

# Publishers as Partners

Martin Donnelly  
Manager, Funder Relations (Open Science)  
Royal Society of Chemistry

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# Overview

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- Position: Open Science is integral to the RSC's mission, **to support the chemical sciences community to make the world a better place**
- It is essential to address global challenges at a quicker pace than before, and in fundamentally more collaborative ways
- Assertion:  $\boxed{\uparrow}$  openness and transparency =  $\boxed{\uparrow}$  quality, robustness, longevity, trustworthiness and global impact of research and research outcomes
- Admission: some publishers have not always been willing collaborators in the journey towards Open. However, as a not-for-profit organisation we believe we have an important role to play (and less of an agenda!)
- Progress: what have we done at the RSC, and what have we still to do?
- Discussion: what concrete actions can we take to work together more effectively?



# 1. About the RSC

- The Royal Society of Chemistry traces its roots to 1848
- As a learned society we are concerned with advancing chemistry as a science, developing its applications, and disseminating chemical knowledge via our publishing operations
- We always seek a holistic approach, and our publishing activities are strongly influenced by our work in areas such as research culture, advocacy and diversity & inclusion
  - We support teachers to inspire future generations, and we speak up to influence the people making decisions that affect us all.
- Headquartered in UK, but firmly international in outlook, as evidenced by our author base and editorial board makeup
- Organisational belief that Open is the future, and entirely consistent with our mission **“to foster and encourage the growth and application of [chemical] science by the dissemination of chemical knowledge”**
- We just need to find the right way to get there...

**Chemistry is at the centre of everything you can see, smell, touch and taste.**

Whether studying the chemistry of life, or developing the advanced science behind modern technology, chemical scientists use their expertise to improve our health, our environment and our daily lives.

Collaboration is essential. We connect scientists with each other and society as a whole, so they can do their best work and make discoveries and innovation happen.

We publish new research. We develop, recognise and celebrate professional capabilities. We bring people together to spark new ideas and new partnerships. We support teachers to inspire future generations of scientists. And we speak up to influence the people making decisions that affect us all.

