

Open Science at ACS: Present and Future Opportunities for ACS Omega as We Celebrate 200 Issues

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By a happy coincidence, *ACS Omega* publishes its 200th issue a week before this year's International Open Access Week (October 24–30, 2022, <https://www.openaccessweek.org/>). This dual celebration gives us an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as a journal as well as on the many other opportunities in Open Science that have become available to authors and researchers at ACS Publications since the journal published its first issue.

The theme of this year's International Open Access Week is 'Open for Climate Justice'. This reminds us that chemistry will be instrumental in solving one of humankind's most urgent and pressing existential challenges. But for the researcher to provide the greatest impact, we must facilitate greater access to, and transparency of, the scientific enterprise. From open access publications to open data to preprints and transparent peer review, every step we take toward transparency and visibility builds ever more robust scientific literature and knowledge. The success of ACS Publications' open access portfolio of 12 journals reflects the global chemistry community's support of open access. *ACS Omega* alone has published almost 16,000 articles with nearly 22 million downloads to date, growing appreciably in its published content and influence since its launch.^{1,2} In June 2022, we were proud to receive more evidence of the journal's impressive performance when we learned that *ACS Omega* achieved an Impact Factor of 4.132, a CiteScore of 5.2, and a 5-Year Impact Factor of 4.197. In addition, *ACS Omega* articles were cited 41,528 times in 2021.

This scale-up and interest in publishing open access at *ACS Omega* have been driven in no small part by significant growth in funder and institutional backing for open access. We are pleased that ACS has entered into transformative open access publishing agreements (also called "Read + Publish agreements") with over 560 universities and research centers in 26 countries (<https://acsopenscience.org/read-publish-agreements/>), simplifying the process for researchers wanting to make their work open access. Hundreds of articles have been published via these Read + Publish agreements at ACS Publications' open access journals.

In addition to expanding the open access journal portfolio, with the launch of *JACS Au*³ and the ACS Au community journals⁴ in 2021, we welcome ACS' commitment to making it easy for researchers to adopt open science practices. The use of preprints to share early results with the community continues to grow, with the ChemRxiv server (<https://chemrxiv.org/>) having already posted over 14,000 preprints.⁵ Authors can also submit their preprint manuscripts to any one of more than 150

chemistry journals (including *ACS Omega*) from ChemRxiv via [Direct Journal Transfer](#). No presubmission inquiry is required when authors choose to transfer or submit their manuscripts from preprint servers to *ACS Omega*.

We also watch with interest two ongoing pilot programs. First, the [transparent peer review](#) pilot in *ACS Central Science* and *The Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters*⁶ has so far resulted in the publication of more than 250 articles with accompanying peer review reports since its launch in Fall 2021. The second pilot implements more open data requirements using the [ACS Research Data Policy](#). The pilot, run in *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*, *Organic Letters*, and *ACS Organic & Inorganic Au*,⁷ encourages authors to publicly share all the data underlying the results reported in the paper while requiring a Data Availability Statement describing the public availability of the data supporting the article's conclusions. The outcomes of these pilots will be evaluated for their practicality and implementation at *ACS Omega* to enhance the quality of the peer review process and the robustness of the research presented.

We are excited to hear that the team at ACS is running a series of webinars throughout Open Access Week, accompanied by the launch of a new "journey to open science" tool that we encourage you to explore. Using this tool, participants can identify which open science workflows they have already adopted and are provided with guidance on how to take their next steps in working toward a more open future. If you would like to join in, you can find more information on the ACS Open Science Web site.

In closing, on behalf of our team of Editors, Editorial Advisory Board members, and staff, we thank you for being part of our *ACS Omega* community of authors, reviewers, and readers. Your participation has helped the journal thrive. We are grateful to have you as part of our global community as we celebrate our 200th issue and International Open Access Week. We are excited as we look forward to a more open future and publishing our next 200 issues with your assistance!

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Notes

Views expressed in this editorial are those of the authors and not necessarily the views of the ACS.

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