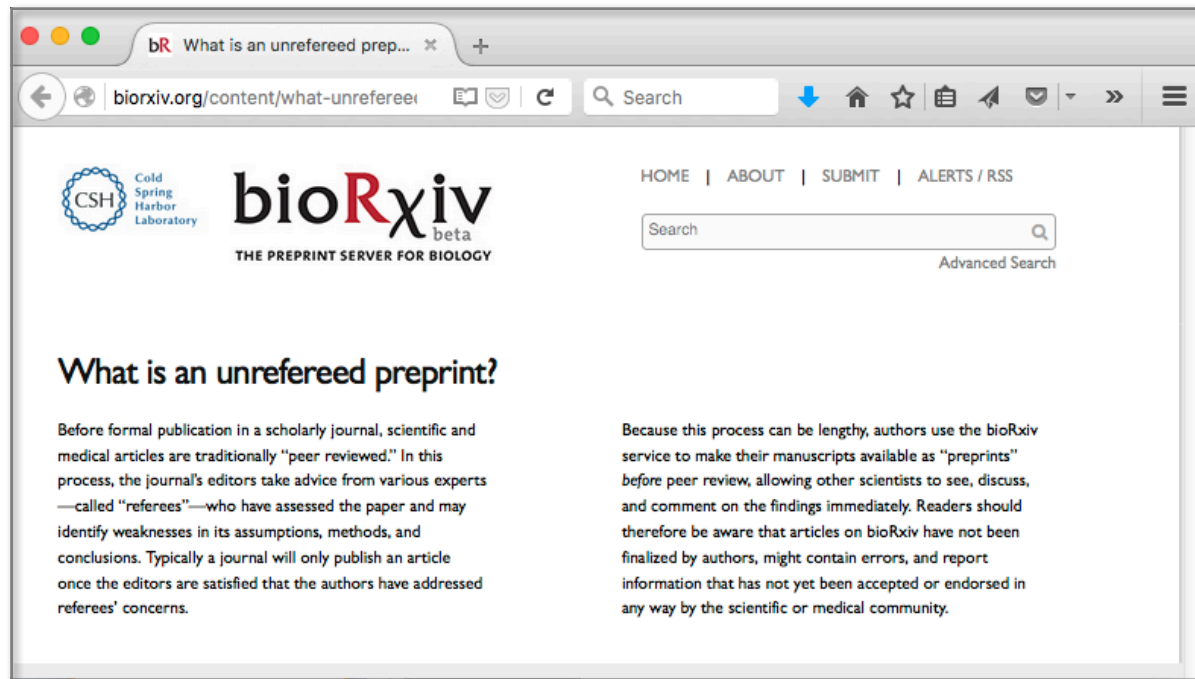
# The bioRxiv preprint service and its integration with journals

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John Inglis, PhD  
Co-founder, bioRxiv and  
Executive Director,  
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press  
inglis@cshl.edu  
Twitter @JohnRInglis

EMUG meeting, Boston, June 17, 2016

Preprint ( $n$ ): a complete but unpublished manuscript yet to be certified by peer review that's freely available online



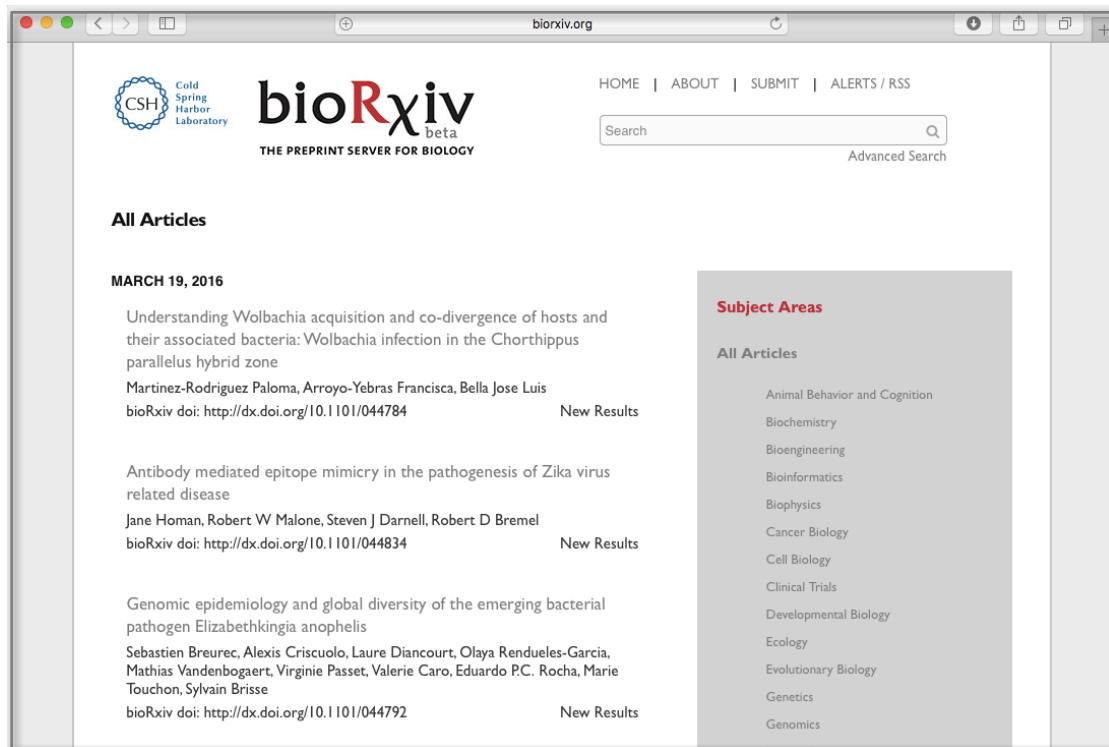
The image is a screenshot of a web browser displaying the bioRxiv website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `biorxiv.org/content/what-unrefereed`. The page header includes the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory logo and the bioRxiv logo, which is labeled 'beta' and 'THE PREPRINT SERVER FOR BIOLOGY'. Navigation links for 'HOME', 'ABOUT', 'SUBMIT', and 'ALERTS / RSS' are visible. A search bar is present with the text 'Search' and a magnifying glass icon, with a link to 'Advanced Search' below it. The main content area features the title 'What is an unrefereed preprint?' in a large, bold font. Below the title, there are two columns of text. The left column explains the traditional peer review process, while the right column describes the bioRxiv preprint service and its benefits for authors and readers.