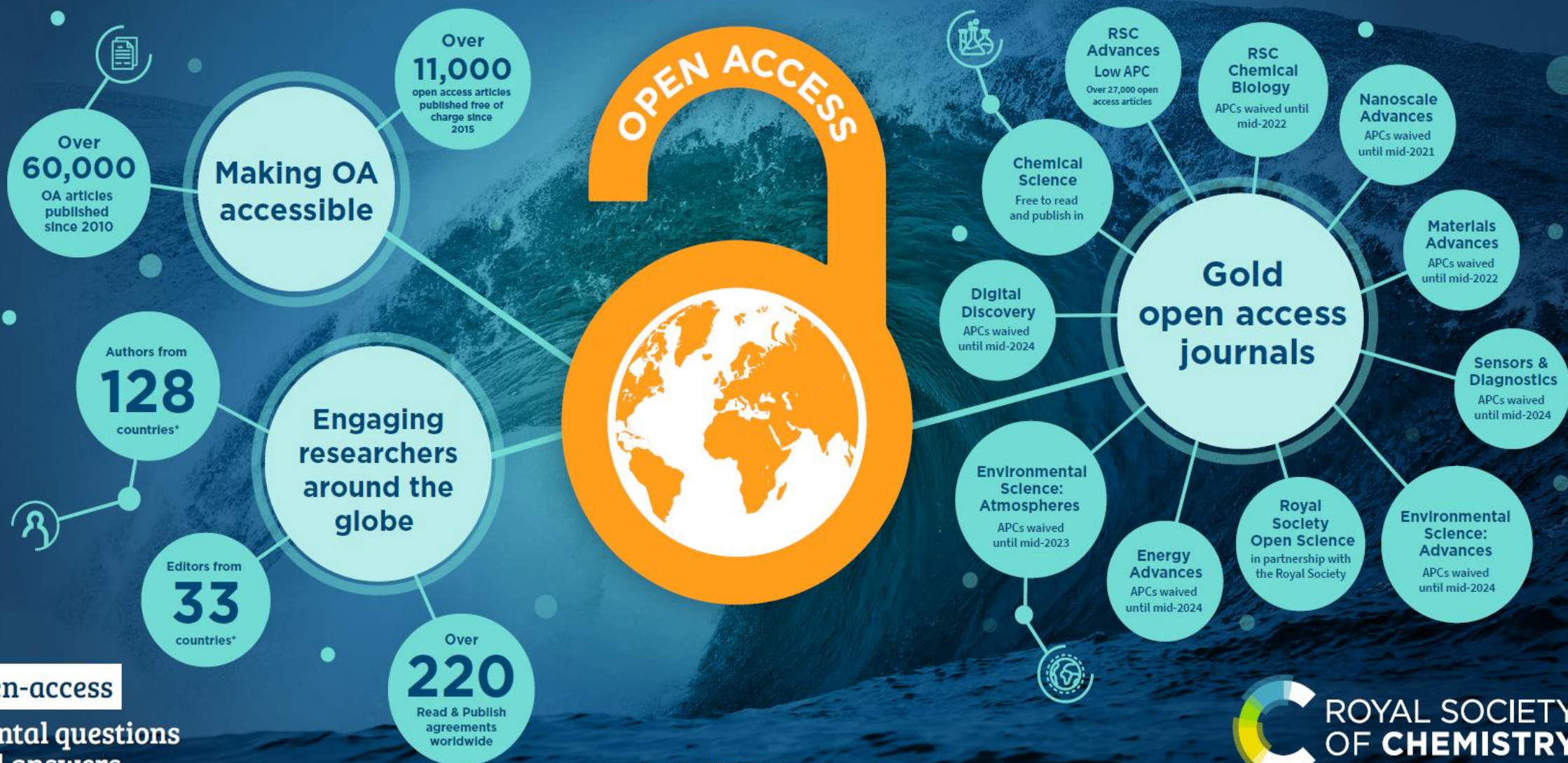
We are a catalyst for the chemistry that enriches our world.



# Global Community



# How do we make new waves in open access?



[rsc.li/open-access](https://rsc.li/open-access)

Fundamental questions  
Elemental answers

\*Data for 2020 Publications



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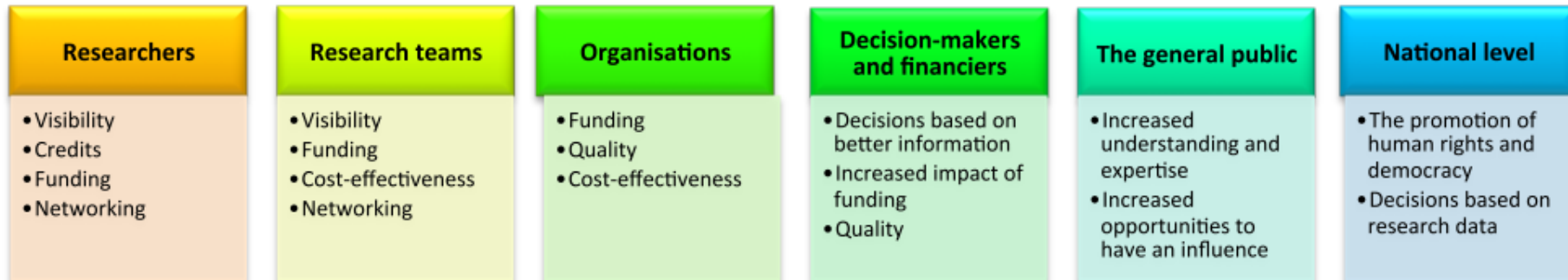
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## 2. Why Open Science is good for everyone

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[Link to the Open Science and Research Handbook, source of the above diagram](#)

**Also, research is a cumulative, interlinked ecosystem. Loss of trust in one paper trickles down and corrodes trust in the entire enterprise.**



