Living Publications and Continuous Data Sharing in Medical Research: Insights From a Cross-sectional Survey on Living Publication Models

Poster 26

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Background

- A living publication is a dynamic research model that enables continuous post-publication updates, ensuring the work remains current by integrating new findings in real time

Objectives

- To assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of medical research professionals regarding living publications and data sharing in the context of living publications
- To identify perceived barriers to the adoption of living publication models

Methods

- This mixed-method, online, cross-sectional, validated questionnaire study was conducted over 2 months
- Responses were gathered through LinkedIn using a snowball sampling approach.
- Informed consent was obtained from all respondents
- Descriptive statistics were analyzed using SPSS (IBM Corp. Released 2012. IBM SPSS Statistics for Windows, Version 21.0. Armonk, NY: IBM Corp.)

Results

Total respondents: 102

Gender distribution: Men: 51%; women: 49%

Mean age: 42.4 ± 13.03 years (range: 22–67 years)

Mean professional experience: 13.4 ± 9.4 years (range: 1–37 years)

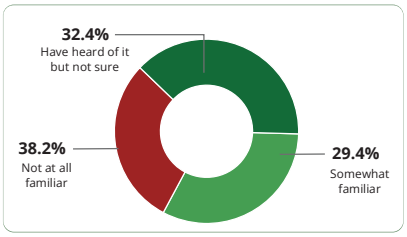
Professional expertise of respondents: Medical affairs research, medical writing, medical oncology, microbiology, dentistry

Publication experience: 32.3% with ≥20 peer-reviewed articles published

Knowledge and data sharing in the context of living publications

- Indicated familiarity with the concept of living publications to some extent: 32.4% **(Figure 1)**

Figure 1: Awareness of the concept of living publications

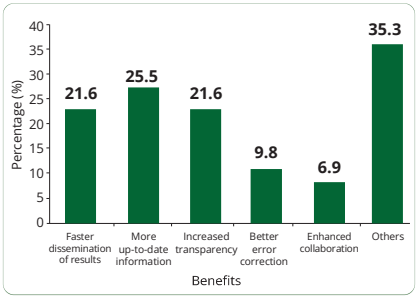


- Reported awareness of journals or platforms supporting living publications: 35.3%
- Documented fair to very good knowledge of data sharing in living publications: 79.4%
- Stated familiarity with version control systems: 40.2%

Attitude, willingness, and data sharing in the context of living publications

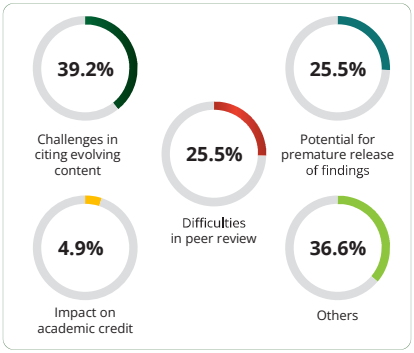
- Expressed living publications as beneficial or extremely beneficial: 42.1%
- Reported several benefits of living publications **(Figure 2)**

Figure 2: Main benefits of living publications



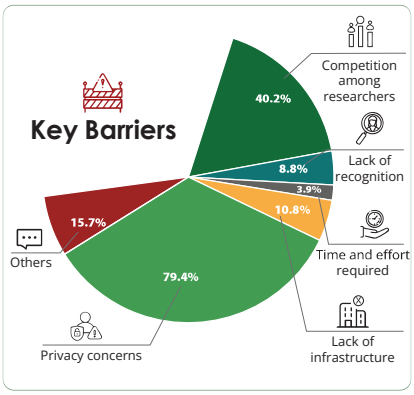
- Highlighted challenges associated with living publications **(Figure 3)**

Figure 3: Challenges associated with living publications (multiple responses)



- Emphasized data sharing as very important to important: 75.5% (barriers were noted) **(Figure 4)**

Figure 4: Key barriers to living publication model including data sharing

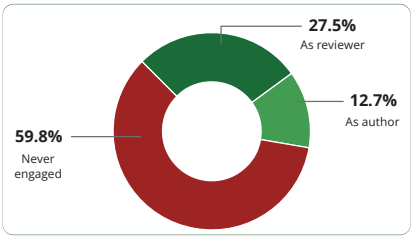


- Demonstrated a willingness to adopt the living publication model: 52.0%

Practices and data sharing in the context of living publications

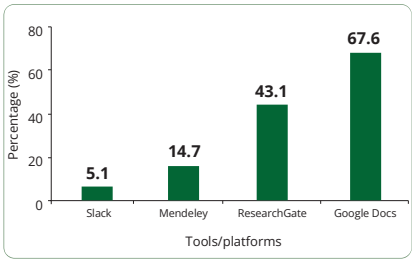
- Conducted post-publication updates: 14.7%, mainly through follow-up papers (66.7%)
- Reported public sharing of research data: 28.4%, primarily *via* institutional repositories (69.0%)
- Engaged in post-publication peer review **(Figure 5)**

Figure 5: Engagement in peer review process



- Utilized different tools/platforms for research collaboration **(Figure 6)**

Figure 6: Tools/platforms used for research collaboration (multiple responses)



Conclusion and Future Directions

- The study highlights a knowledge gap in living publications, although participants expressed a willingness to adopt them despite existing barriers and challenges
- Awareness should be spread regarding living publications to improve publication practices and instill transparency. However, technical barriers and resource constraints impede progress
- Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts, including:

Educational intervention: Workshops and training programs to familiarize researchers with platforms and tools

Policy advocacy: Encouraging journals and institutions to adopt standards that support living publications

Technology solutions: Development of user-friendly version control and data sharing platforms

References

1. Akl EA, Meerpohl JJ, Elliott J, *et al*. Living systematic reviews: 4. Living guideline recommendations. *J Clin Epidemiol*. 2017;91:47-53
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