**What is an unrefereed preprint?**

Before formal publication in a scholarly journal, scientific and medical articles are traditionally "peer reviewed." In this process, the journal's editors take advice from various experts—called "referees"—who have assessed the paper and may identify weaknesses in its assumptions, methods, and conclusions. Typically a journal will only publish an article once the editors are satisfied that the authors have addressed referees' concerns.

Because this process can be lengthy, authors use the bioRxiv service to make their manuscripts available as "preprints" before peer review, allowing other scientists to see, discuss, and comment on the findings immediately. Readers should therefore be aware that articles on bioRxiv have not been finalized by authors, might contain errors, and report information that has not yet been accepted or endorsed in any way by the scientific or medical community.

# bioRxiv preprint service for biology launched Nov 2013



- Authors' PDFs – no typesetting/mark-up
- Submission + access free
- Posting almost immediate, with screening but no peer review
- Revised versions can be posted any time



## What scientists were saying in 2013

“It’s ridiculous I have to wait months to read a paper while it goes through peer review...let me decide for myself whether it’s any good”

“Think how much time is wasted!”

“I am writing a grant but the paper is not going to be published by the time I submit. The solution is a pre-print server that can be referenced”

“I’m posting my manuscript on arXiv”

# arXiv: preprints in physics, maths, statistics, computer science, quantitative biology

The screenshot shows the arXiv.org website interface. At the top, there is a search bar and navigation links. Below the search bar, the website lists various subject categories with links to explore them. The categories shown are:

- Physics**
  - Astrophysics (**astro-ph** new, recent, find)
    - includes: Astrophysics of Galaxies; Cosmology and Nongalactic Astrophysics; Earth and Planetary Astrophysics; High Energy Astrophysical Phenomena; Instrumentation and Methods for Astrophysics; Solar and Stellar Astrophysics
  - Condensed Matter (**cond-mat** new, recent, find)
    - includes: Disordered Systems and Neural Networks; Materials Science; Mesoscale and Nanoscale Physics; Other Condensed Matter; Quantum Gases; Soft Condensed Matter; Statistical Mechanics; Strongly Correlated Electrons; Superconductivity
  - General Relativity and Quantum Cosmology (**gr-qc** new, recent, find)
  - High Energy Physics - Experiment (**hep-ex** new, recent, find)
  - High Energy Physics - Lattice (**hep-lat** new, recent, find)
  - High Energy Physics - Phenomenology (**hep-ph** new, recent, find)
  - High Energy Physics - Theory (**hep-th** new, recent, find)
  - Mathematical Physics (**math-ph** new, recent, find)
  - Nonlinear Sciences (**nlin** new, recent, find)
    - includes: Adaptation and Self-Organizing Systems; Cellular Automata and Lattice Gases; Chaotic Dynamics; Exactly Solvable and Integrable Systems; Pattern Formation and Solitons
  - Nuclear Experiment (**nucl-ex** new, recent, find)
  - Nuclear Theory (**nucl-th** new, recent, find)
  - Physics (**physics** new, recent, find)
    - includes: Accelerator Physics; Atmospheric and Oceanic Physics; Atomic Physics; Atomic and Molecular Clusters; Biological Physics; Chemical Physics; Classical Physics; Computational Physics; Data Analysis; Statistics and Probability; Fluid Dynamics; General Physics; Geophysics; History and Philosophy of Physics; Instrumentation and Detectors; Medical Physics; Optics; Physics Education; Physics and Society; Plasma Physics; Popular Physics; Space Physics
  - Quantum Physics (**quant-ph** new, recent, find)
- Mathematics**
  - Mathematics (**math** new, recent, find)
    - includes: (see detailed description): Algebraic Geometry; Algebraic Topology; Analysis of PDEs; Category Theory; Classical Analysis and ODEs; Combinatorics; Commutative Algebra; Complex Variables; Differential Geometry; Dynamical Systems; Functional Analysis; General Mathematics; General Topology; Geometric Topology; Group Theory; History and Overview; Information Theory; K-Theory and Homology; Logic; Mathematical Physics; Metric Geometry; Number Theory; Numerical Analysis; Operator Algebras; Optimization and Control; Probability; Quantum Algebra; Representation Theory; Rings and Algebras; Spectral Theory; Statistics Theory; Symplectic Geometry
- Computer Science**
  - Computing Research Repository (**CoRR** new, recent, find)
    - includes: (see detailed description): Artificial Intelligence; Computation and Language; Computational Complexity; Computational Engineering, Finance, and Science; Computational Geomet...

- Established 1991
- Mechanism for sharing findings prior to publication & establishing priority
- Non-profit funded by Cornell, libraries & various foundations
- >1 million preprints

## Companies hosting un-refereed content



For-profit start-up, conduit to PeerJ journal



For-profit, public peer-review journal



For-profit, host for figures, partial papers, etc.

