



F.O.R.M.

OPEN SCIENCE RESOURCES

WHAT ARE PRE-PRINTS?

DEFINING PRE-PRINTS

Pre-prints are research papers made publicly available by authors on open-access platforms before they undergo formal peer review, enabling rapid sharing and community feedback.

WHY DO THEY MATTER?

Pre-prints are being adopted by the scientific community for several reasons:



IMMEDIATE DISCLOSURE

Studies have shown that articles with associated pre-prints receive 36% more citations, significantly boosting their academic presence and influence.



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM

For funders and hiring committees, pre-prints provide a clear and public record of a researcher's productivity and ongoing contributions to their field.

Researchers can establish their priority by posting pre-prints, making their completed studies immediately available without any access barriers.



ENHANCED VISIBILITY

Pre-prints invite feedback from the research community, allowing authors to refine their manuscripts and enhance the quality of their work before official publication.



PROOF OF CONTRIBUTION

ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

While preprints can benefit researchers in many ways, they come with their own set of challenges:

Absence of Initial Peer Review:

Pre-prints are made public before formal peer review, which means the research is not yet validated. However, pre-prints may still receive informal feedback through comments on preprint platforms, allowing for early critique and revision.

Variability in Quality:

The absence of traditional peer review means the quality of pre-prints can vary widely, presenting a mix of both high-quality and less rigorous research.

Ethical Concerns

There are ethical concerns related to the potential misuse of preprints, such as premature media coverage or use of unvalidated findings to influence public policy or clinical practice.

Intellectual Property Risks

Posting pre-prints might expose researchers to the risk of their ideas being stolen or scooped by other scientists who may develop the ideas further without giving proper credit.

Impact on Journal Acceptance

Some journals may be reluctant to accept manuscripts that have already been posted as pre-prints, though this is becoming less of an issue as more journals are adopting preprint-friendly policies.

Data Integrity

The lack of standardised data reporting in pre-prints can lead to inconsistencies and difficulties in interpreting the results, which may affect the reproducibility and reliability of the research.

RESOURCES

Learn more about pre-prints and their role in the open research ecosystem through these selected Open Access resources:

[ASAPbio's "Preprints: Information and FAQs."](#)

[Center for Open Science's "A Guide to Preprints"](#)

[Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)'s "Preprints and Publication Ethics"](#)

[FORM'S "Normalising Pre-prints: The MENA Dialogue"](#)

ABOUT FORM:

The Forum for Open Research in MENA (FORM) is a non-profit membership organisation supporting the advancement of Open Science policies and practices in research communities and institutions across the Arab region.

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