

Scholarly Communication transformed by COVID-19 and the current situation in Japan

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This paper covers the following topics in light of recent trends in open science policy and scholarly publishing, as well as the impact of COVID-19.

1. significance of preprints and peer review

Preprints, which suddenly attracted attention at COVID-19, not only provided a new method for understanding the research trends reported in JpGU 2020, but also suggested the existence of an information distribution cycle in the field of information science that is established only by preprints. The preprints are about to become an online medium with values that go beyond the mere drafting of papers. In addition, the importance of original papers and their peer review is being reaffirmed, and a faster and more transparent peer review process is being sought.

2. the usefulness and challenges of research data sharing and publication revealed by COVID-19

COVID-19 has also promoted the utilization of research data and has led to rapid international collaboration.

On the other hand, the incentives for sharing and publishing research data have been limited since before COVID-19. Currently, the submission of data as evidence data for papers is the main move to make it mandatory. In addition to this, the management infrastructure for sharing and publishing research data obtained during the research process is being prepared, but the design of incentives to encourage the actual sharing and publishing of data is yet to be developed.

3) Diversity in the approaches to Japanese-language academic journal publishing

Several Japanese academic societies have Japanese-language academic journals that are different from those that collect original papers with an awareness of the number of citations, which influence so-called university rankings, and consequently question not only the significance of publishing research results in Japanese but also the significance of the research results media.

Open Science is aiming to transform the form of media for publishing research results in line with the digital transformation of research itself, and the proactive efforts of academic societies and those involved in academic journals are required to respond to the changes or take on new challenges.

Keywords: Open Science, Open Access, preprint, Peer review, Publishing in Japanese