## Not-for-profit, publisher-neutral servers



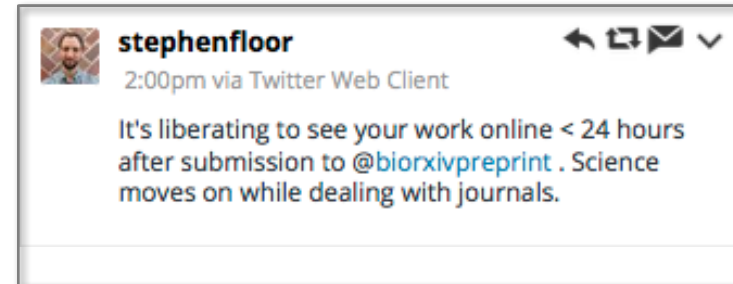
Funded by Cornell, libraries & various foundations



Funded by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory & Lourie Foundation

## Benefits

- Rapid transmission of results
- Pre-publication feedback/discussion
- Visibility, especially for early-career scientists
- Immediate evidence of productivity for grant/hiring committees





## bioRxiv features

- Posted manuscript date-stamped + given a DOI (citable)
- Indexed in Google Scholar
- Choice of article type (New, Confirmatory, or Contradictory Results)
- 25 life science subject categories plus science communication & education
- Choice of license (CC0, CC BY, CC BY-NC, CC BY-ND, CC BY-NC-ND, all rights reserved)
- Article metrics
- Commenting
- Links to published versions

bioRxiv.org/content/early/2016/04/04/032367

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New Results

**Genome-wide analysis of microRNA signature in lung adenocarcinoma with EGFR exon 19 deletion**

Lixia Ju, Mingquan Han, Chao Zhao, Xuefei Li

doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/032367>

This article is a preprint and has not been peer-reviewed [what does this mean?]

Abstract Info/History Metrics Preview PDF

**Abstract**

**Purpose:** The findings of EGFR mutations and the development of targeted therapies have significantly improved the overall survival of lung cancer patients. Still, the prognosis remains poor, so we need to know more about the genetic alterations in lung cancer. MicroRNAs are dysregulated in lung cancer, and microRNAs can regulate EGFR. So it is very important to predict the candidate microRNAs that target mutated EGFR and to investigate the role of these candidate microRNAs in lung cancer.

**Materials and methods:** In this study, we investigated the difference of microRNAs expression between lung adenocarcinoma cell lines with EGFR exon 19 deletion (H1650 and PC9) and its wild-type (H1299 and A549) using the Phalanx Human Whole Genome Microarray. Then the expression of individual microRNAs was validated by qRT-PCR assays. Moreover, we have detected the microRNAs expression in serum of lung adenocarcinoma patients with EGFR exon 19 deletion and wild-type. **Results:** The expression of 1,732 microRNAs was evaluated, and we found that microRNAs

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New Results

**Routes for breaching and protecting genetic privacy**

Yaniv Erlich, Arvind Narayanan  
doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/000042  
Now published in *Nature Reviews Genetics* doi: 10.1038/nrg3723

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doi http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/000042  
History December 1, 2013.

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**AUTHOR INFORMATION**

Yaniv Erlich<sup>1</sup> (yaniv@wi.mit.edu) and Arvind Narayanan<sup>2</sup>

bioRxiv.org/content/early/2014/03/21/003517.article-metrics

fushi tarazu

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New Results

**Towards a new history and geography of human genes informed by ancient DNA**

Joseph Pickrell, David Reich  
doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/003517

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ARTICLE USAGE

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← → biorxiv.org/content/early/2014/04/05/001552

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## Ancient human genomes suggest three ancestral populations for present-day Europeans

Posted April 5, 2014.

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doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1101/001552>

Now published in *Nature* doi: 10.1038/nature13673

Abstract Info/History Metrics Data Supplements Preview PDF

### ABSTRACT


We sequenced genomes from a ~7,000 year old early farmer from Stuttgart in Germany, an ~8,000 year old hunter-gatherer from Luxembourg, and seven ~8,000

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [biorxiv.org/content/early/2016/01/14/029983](https://doi.org/10.1101/029983). The main text of the preprint is partially visible, discussing health care costs and clinical trial registration. A red box highlights the text "ID # NCT01975428". Below the text is a copyright notice and a tweet from J. Chris Pires (@JChrisPires) dated 24 Jan 2016, which is a retweet of a bioRxiv news item.

care costs of utilization as a result of the intervention. Furthermore, we found evidence that the control and intervention groups were equivalent with respect to most health care utilization outcomes. This result suggests there are not large short-term increases or decreases in health care costs or utilization associated with monitoring chronic health conditions using mobile health or digital medicine technologies. Among secondary outcomes there was some evidence of improvement in health self-management which was characterized by a decrease in the propensity to view health status as due to chance factors in the intervention group. Clinical trial registration ID # NCT01975428

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Tweets referencing this article:

 **J. Chris Pires**  
@JChrisPires

RT @cshperspectives: Another exciting bit of bioRxiv news: now accepting clinical trials <https://t.co/J7TqtAbhwO> 1/2

24 Jan 2016

Neuroscience  
Paleontology  
Pathology  
Pharmacology  
Physiology  
Plant Biology  
Scientific Communication  
Synthetic Biology  
Systems Biology  
Zoology

## Progress since 2013

- ~4500 submissions (>90% approved)
- ~30% revised (many more than once)
- >50% of papers subsequently published
- >300 journals have published papers preprinted on bioRxiv

## Progress since 2013

- Behavior change: more biologists posting/reading preprints
- Policy change: more journals allowing preprint posting
- Rule change: NIH grant applications can now cite “non-peer-reviewed publications”
- Community change: awareness raised by two meetings -

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY**

2015

 **ASAPbio**

2016



## ASAPbio

- 1-day meeting for representative stakeholders, Feb 2016
- Consensus that preprints solve an important problem...timely sharing of publicly funded research

“Preprints decouple journal publication from dissemination of knowledge. By sharing results when they are ready to be shared, science can move forward while the slow wheels of peer review turn.” Stephen Floor, UC Berkeley

- Criticism of journals that will not consider preprints
- Strong support for one service in biology
- Plans to lobby NIH & other funders

# ASAPbio impact

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SCIENCE

## Handful of Biologists Went Rogue and Published Directly to Internet

By AMY HARMON MARCH 15, 2016

The diagram illustrates two paths for a scientist's manuscript. The top path, labeled 'PEER REVIEW', shows a scientist submitting a manuscript to a journal, which then goes through an editor and peer review, taking approximately 'MONTHS → 1 YEAR'. The bottom path, labeled 'PREPRINTS', shows a scientist submitting a manuscript to a server, which is then accessible to others within 'DAYS'. A note indicates that the drawing comes from a video explaining how scientists could publish quickly without alienating themselves from the traditional system.