# 3. Mea (nostra?!) culpa

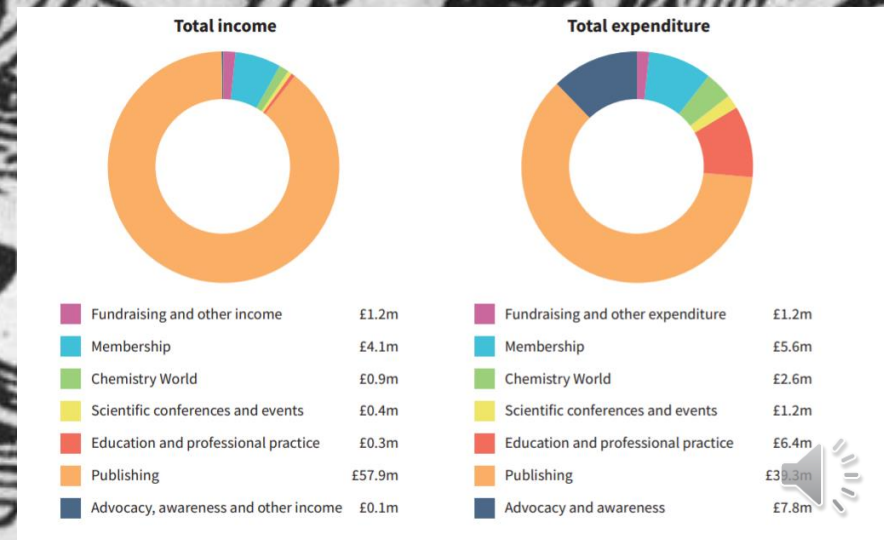
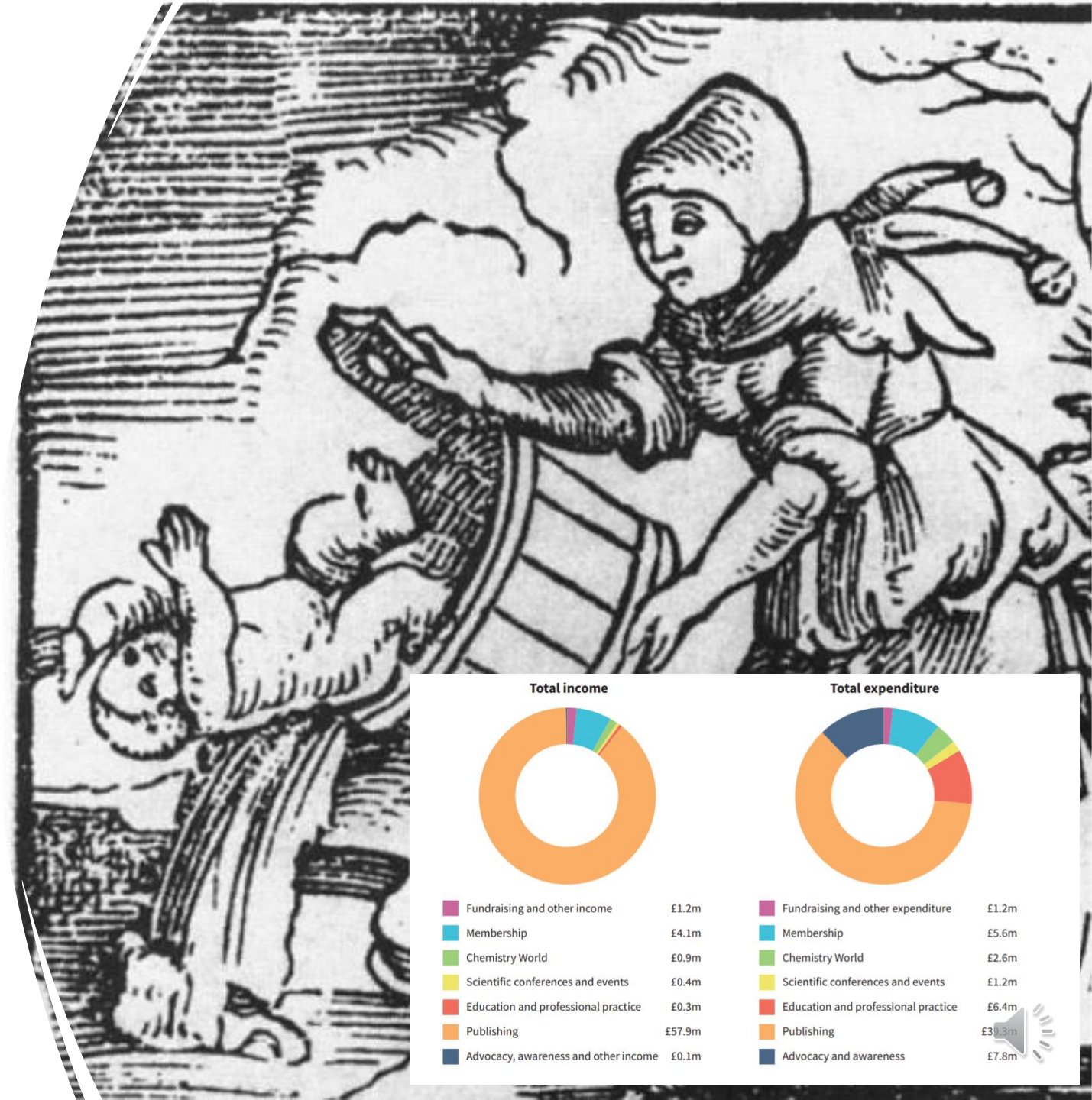
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# 4. The baby and the bathwater

