Open access publishing models and policies have been at the heart of NPG’s business development and strategic thinking throughout the last decade. NPG has consistently been an early mover in embracing the open access debate as a natural consequence of new technologies, from ceasing to require copyright transfer on research articles in 2002, to NPG’s self-archiving policy and first open access options introduced in 2005. Now NPG’s focus is broadening beyond open access to open science, seeking to facilitate transparent, open scientific communication through data services, collaboration tools and public accessibility and reuse.

NPG continues to expand the open access options it offers to authors, with new open access journal launches and open access options on many subscription journals. The first of these open access options were introduced in 2005, and NPG now publishes over 60 journals that are open access or offer open access options. This includes 100% of the journals published in partnership with academic and society partners. NPG published over 2000 open access articles in 2012.

Launched in April 2010, *Nature Communications* was the first Nature research journal to offer authors an open access publication option for original research articles, on payment of an article processing charge. The 2012 Journal Citation Report (JCR)* placed *Nature Communications* at #3 in the top 10 Multidisciplinary Sciences titles and the journal now receives more submissions per month than *Nature* (as of June 2013).

Adding to NPG’s growing portfolio of open access journals, *Scientific Reports* launched in June 2011, and publishes technically sound original research papers across the natural sciences. Entirely open access, and hosted on nature.com, *Scientific Reports* received its first impact factor this year of 2.927. The scope of the journal has recently been broadened to include the clinical sciences, and we are now open for submissions across all fields of medical research.

Both *Scientific Reports* and *Nature Communications* reached the milestone of 2000 published papers in June 2013, and their submission and publication rates continue to grow rapidly.

In 2013, emerging open access publisher Frontiers joined the NPG family in a strategic alliance to advance the global open science movement. Working with NPG, the journal series “Frontiers in” will significantly expand in 2013-2014.

Frontiers drives innovations and new technologies around peer-review, article and author impact analytics, social networking for researchers, and a whole ecosystem of open science tools.

Frontiers, led by CEO and neuroscientist Dr. Kamila Markram, operates with its own platform, brands, and policies and together with NPG aims at empowering researchers to change the way science is communicated, through open access publication and open science tools. [www.frontiersin.org](http://www.frontiersin.org)
Scientific Data, a new open-access, online-only platform for the publication of descriptions of scientifically valuable datasets will launch in Spring 2014. It introduces a new type of content called the Data Descriptor, which will combine traditional narrative content with curated, structured descriptions of research data, including detailed methods and technical analyses supporting data quality.

The research data described in Scientific Data will be hosted in one or more public, community-recognized repositories. Full release of the data will be verified as part of the peer-review process. Scientific Data aims to work with trusted community repositories to help promote data sharing and dissemination, and to progressively help promote community standards.

Launching in January 2014, Horticulture Research joins a growing list of open access journals published by NPG.

Other recent launches have included Clinical & Translational Immunology and Emerging Microbes & Infections.

To view our complete list of journals, visit www.nature.com/libraries/open_access.

Horticulture Research is led by Editor-in-Chief Dr Zong-Ming (Max) Cheng, Joint Professor in the College of Horticulture at Nanjing Agricultural University and in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Tennessee. An open access journal, Horticulture Research will offer authors a choice of Creative Commons licenses, including Creative Commons Attribution (CCBY). An article processing charge will be levied on acceptance. All published articles will be freely accessible to a global audience immediately on publication.

Author licensing options

In 2013 the CC-BY license option has been introduced on twenty-two further NPG journals, including Nature Communications. Of the 61 NPG journals that are open access or have open access options, 42 now offer the choice of CC-BY as one of the options.

21 of these journals are published by NPG on behalf of publishing partners and either offer open access options, or are open access journals. They join Scientific Reports and the 19 NPG-owned academic journals that introduced CC-BY in 2012, and are all now fully compliant with the Wellcome Trust and RCUK revised public access policies which came into effect on 1 April 2013, requiring a CC-BY license when their funds are used to pay open access article processing charges.

- The CC BY license is available to authors choosing open access publication options in these journals, in addition to two non-commercial Creative Commons (CC) licenses.
- The CC BY license allows for articles to be distributed and amended, including for commercial opportunities. Papers can be developed upon, as long as attribution is given to the original work and its authors.

NPG’s self-archiving policies meet or exceed all major funder and public access policies, enabling every author who publishes with NPG to comply with public access mandates.

Be kept informed

To stay up to date about our activities in the open access space, visit the NPG librarian gateway to sign up to the NPG Communication Alert and indicate ‘Open Access’ as an area of interest to you – we’ll be in touch when there’s anything relevant to share.

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