On Feb. 29, Carol Greider of Johns Hopkins University became the third [Nobel Prize laureate biologist](#) in a month to do something long considered taboo among biomedical researchers: She posted a report of

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Research publishing

## Taking the online medicine

Old-fashioned ways of reporting new discoveries are holding back medical research. Some scientists are pushing for change

Mar 19th 2016 | From the print edition

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Feedback

"NEVER tried sharing data like this before," said the tweet. "Feels like walking into a country for the first time. Exciting, but don't know what to expect."

David O'Connor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison was announcing his decision on February 14th to post online data from his laboratory's latest experiment. He and his team had infected macaques with the Zika virus and were recording the concentrations of virus in the monkeys' bodily fluids every day. Researchers know that Zika is transmitted principally by infected mosquitoes. But if the virus appears in saliva and urine, then these

## ASAPbio impact



20 MAY 2016 • VOL 352 ISSUE 6288

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

### *Preprints for the life sciences*

The time is right for biologists to post their research findings onto preprint servers

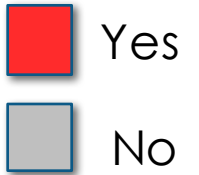
By Jeremy M. Berg,<sup>1</sup> Needhi Bhalla,<sup>2</sup> Philip E. Bourne,<sup>3</sup> Martin Chalfie,<sup>4</sup> David G. Drubin,<sup>5</sup> James S. Fraser,<sup>6</sup> Carol W. Greider,<sup>7</sup> Michael Hendricks,<sup>8</sup> Chonnetta Jones,<sup>9</sup> Robert Kiley,<sup>9</sup> Susan King,<sup>10</sup> Marc W. Kirschner,<sup>11</sup> Harlan M. Krumholz,<sup>12</sup> Ruth Lehmann,<sup>13</sup> Maria Leptin,<sup>14</sup> Bernd Pulverer,<sup>14</sup> Brooke Rosenzweig,<sup>15</sup> John E. Spiro,<sup>16</sup> Michael Stebbins,<sup>17</sup> Carly Strasser,<sup>18</sup> Sowmya Swaminathan,<sup>19</sup> Paul Turner,<sup>20</sup> Ronald D. Vale,<sup>21</sup> K. VijayRaghavan,<sup>22</sup> Cynthia Wolberger<sup>23</sup>

#### ACADEMICS' PERSPECTIVE

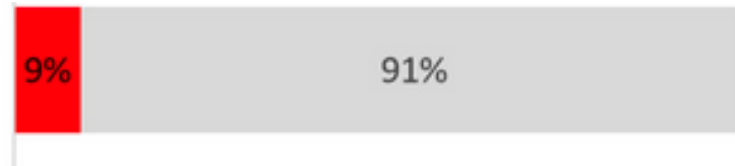
*J. M. Berg, N. Bhalla, M. Chalfie, J. S. Fraser, C. W. Greider, M. Hendricks, M. W. Kirschner, R. Lehmann, P. Turner, C. Wolberger*

Motivated by frustrations in the slow speed of publishing (*1*), we and other junior and senior life scientists participated in the ASAPbio meeting. Physicists have embraced sharing their work as preprints for 25 years. Paul Ginsparg, founder of arXiv, described how physicists, mathematicians, and computer scientists check arXiv when

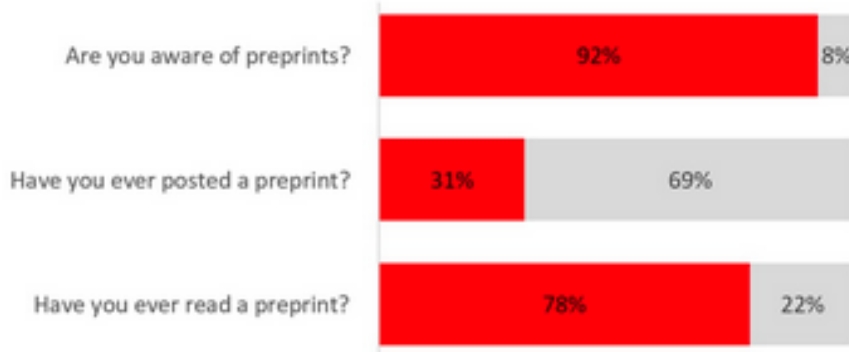
# ASAPbio survey



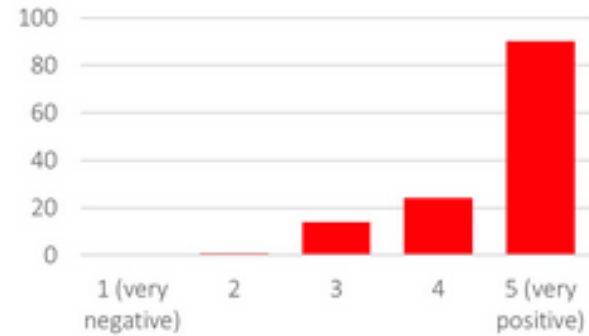
Are you satisfied with the current state of publishing in biology?