- That said, like all publishers we have legitimate concerns – while we do not operate for profit, we still have to keep the lights on
- In addition to all the work we do in organising peer review, preserving the scholarly record etc, our publishing revenue also supports advocacy, awareness raising, education, early career researcher development, and many other worthy activities...

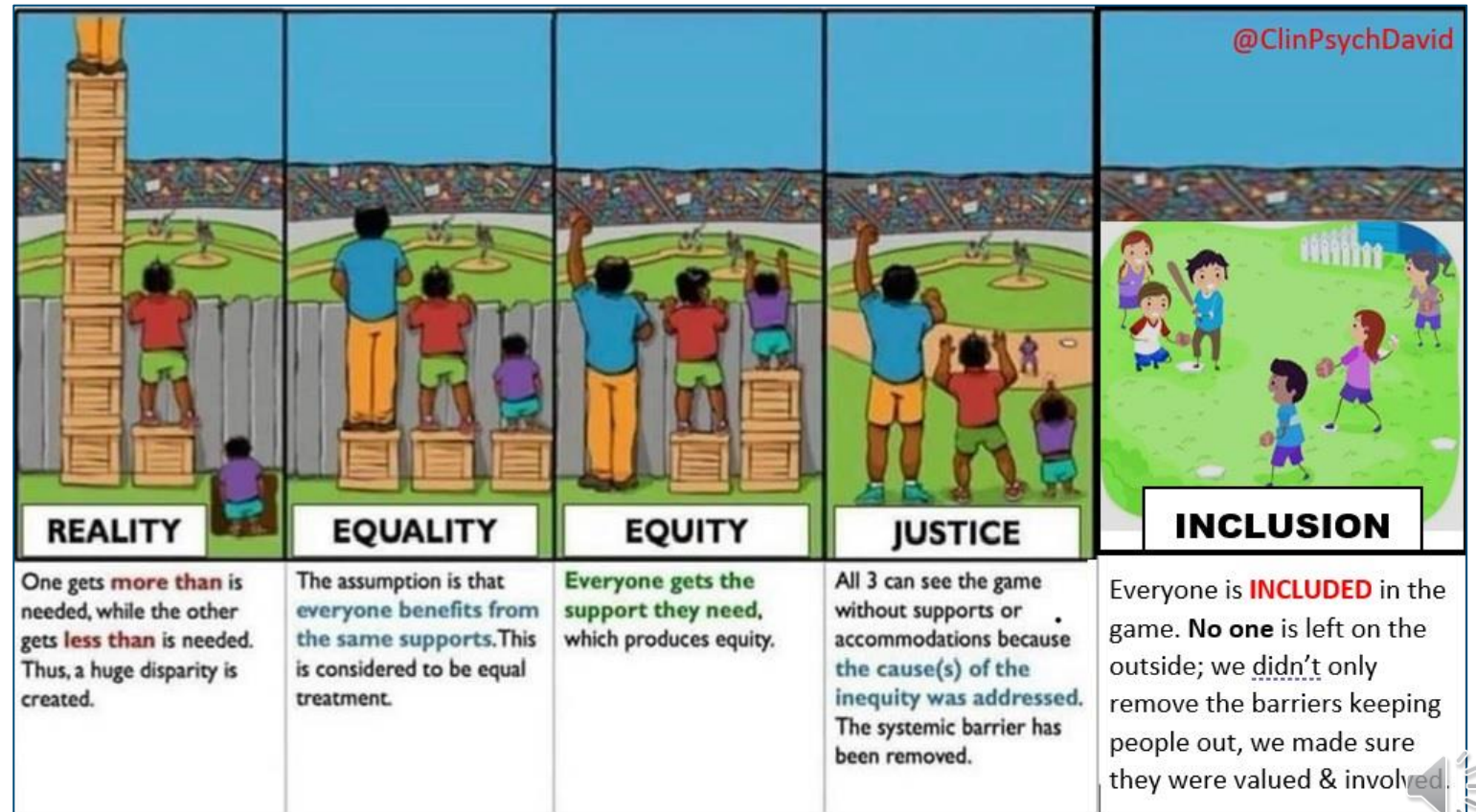


# 5. The goal: going beyond “equality” of access

OPEN ACCESS WEEK 2021

*It Matters How We Open Knowledge:  
Building Structural Equity*

OCTOBER 25-31



[Link to Tweet source of Equality image above](#)

# 6. Recent Open Science progress

- Focus on Diversity and Inclusion
- Adoption of CRediT roles taxonomy
- Signed up to DORA and committed to reducing focus on impact factors
- Double anonymised peer review in *Chem. Sci.* (our diamond OA flagship journal)
  - [Link to RSC news story about transparent peer review](#)
- Introduction and normalisation of Data Availability Statements
  - *Digital Discovery* journal has the strictest data sharing policy. We mandate Data Availability Statements and have data reviewers who run the code and/or check if the data is deposited according to our editorial policies. Data reviewers are invited in addition to the regular reviewers and reviews only the data aspect of the paper.
- Increased engagement with peers via ALPSP, OASPA and SocPC, as well as multi-stakeholder round-tables etc



