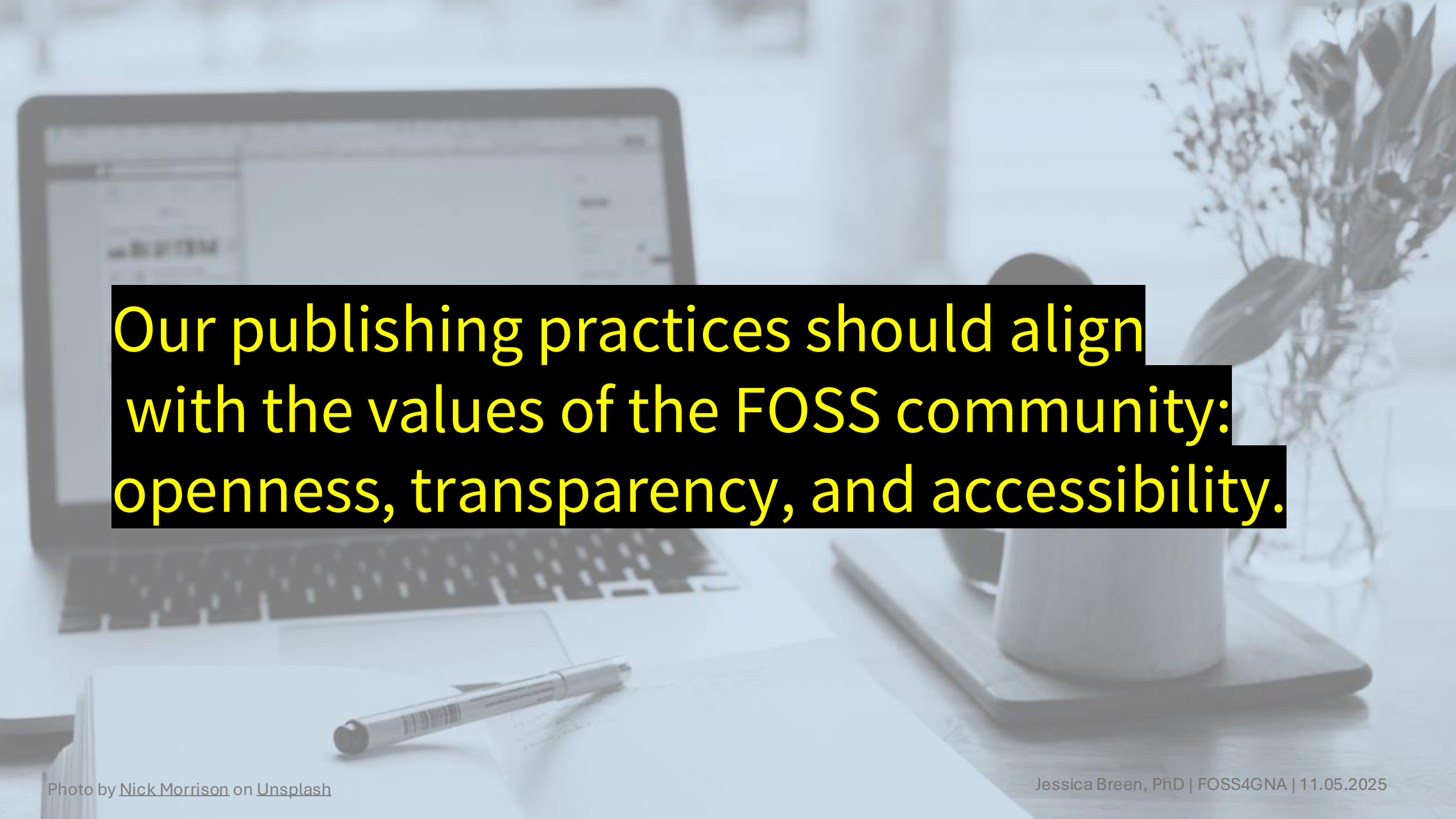# OPENACCESS FOR OPENSOURCE: WRITING AND PUBLISHING FOR THE FOSS4GNA COMMUNITY

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025
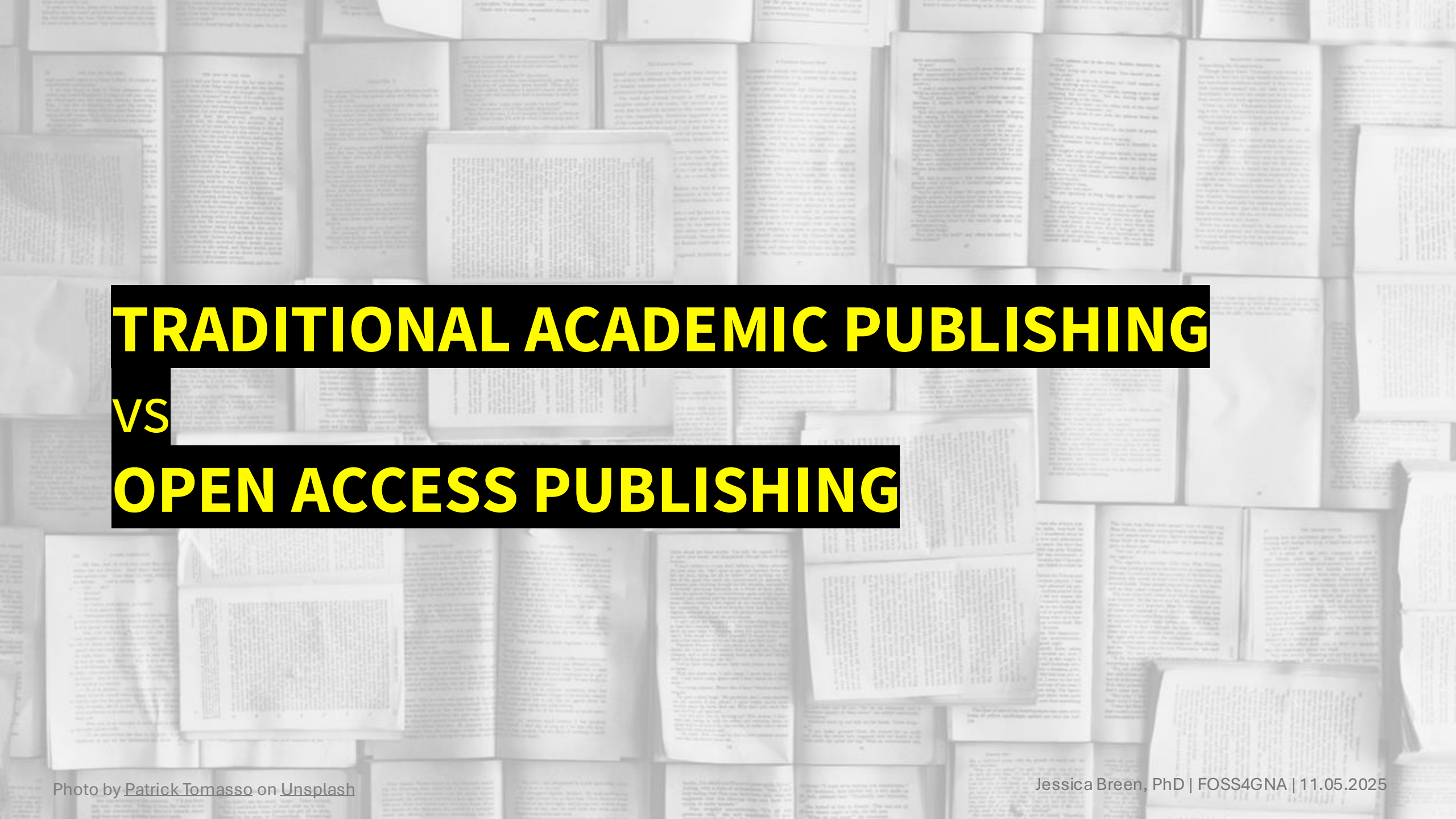
**NEW THIS YEAR:**

A FOSS4GNA Special Issue of Stacks Journal

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

Our publishing practices should align with the values of the FOSS community: openness, transparency, and accessibility.

