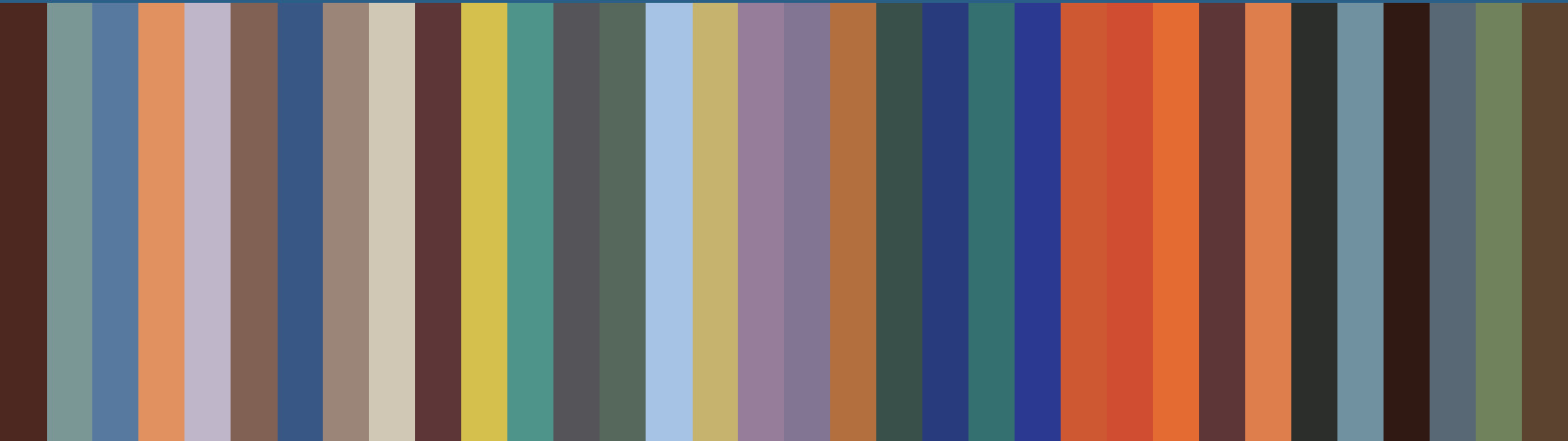




**ANNUAL
REVIEWS**

**IMPACT
REPORT 2023**



Dear Annual Reviews Community,

Volume 1 of the *Annual Review of Biochemistry* was published in 1932. Today, authors, editors, and Annual Reviews staff are working on the 93rd volume of our inaugural journal, as well as on the upcoming volumes of the 50 other Annual Reviews journals. In total, our 51 journals will publish around 1,250 reviews in the coming year, covering the Biomedical, Life, Physical, and Social Sciences.

These reviews continue to be prized publications. Each one captures the current understanding of a significant research topic, distinguishing between well-established knowledge and preliminary findings. They reflect upon the past by setting contemporary knowledge within its historical framework, peer into the future by illuminating unanswered questions and potential avenues of exploration, and look outward by summarizing practical applications and describing the broader societal significance of the research.

Given the well-established approach of Annual Reviews and the evident value it provides, you may be curious about our decision to produce this first-ever Impact Report. The reasons are transparency and accountability. We want to explain how fulfilling our mission of “synthesizing and integrating knowledge for the progress of science and the benefit of society,” has evolved into a multifaceted undertaking. We are committed to making all our content fully open access; to enhancing diversity, equity, and inclusion among our staff, editors, authors, and readers; to elevating the role of research in public discourse through our general science publication *Knowable Magazine* and other initiatives; to sustainability in our operations; and to confronting in our publications the formidable challenge posed by the climate crisis.

This Impact Report is a summary of our strategy, the initiatives that flow from it, and the measurement of those initiatives. We share our experiences in the hope that others may derive benefit from them, and we seek feedback to help us learn and improve. If you have comments on our current activities or suggestions for further initiatives, we would love to hear from you.

To the many people whose time and expertise contribute to our mission, we offer sincere thanks. These include the Board of Directors and the members of our Editorial Affairs Committee and Business Affairs Committee; the hundreds of researchers who serve on the Editorial Committees of our journals; the authors who provide such profound scholarly contributions, and the staff whose talent and diligence make it all possible. Here’s to them and to a meaningful future for Annual Reviews, serving science and society.

