SPRINGER NATURE

ADVANCING DISCOVERY

Assessing the open access effect for hybrid journals

Springer Nature and Digital Science have released a new comparative study of articles published in Springer hybrid journals

A significant advantage for open access (OA) articles

On average:

4x more downloads of OA articles than non-OA articles

1.6x more citations of OA articles than non-OA articles across all subjects

2.5x more Altmetric attention

OA articles attracted 1.9x more news mentions and 1.2x more policy mentions

We performed two multi-disciplinary studies:

1. Global sample

73,925 journal articles:
3,004 OA articles
70,921 non-OA articles

2. UK case study

9,114 journal articles:
3,087 OA articles
6,027 non-OA articles

Modelled* results also found a significant advantage for OA:

296% more downloads

36% more cumulative citations

219% more news mentions

166% more policy mentions

*Negative Binomial Generalised Linear Models and Negative Binomial Generalised Linear Mixed Models used based on models run in R (package lme4).

We controlled for:

- **Institutional reputation** based on the proxy of a university ranking
- **Journal Impact Factor** as a proxy for perceived journal prestige
- **Geographic region**
- **Subject field**

About Springer Nature

Springer Nature is leading the way on open research. We champion the issues that matter to the research community, standing up for science and advocating the highest quality and ethical standards. Springer Nature is home to some of the industry leaders in open access including Nature Research, BMC, Springer, and Palgrave Macmillan.

In 2017, we published:

75,000+ OA articles
in 600+ fully OA journals

15,000 OA articles
in 1,900+ hybrid OA journals

Read the full white paper: https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.6396290