*Posting preprints is a positive experience (though few have done it)*

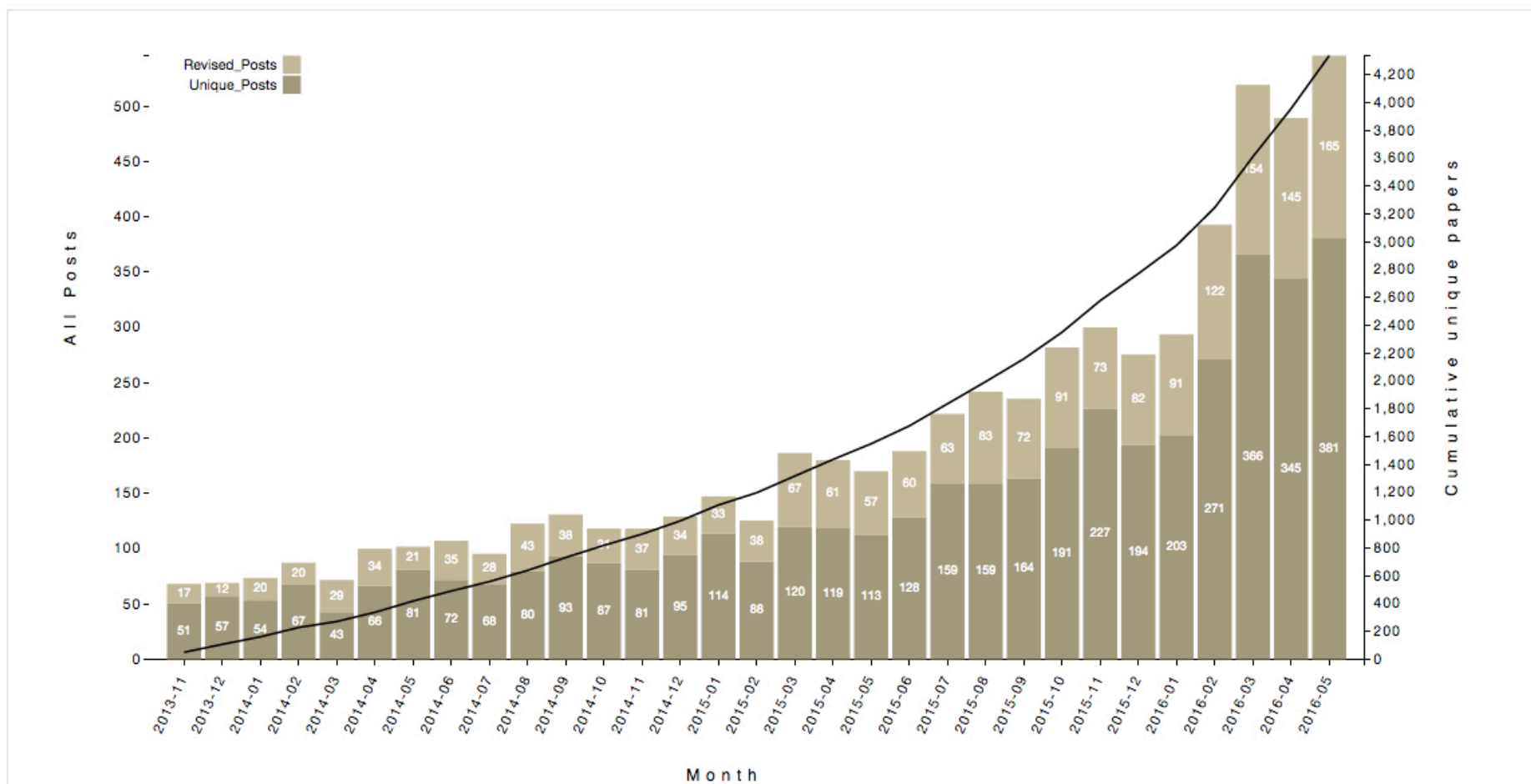


If you have submitted a preprint, what was your experience?



