

Nature Publishing Group Makes Read-Only Articles Available to All

A recent announcement by Nature Publishing Group is garnering attention and comments from observers of scholarly publishing trends. On December 2nd, an [article](#) by Richard Van Noorden entitled: "*Nature* makes all articles free to view: Publisher permits subscribers and media to share read-only versions of its papers" was posted on the NPG site.

Excerpt: "All research papers from *Nature* will be made free to read in a proprietary screen-view format that can be annotated but not copied, printed or downloaded . . . The content-sharing policy, which also applies to 48 other journals in Macmillan's Nature Publishing Group (NPG) division, including *Nature Genetics*, *Nature Medicine* and *Nature Physics*, marks an attempt to let scientists freely read and share articles while preserving NPG's primary source of income — the subscription fees libraries and individuals pay to gain access to articles."

ReadCube, a software platform similar to Apple's iTunes, also featured the [announcement](#). It will be used to host and display read-only versions of the articles' PDFs.

Note: Subscribers, including authenticated NU users through the Galter Library, will still be able to download and print content the library has licensed.

The announcement was immediately reported in the [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) site. Readers' comments illustrate the spectrum of opinions about the ramifications of this move by NPG and there are critics as well as sceptics. The author of [one blog post](#), for example, believes that this is a step in the wrong direction for open access.

Whether other publishers will follow the example of NPG remains to be seen.

Printed: Monday, September 18, 2023 10:31 AM

Source: <https://galter.northwestern.edu/News/nature-publishing-group-announcement-about-new-content-sharing-policy.pdf>