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

# TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC PUBLISHING

## VS

# OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

**TRADITIONAL MODEL:**
Readers (or libraries) pay to access research.

**OPEN ACCESS MODEL:**
Everyone can read freely — costs are covered upfront.

**TRADITIONAL PUBLISHING:**
You sign away your copyright.

**OPEN ACCESS:**
You keep your rights.

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

**TRADITIONAL REVIEW:**
Anonymous, opaque, and slow.

**STACKS REVIEW:**
Transparent and collaborative.

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

# STACKS JOURNAL PEER REVIEW PROCESS:

1. Reviewer selection
2. Independent review
3. Collaborative phase
4. Voting
5. Transparency

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

# A 2-PAGER IS TYPICALLY:

- Around 800–1200 words
- Includes 1–2 visuals
- Links to your code or data
- Focuses on what you did and why it matters

# TIPS FOR FIRST-TIME ACADEMIC AUTHORS

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

**STRUCTURE: USE WHAT YOU KNOW**

You don't need a fancy structure — clear and simple is great.

Classic scientific-style outline works well:
- What was the problem or context?
- What did you do (tools, data, workflow)?
- What happened or what did you learn?
- What should someone else take away from this?

Think well-documented GitHub README but with more narrative.

**VOICE AND CLARITY**

- Write like you're explaining your project to a smart peer from another field
- Use plain language and short paragraphs
- Avoid acronyms unless you explain them once
- Use an active voice where possible
- It's okay to write in your natural voice

**CITATIONS (DON'T OVERTHINK IT)**

- Zotero is great if you're citing multiple sources
- If you're only referencing a few things use Google Scholar cite button
- You can cite:
  - Software
  - Code libraries
  - Datasets
  - Documentation
  - Blog posts (yes, really — if they're relevant and persistent)

## PUBLISHING DATA

Publishing your data helps others build on
what you've done and gives your work longevity.

Good data sharing options:
- Zenodo – integrates with GitHub, assigns DOIs
- Figshare – good for datasets and figures
- Dryad – often used in environmental sciences
- Institutional repositories — check with your library