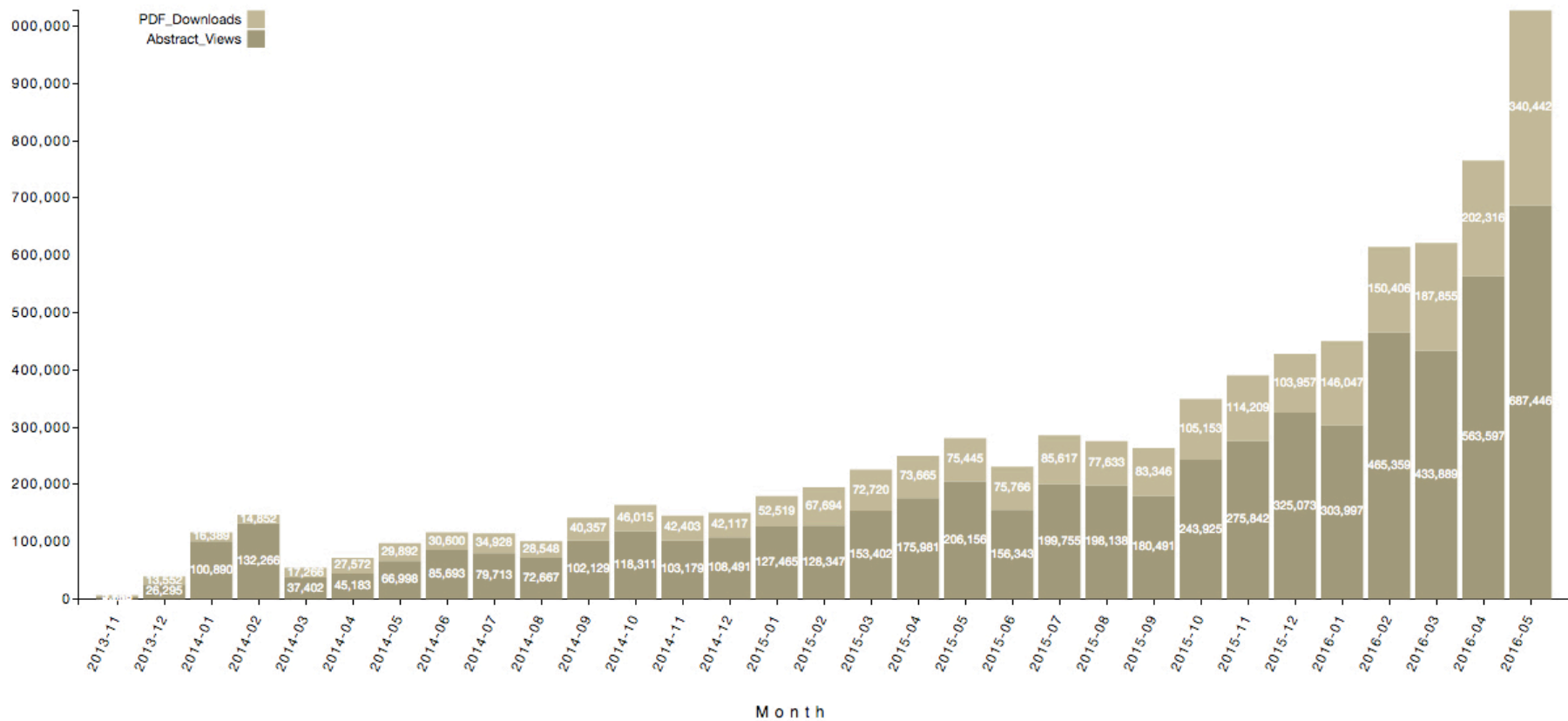
# Posts

## bioRxiv Content by Month

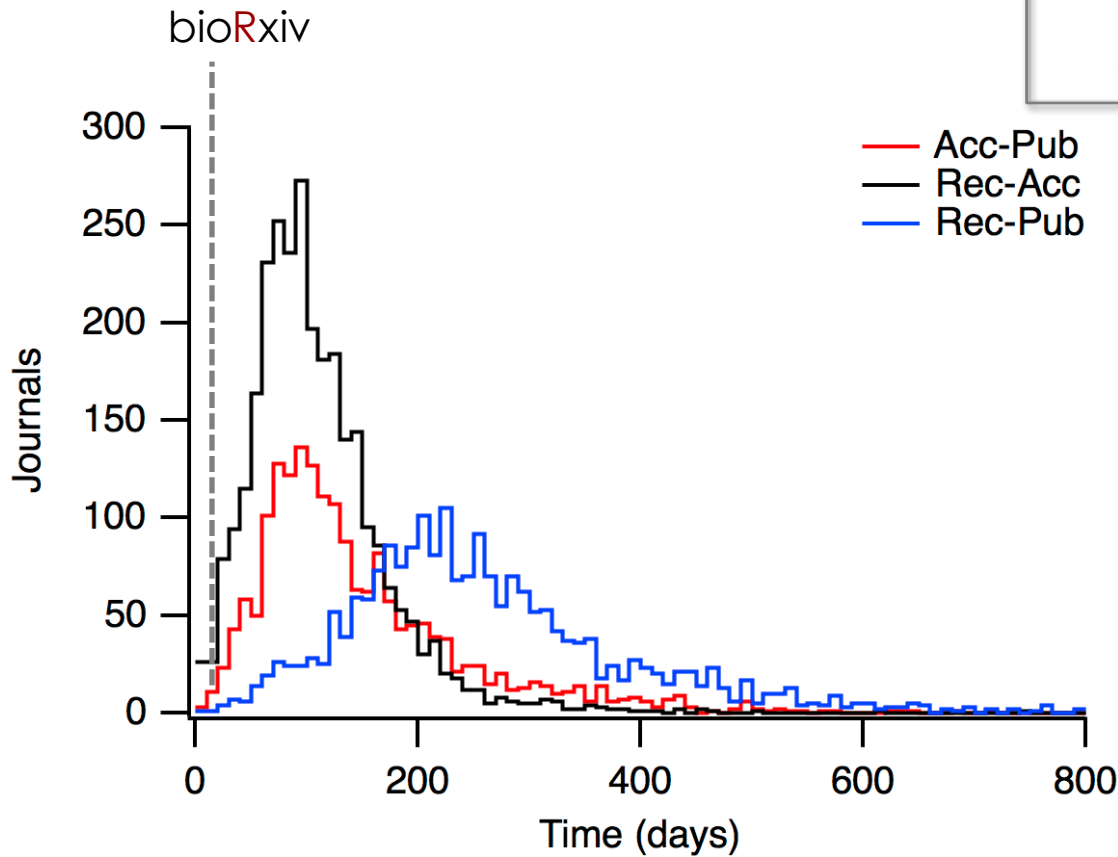



# Usage

## bioRxiv Usage (HW stats) by Month



# Speed



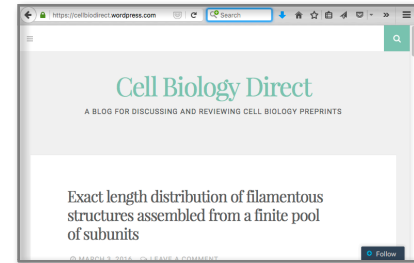
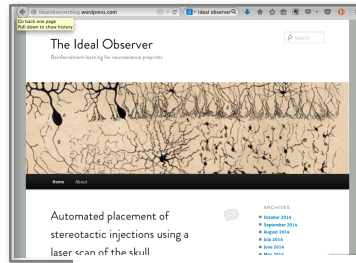
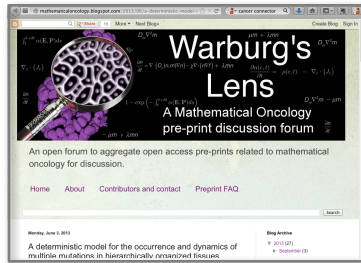
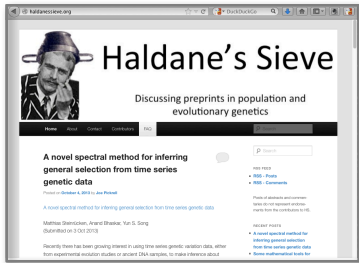
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1:44pm via Twitter for Android

@SimonBullock11 @biorxivpreprint pace of this = astounding. Preprinting a must for fast moving topics + wide dissemination of imprtnt info.