Sincerely,



Richard Gallagher

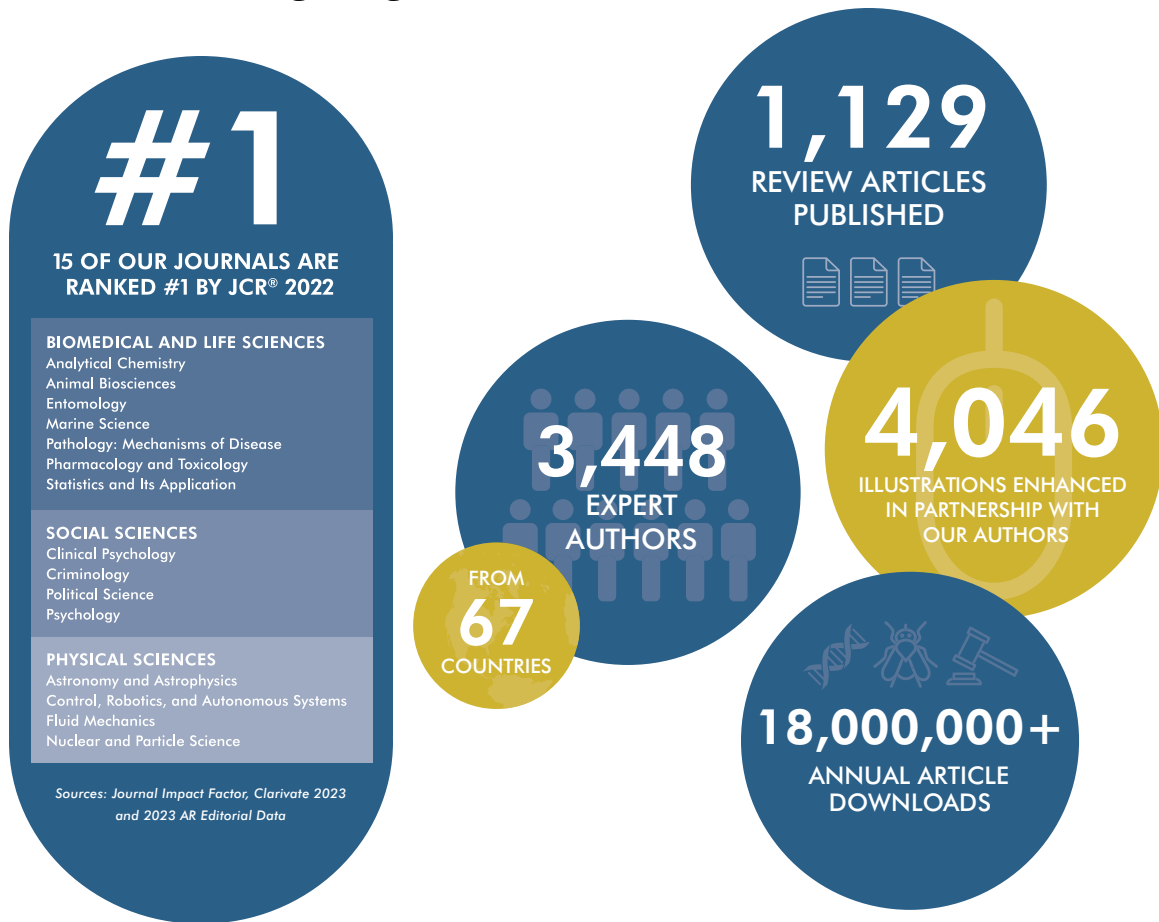
President and Editor-in-Chief
rgallagher@annualreviews.org



Karen Cook

Chairperson
kcook@stanford.edu

Content Highlights



Annual Reviews articles provide an overview of current understanding, key questions and future directions. Here is a selection of highly downloaded articles from 2023.