**PUBLISHING DATA**

What to include:
- A **README** that explains what the dataset is, how it was collected, and how to
- A **license** (e.g. CC0, ODC-BY) so others know how they can reuse it
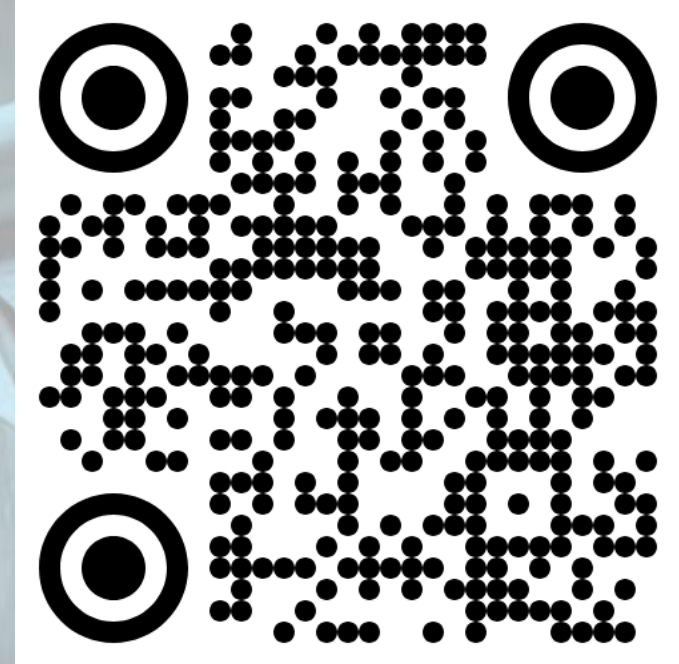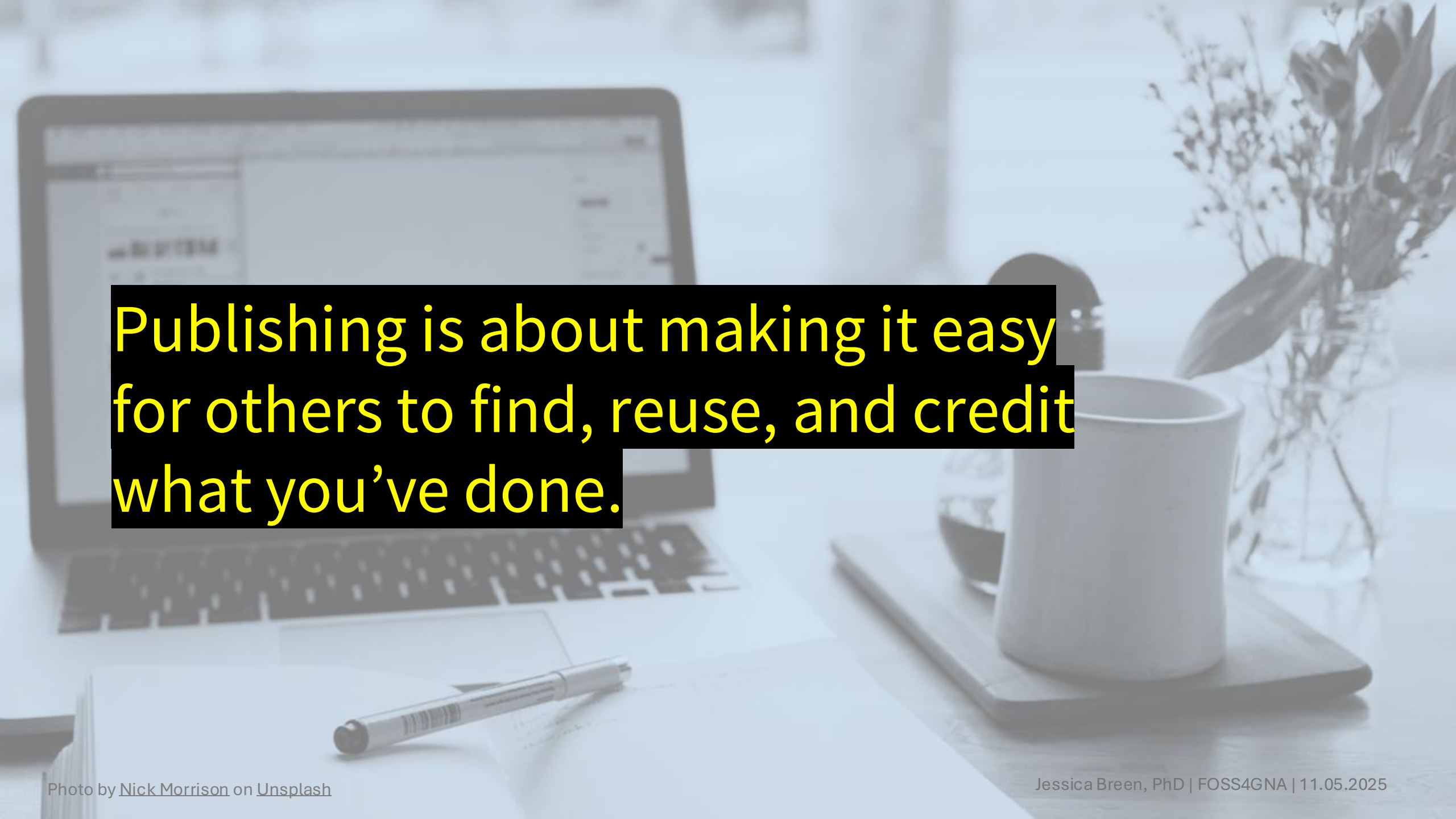- A **citation** suggestion so you get credit

**NEED HELP?**

The Academic Committee is here to support you.

We can:
- Help shape your idea
- Review drafts
- Suggest structure or formatting tips
- Answer questions about the process

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED:**

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

Publishing is about making it easy for others to find, reuse, and credit what you've done.

Jessica Breen, PhD | FOSS4GNA | 11.05.2025

**THANKS.**

**jbreen@american.edu**