

Highlights report 2021

A note from Antonia Seymour, chief executive

In last year's annual report, just as I was about to become chief executive of IOP Publishing, I pointed to more uncertainty ahead. I remained optimistic that the resilience and adaptability that I had seen from my colleagues throughout the pandemic would continue to see us succeed, and it has. We've achieved another set of outstanding results in 2021.

Ensuring that everyone has been able to work safely and effectively from home means that we have been able to maintain our services to authors, reviewers, librarians, conference organisers and society publishing partners. Building on the positive elements that working from home has introduced, we've now adopted a progressive new way of working. Our approach centres on trust and autonomy, guided by a new set of 'Ways of Being' that give a clear expression of what we stand for as an organisation. We're re-imagining our global offices to provide spaces where people want to come together and connect and we're supporting this with the right technology, devices and tools so colleagues can stay productive and engaged no matter where they are working.

More broadly, we are seeing an industry in transition. Library budgets remain challenged, and researchers have an enormous variety

opportunities to work in the most inclusive and sustainable way.

Ensuring service excellence and creating efficiencies for the scientific community

Publishing in numbers

total number of articles published

growth of IOP Conference Series articles

growth in articles published OA

total number of article downloads, up by 24%

of all journal articles were publishing OA on our platform

growth in total journal usage

Impact of our journals

Our journal content featured in the top 10% of their specific areas, demonstrating the value and relevance of the research we publish driving new advancements across the physical sciences.

IOP Publishing journal titles are in the top 10% of their specific areas

Increased demand, improved level of service

Recognising the importance of combining peer review excellence with efficiency and speed, 2021 saw our review times hugely improve.

Tracking article progress

Our track my article tool has been used over 700,000 times in 2021 which is over 1,900 uses per day.

Submission support

We've introduced Paperpal Preflight, a pre-submission service for authors to receive feedback on their manuscript, to all peer review managed titles. Every day 50 authors use our new pre-submission feedback service.

Continuous availability of service

Last year, content on our IOPscience platform was available for 99.95% of the time. This achievement is a great result, considering increased cyber security attacks are seen within the sector.

Modernising content services with new APIs and Gateways

We've now migrated 1.3 million journal articles and all of our ebooks to a new JATS content format. This means our content can be seamlessly cross-searched and linked opening our content to the wider publishing infrastructure via modern API standards. New gateways distribute our content to 70 external services, supporting effective discovery and usage.

Seamless Access to our content

Since the implementation of Seamless Access onto IOPscience, we have seen an 82% increase in usage generated via federated authentication, a vital improvement to our service during the global pandemic.

World-leading science news

The *Physics World* website saw year-on-year growth in users and pageviews, with an additional 1.75 million users and 2.6 million pageviews across the year. Total pageviews in 2021 of almost 13 million, with an average of more than 1 million pageviews per month.

Physics World ran 75 webinars in 2021 with an average of nearly 300 registrants per session.

Making research openly available

Open Physics in numbers

We now publish 26 open access (OA) journals

growth of the number of articles published OA

of all journal articles were published OA

Our conference series published more than 77,000 OA papers

Open access through transformative agreements

Transformative agreements (TAs) continue to be the most sustainable vehicle in the transition to OA. In 2021, we secured another five TAs with: Sweden, Israel, Finland, Ireland, Canada. We now have TAs with 242 institutions in 14 countries.

For example, we now see close to 100% OA publishing of eligible articles with our agreement with the Swedish Consortium Bibsam, and we expect the same uptake from all of our new TAs.

Transparent peer review

We have moved all our OA journals to transparent peer review making us the first physics publisher to adopt the approach portfolio-wide. Transparent peer review involves publication of the complete peer review process, from initial review to final decision.

"With this exciting new development we will bring greater transparency to research published in IOP Publishing journals and increase the quality of the peer review process whilst aiding teaching of best practice in peer review."

Marc Gillett, Head of Publishing Operations, IOP Publishing

New data policy

The introduction of our new open data policy has resulted in over 35,000 data availability statements. The policy will be updated again in 2023 to further encourage data transparency.

Supporting the American Astronomical Society to flip their journals to OA

In September we supported the American Astronomical Society (AAS) when they transitioned their entire journal portfolio to gold OA. In the first month since flipping to fully OA, the AAS journals have seen an impressive 620% increase in monthly article downloads.

Making abstracts openly available

By joining the Initiative for Open Abstracts, we've made 160,000 abstracts openly available through Crossref making our research searchable in this cross-disciplinary database.

Papers indexed on MyScienceWork

We've created one of the largest collections of academic journals, books and conference series in physical sciences on the MyScienceWork platform.

Improving author choice

During the year we launched a series of new open access (OA) journals expanding our authors' options to publish with us.

Three new environmental journals

Three fully OA environmental journals were launched in response to the growing demand for environmental research outlets: *Environmental Research: Health*, *Environmental Research: Climate*, *Environmental Research: Ecology*.

IOP Publishing's Environmental Research Series now comprises six OA titles that collectively address all major areas of environmental science. We expect the growth in this scientific field to accelerate further in the coming years.

Top Cited Paper Awards

Designed to give high-quality Chinese and Indian research greater visibility and recognition.

Top Chinese papers awarded

Top Indian papers awarded

Mark Reed Young Researcher Award

From more than 80 nominations, we've selected the winner of the Nanotechnology Young Researcher Award, recently renamed in honour of Professor Mark Reed, to celebrate early career brilliance.

IOP Publishing for environmental change

We are committed to supporting a greener economy and have joined industry-wide sustainability pledges.

We have become a signatory of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Publishers Compact. In support of the SDGs, we have brought together more than 72,000 SDG-related articles, journals, books, and reports.

number of industry signatories that have come together to sign this pledge so far

maximum global warming level we commit to achieving

level of emissions we commit to achieve as soon as possible, and by 2050 at the latest

Physics societies for environmental change

Twitter Poster Conference

Our Twitter poster conference, once again brought the global scientific community together for online discussions and knowledge exchange.

- 11 subject categories
- 9 different countries represented
- 30,000 impressions
- 400 comments

Training and support

Throughout the year we've supported the scientific community by offering webinars on 'How to get published', librarian support training, excellence in peer review and scientific talks from expert speakers.

- In 2021, we've organised 52 webinars

Tracking progress

Our 'track my article' tool for authors has been used over 700,000 times in 2021 which is over 1,900 uses per day. The integration of the tool on WeChat, the Chinese multi-purpose app, resulted in 3,514 authors tracking their work with our service.

Our global reach

