

Preprints in Ecology & Evolution

Philippe Desjardins-Proulx,^{1,2,3,*} Ethan P. White,⁴ Timothée Poisot,^{1,2,5} and Dominique Gravel^{1,2}

¹Theoretical Ecosystem Ecology laboratory, Université du Québec à Rimouski, Canada.

²Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science, McGill University, Canada.

³Département des sciences biologiques, Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada.

⁴Department of Biology, Utah State University, United-States of America.

⁵International Network for Next-Generation Ecology.

...

Keywords: Publishing; arXiv; Green Open Access.

I. THE CASE FOR OPEN PREPRINTS

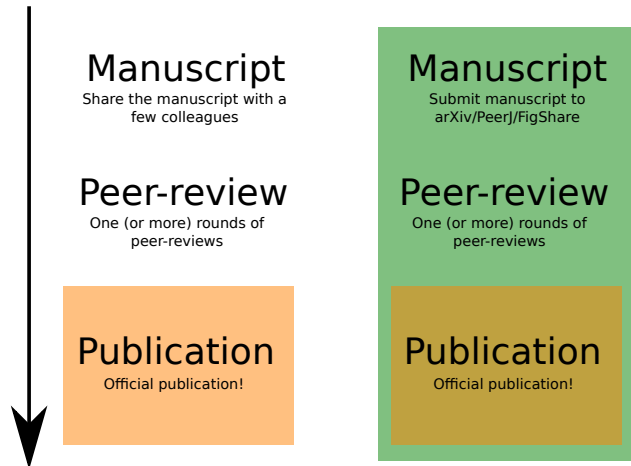


FIG. 1: Since the time between submission and ...

II. PREPRINTS, ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION

While the practice is still rare, preprints are becoming more common in biological sciences, which is experiencing faster growth in arXiv submission than any other fields [2]. Also, most scientific journals are preprint-friendly: Nature, PLOS, BMC, PNAS, Science (mostly), and all the journals from Elsevier and Springer. Very recently, the Ecological Society of America recently changed its policy to allow public preprints (REF). In our field, very few scientific publications will not consider a manuscript submitted to arXiv. Many ecology & evolution journals adopt a “by default” hostile attitude towards preprints, mostly due to the lack of clear policy of the publishers. As an example, Wiley-Blackwell, which publishes some of the leading journal in the field (a quick lsit), has no official policy on the subject.

III. CURRENT OFFER

A. arXiv

arXiv (<http://arxiv.org/>)
arXiv is funded by a network of universities.

B. Figshare

Figshare (<http://figshare.com/>)
All figshare content (article, figures, datasets) have a unique digital object identifier (DOI) like any journal article.

C. PeerJ

D. F1000Research

IV. CONCLUSION

Responding to the rumour that their refused manuscripts submitted to arXiv, Nature responded that “Nature never wishes to stand in the way of communication between researchers. We seek rather to add value for authors and the community at large in our peer review, selection and editing” [1].

*E-mail: philippe.d.proulx@gmail.com

Journal	Publisher	Policy
<i>All journals</i>	Springer	OK
<i>All journals</i>	BMC	OK
<i>All journals</i>	Elsevier	OK
<i>All journals</i>	Nature Publishing Group	OK
<i>All journals</i>	Public Library of Science	OK
<i>All journals</i>	Science	Ambiguous
<i>All journals</i>	Ecological Society of America	OK
<i>All journals</i>	Royal Society	OK
Ecology Letters	Wiley-Blackwell	Refuse
Evolution	Wiley-Blackwell	?
Journal of Evolutionary Biology	Wiley-Blackwell	?
The American Naturalist	University of Chicago Press	OK

TABLE I: Policies for many publishers and some specific journals in ecology & evolution.

-
- [1] Nature Editorial Board. Nature respects preprint servers. *Nature*, 488:19, 2012.
- [2] E Callaway. Geneticists eye the potential of arXiv. *Nature*, 434:257, 2005.