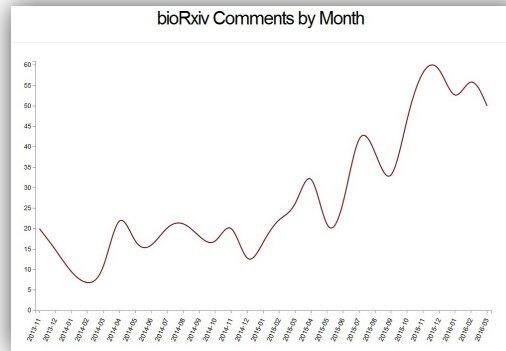
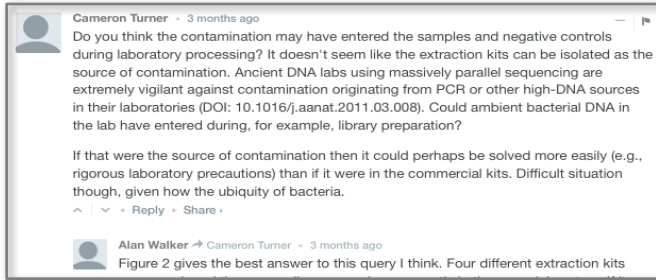
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# Feedback

## Blogs



## Direct commenting



Off-site peer review

## Social media



## Email






## Publication

>320 journals have published bioRxiv preprints

*Nature, Science, Cell, PNAS, eLife, Nature Genetics, Nature Neuroscience, Cell Reports, Nature Communications, Genome Research, Genetics, Evolution, Biophysical Journal, PLoS One, PLoS Genetics, PLoS Pathogens, Biology Open, Bioinformatics, American Journal of Human Genetics, Journal of Neuroscience, etc*

# Discovery



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**Comprehensively search preprint databases to discover cutting edge, yet-to-be published or reviewed biomedical research articles.**

## Discovery



Report of Partial findings from the National Toxicology Program Carcinogenesis Studies of Cell Phone Radiofrequency Radiation in Hsd: Sprague Dawley® SD rats (Whole Body Exposure)  
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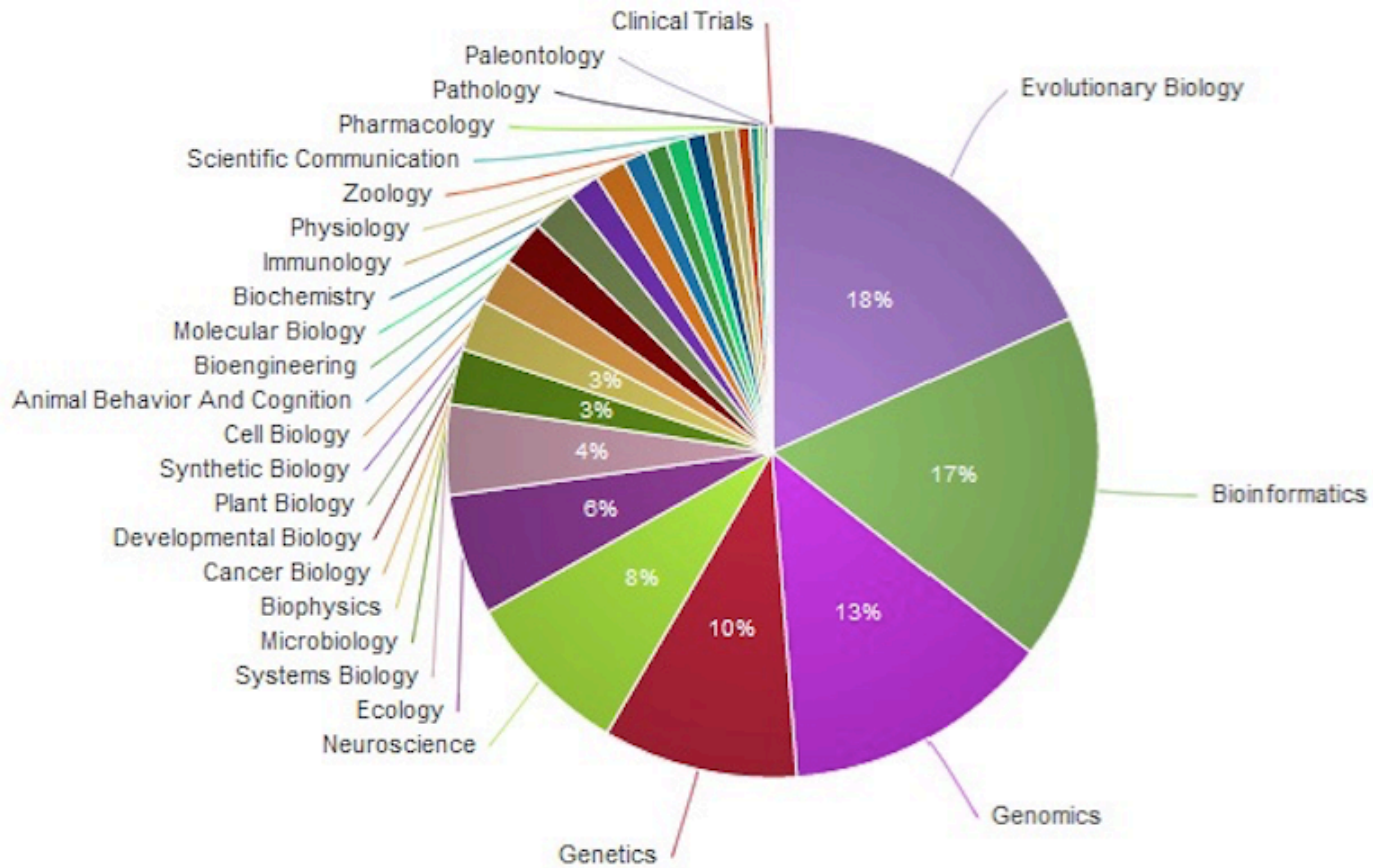