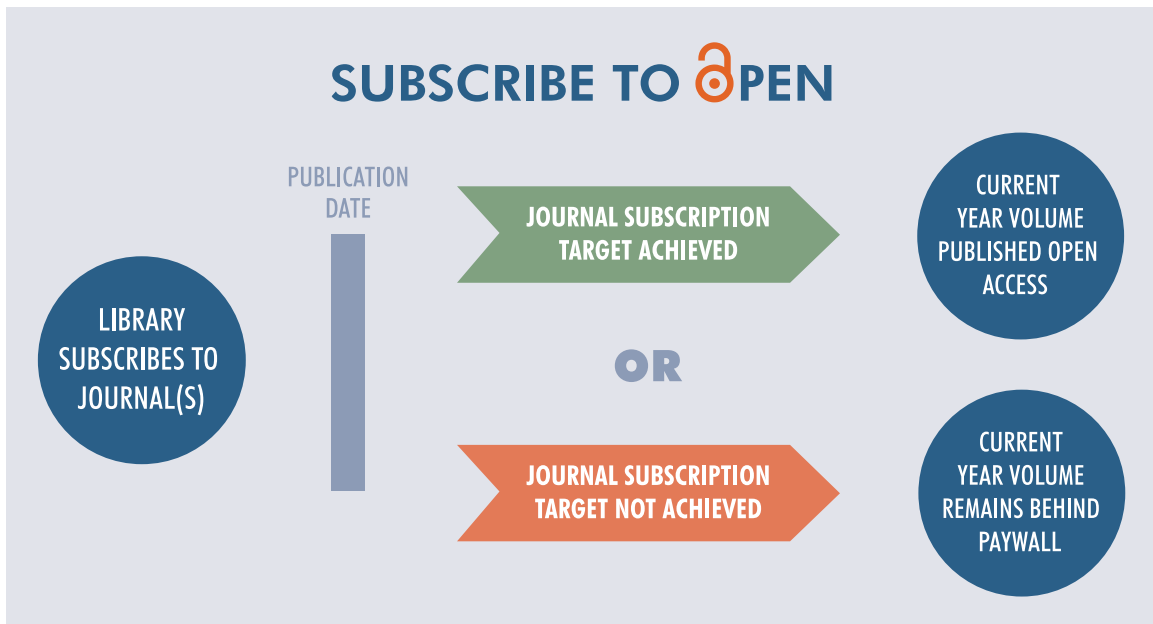


Making Knowledge Available to All

In the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, we temporarily removed the paywall to all our journal articles to ensure that researchers and students working from home continued to have access to the reviews. This resulted in an immediate—and enormous—spike in traffic: within a few weeks, four times as many articles were being downloaded. Seeing this, we committed to permanently removing the paywall as quickly as possible. This necessitated the creation of a completely new open access business model, which has been fully implemented in 2023.

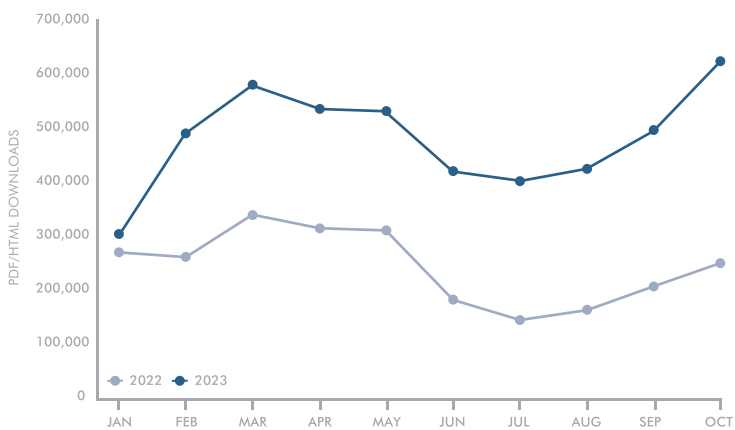
Open access (OA) is an important concept aimed at making scholarly knowledge accessible to everyone. However, the established strategies to fund open access were not applicable to Annual Reviews (for example, it would be improper to invite researchers to contribute review articles then send them a bill to cover the publication costs). Thus, we developed a new approach, called Subscribe to Open (S2O).

Under S2O, institutional customers continue to subscribe to the journals that their patrons value. If support is sufficient, new volumes are published open access; if support is insufficient, the paywall is retained.



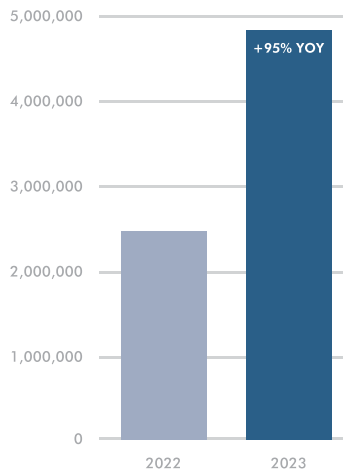
On April 5, 2022, we committed publicly to converting all 51 journals to open access in 2023. This has been achieved, and we thank and applaud the support from our subscribers. S2O will continue to be Annual Reviews' business model for the foreseeable future, and we are not alone: more than 20 other publishers will publish 145 journals open access in 2023 with S2O.

