

# Review of: "Publish or perish: time for a rethink?"

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Comments relative to the manuscript "Publish or perish: time for a rethink?"

The manuscript lists interesting data and observations about scientific publishing pressure and economy. I believe that each of the treated points is highly relevant, but I missed a convincing organization of the subjects as well as a clear thesis. For instance, does OA publishing represent a major problem in terms of economic structure or fraudulent practice? Is publishing pressure a problem for the quality of the presented results, a problem of knowledge dilution that challenges the real possibility to read it or a burden that indirectly decreases the chances to provide excellent teaching/training? Are both positive and negative results potentially useful? Maybe a more schematic approach would simplify the presentation of the individual issues.

I'd suggest the authors to deal with other publishers' practices that might represent an ethical problem and a distortion of the article quality evaluation, namely the support to the dissemination strategies to improve the work altmetrics (indeed, a practice supported also by scientific institutions that pay professionals for doing this job). Also in this case the problem is generated by the implementation of "objective evaluation criteria" for the assessment of article impact.

Another point comes from my personal experience as a reviewer and editor, I've no reference to confirm it, but I've the impression that the reviewing quality tends to decrease due to the increasing number of manuscripts to deal with (the editors often do not make a preliminary screening of the manuscripts and find only second/third choice reviewers because the most appropriate specialists are overcommitted).

Probably the increasing relevance of artificial intelligence in manuscript writing should be mentioned.

Finally, many (most of?) funding agencies now require to publish in OA journals: might be an option using this money to promote a non-profit OA platform, instead of feeding the big private players?