Massive migration from the steppe is a source for Indo-European languages in Europe  
**bioRxiv**



Eight thousand years of natural selection in Europe  
**bioRxiv**

# Disciplines



# Changing preprint policies

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## List of academic journals by preprint policy

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

This article's use of **external links** may not follow Wikipedia's policies or guidelines. Please [improve this article](#) by removing excessive or inappropriate external links, and converting useful links where appropriate into footnote references. (August 2015)

This article has an **unclear citation style**. The references used may be made clearer with a different or consistent style of citation, footnoting, or external linking. (September 2012)

This is a list of **academic journals** by their submission policies regarding the use of **preprints** prior to publication, such as the arXiv, viXra and bioRxiv. Journals focusing on **physics** and **mathematics** are excluded because they routinely accept manuscripts that have been posted to preprint servers.

### Academic presses with unified policies [ edit ]

Press	Policy type	Policy text	Source
American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)	Incompatible	Submission page does not explicitly mention preprints, but numerous communications with the journal have confirmed that they do not consider papers for which a preprint has been submitted.	[1], [2] and [3]
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# Changing citation policies

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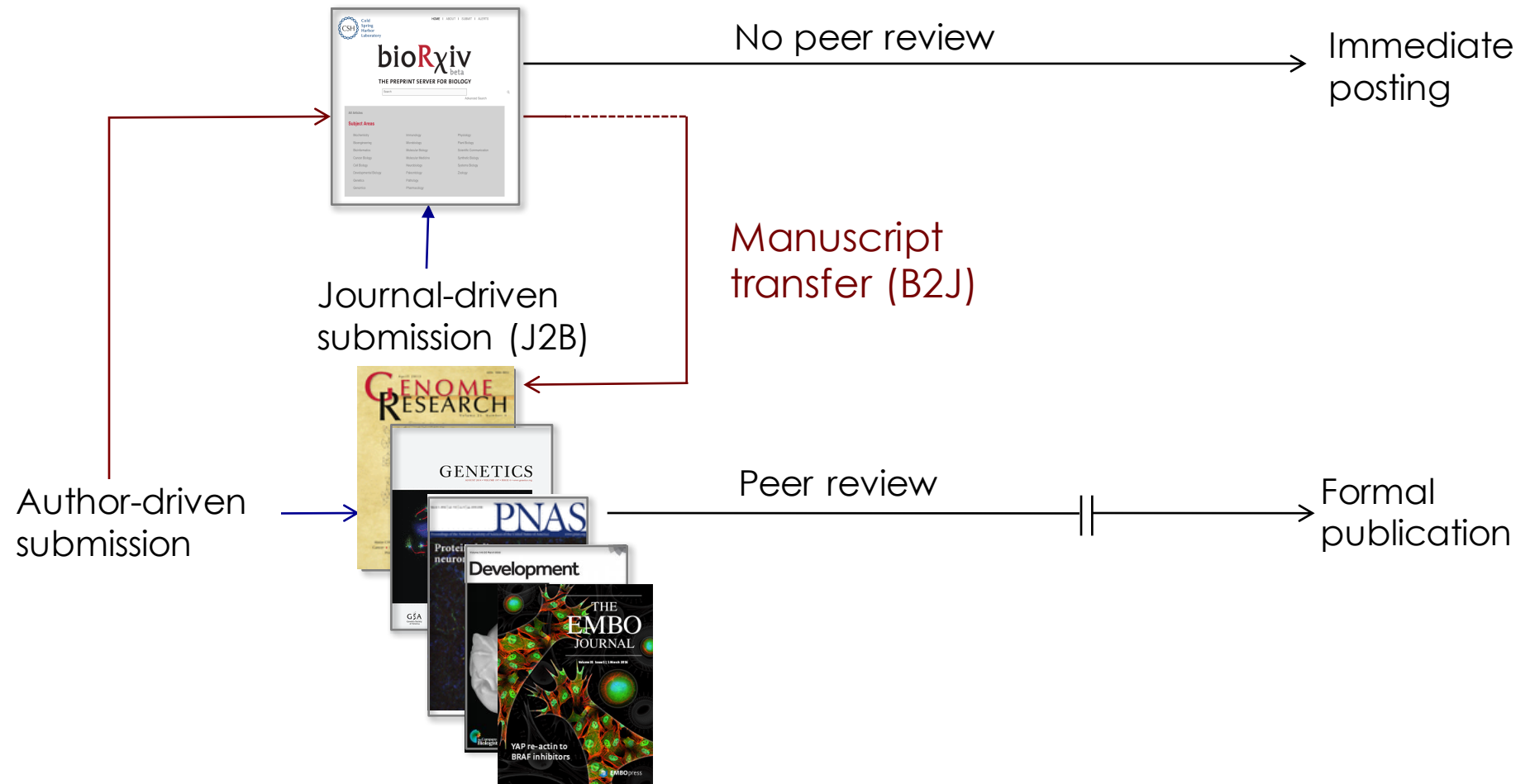


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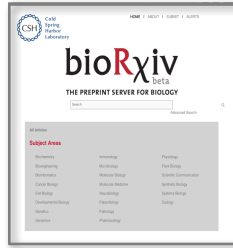
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