



# PUBLISHING IN THE PANDEMIC

The dissemination of, and access to, research has never been more vital. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen significant growth in both the submission and readership of content. As a responsible publisher we continue to adapt and accelerate our publishing output to ensure the latest research, evidence and data is, and continues to be, as discoverable as possible. A snapshot of what this looked like, and the impact during 2020 can be seen below.

## CONTENT USAGE



**+110%**

**MORE DOWNLOADS**  
2020 compared to 2019

During the pandemic we have been making all relevant global research, and data, immediately available. Our free content initiatives reached significant numbers of users.



**96m**

**ARTICLE DOWNLOADS**  
COVID-19 journal content



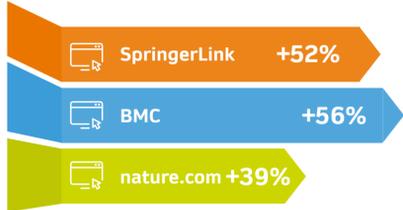
**1.1bn**

**CHAPTER DOWNLOADS**  
Free textbook initiative

### WEBSITE VISITS +48%

TOTAL 2020 GROWTH

Activity on our content platforms significantly increased in 2020, compared to 2019.



### INSTITUTIONAL DOWNLOADS\*

TOTAL 2020 GROWTH

Remote access support for library customers and their users combined with strong interest in research content significantly increased global institutional downloads compared with 2019.

**+9%**



**+18%**



**+14%**



NOTE: Some of this is driven by the increase in interest in the freely accessible COVID-19 content and our free textbook campaign to support students learning remotely.

NOTE: \*excluding OA and archival content.

## FACILITATING AND ENHANCING REMOTE ACCESS

Keeping our research platforms fully available and facilitating remote access has been at the forefront of our collaboration with libraries across the world. The lessons learnt during this time will benefit all of us beyond the pandemic. Read about our remote access collaborations [here](#)

## SUBMISSIONS



**+24%**

**INCREASE IN SUBMISSIONS**  
year on year

### JOURNAL ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

TOTAL 2020 GROWTH

In addition to a high number of COVID-19 related articles, submissions continue to show strong growth across all disciplines.



Medicine  
**+46%**



Life Sciences  
**+19%**



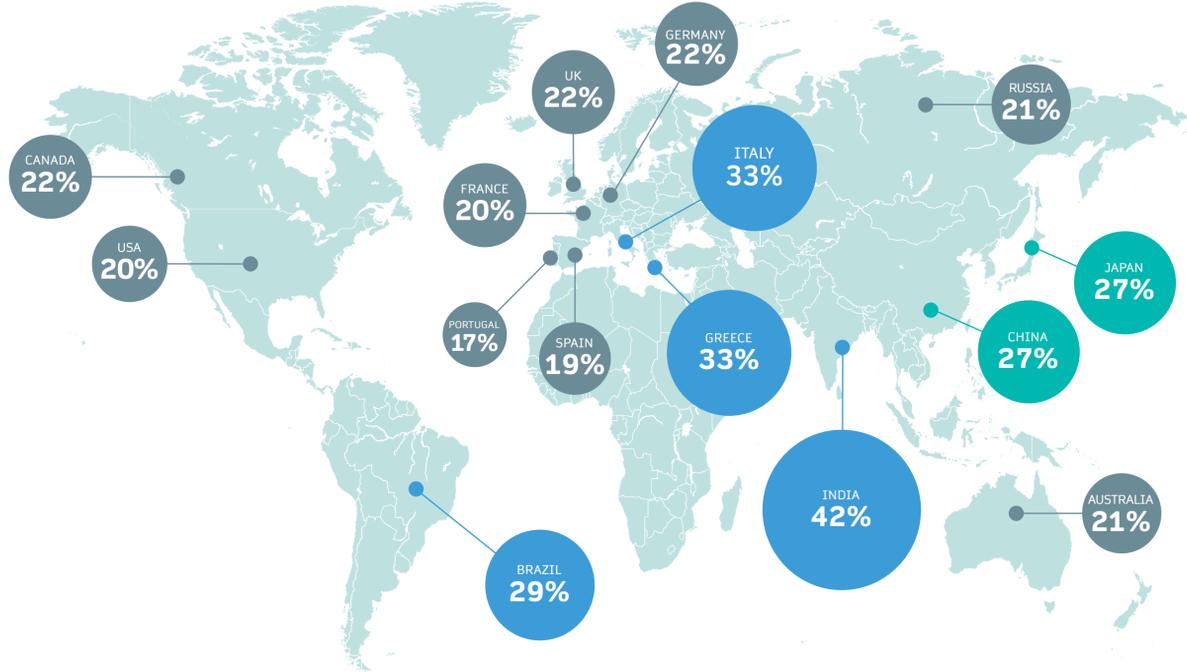
Physical Sciences  
**+15%**



HSS  
**+26%**

Despite the impact of lockdown, researchers have been busy, taking the opportunity to write up their recent research and finalise articles for submission.

## SURGE OF SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL COUNTRIES



## PUBLISHED ARTICLES

As lockdowns were implemented and offices were closed around the world, our now remotely working teams stepped up to support the increase in volume and speed of publications.



**372k**

**ARTICLES PUBLISHED**  
9% more than in 2019



**24k**

**NEW COVID-19**  
articles published

### ARTICLES IN FULLY OA JOURNALS

**+12% to 92k**

### ARTICLES IN SUBSCRIPTION & HYBRID JOURNALS

**+9% to 280k**



**70k**

**CORONAVIRUS RELATED ARTICLES**  
made free in 2020



[link.springer.com](http://link.springer.com)



[Biomedcentral.com](http://Biomedcentral.com)



[nature.com](http://nature.com)

During 2020, as well as 70,000 articles and book chapters, we also provided free access to significant numbers of textbooks, preprint articles and the experimental datasets of newly published COVID-19 articles. Explore more, including our 'research in the time of the pandemic' blog series at [springernature.com/coronavirus](http://springernature.com/coronavirus)

We continue to closely monitor the impact of the pandemic so we can ensure we are effectively responding and adapting to the changing needs and support required by the research community. To help inform universities' medium and long term planning, we have commissioned experts to provide critical research on the impact COVID-19 is having on the exact sector we are relying on to get us out of the crisis. [Read the reports](#)