# 7. Ongoing work and future plans

- Increased engagement with Open Science, working collaboratively with funders and other stakeholders
- Tiered and transparent pricing
- Software and protocols sharing... the missing link?
  - We do already have a platform for sharing protocols: ChemSpider Synthetic Pages. [Link to ChemSpider](#)
- Metadata: it takes a village...
  - “The fact is, we cannot resolve every broken link in the ecosystem, as much as we would like to do everything possible to reduce user friction and increase research productivity. In our experience, **the highest return on metadata investments comes where publishers, libraries, and technologists work together to scale the production and maintenance of quality metadata.** This is where information standards and terms of engagement come into play, **to establish the trust necessary in a value chain like scholarly communications.** Identifiers like the DOI or protocols like KBART provide the basic infrastructure upon which scholarship operates.” (The Experience of Good Metadata: Linking Metadata to Research Impacts, Conrad and Urberg, 30 September 2021. [Link to Scholarly Kitchen article cited here.](#))
  - Citations in our articles were made open in early 2017, but there’s more to be done here!

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- Events – in person, virtual, hybrid
  - Information (and perspective) sharing via roundtables, symposia, etc
  - Other forms of connection?  
**Tell us what works for you!**



# Thank you / Takk

 [DonnellyM@rsc.org](mailto:DonnellyM@rsc.org)

 @MKDonnees