Usage Growth with S2O*



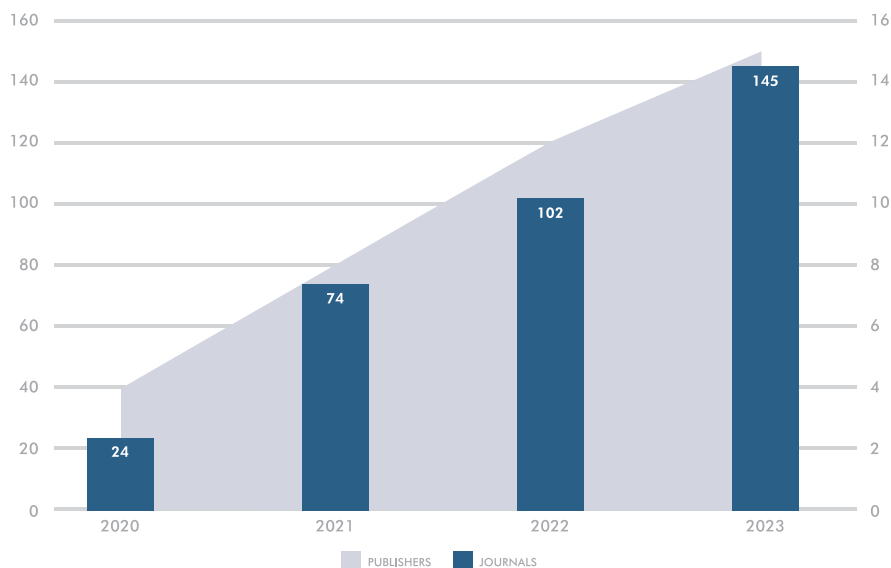
*Journals included in the above graph published OA in January 2023: Criminology, Entomology, Fluid Mechanics, Linguistics, Marine Science, Medicine, Organizational Psychology and Organizational Behavior, Pathology: Mechanisms of Disease, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Psychology.

Total Article Downloads



Recently, Annual Reviews has embarked on an extensive partnership with the library and information community. Together, we initiated the Community of Practice for Subscribe to Open that has assisted many publishers in implementing S2O; organized experiments that broaden the scope of the approach; and engaged researchers, librarians, deans, and funding agency leaders in discussions on transparent and equitable open access.

Adoption of S2O | Community of Practice



Making a Commitment to the Knowledge Community

Three recent acquisitions have strengthened our connection and commitment to librarians and information scientists. In June 2022, we welcomed *The Charleston Advisor*, a publication for collection librarians, to our group. And in October 2023, we announced the acquisition of Charleston Hub, home of the Charleston Conference, the premier international library event, and *Against the Grain*, the journal connecting publishers, vendors, and librarians.



ANNUAL REVIEWS CONNECT WITH OUR EXPERTS

For immediate release

Nonprofit Publisher Annual Reviews Acquires Charleston Hub

Organizer of the Charleston Conference - a collaborative gathering of librarians, publishers, and vendors - joins venerable publishing group.

(San Mateo, CA, USA, October 10, 2023) — Nonprofit publisher Annual Reviews is pleased to announce that it has acquired [Charleston Hub](#), home of the [Charleston Conference](#), the premier international library event, and [Against The Grain](#), the journal connecting publishers, vendors, and librarians.

Librarian and entrepreneur Katina Strauch organized the first Charleston Conference in 1980, with just 20 people in attendance. Over the years, the event has expanded into “something of an institution in the library world.”¹ This year, almost 2,000 people will come together in Charleston, South Carolina, and others will join the remote presentations scheduled for November 27-December 1st, 2023. In 2020, Charleston Hub was created to bring together the various websites associated with the conference.

[Richard Gallagher](#), President and Editor-in-Chief of Annual Reviews, said, “Libraries play a crucial role in ensuring that the research enterprise is impactful and equitable. This acquisition will preserve and extend a conference that addresses topics such as open science, data curation, and the role of artificial intelligence. We are excited to add the conference, *Against the Grain*, and other key Charleston Hub products to the Annual Reviews portfolio. It reinforces our commitment to the knowledge community, following our [acquisition of *The Charleston Advisor*](#) last year.”

[Katina Strauch](#) reflected on her search to find the right partner for the Charleston Hub. “After many discussions with countless potential buyers, I am gratified that Annual Reviews has come forward. Their vision for our team assures that those who rely on the Charleston Hub will continue to enjoy cutting edge information, mentorship, and continuity of leadership.”

[Leah Hinds](#), Executive Director of the Charleston Hub, stated, “I am pleased that Annual Reviews has made a commitment to the Charleston Hub, an esteemed resource for information and networking. The current Charleston team will remain in place, and Annual Reviews recognizes and supports the philosophy and values on which the Conference was founded and continues today. I look forward to broadening our collaboration with the library and scholarly communication community to effectively navigate the knowledge economy.”

This news will be discussed in person at the start of the four-day Charleston Conference in November 2023 by Richard Gallagher, Katina Strauch, and Leah Hinds.

About: Annual Reviews is an independent nonprofit publisher dedicated to synthesizing and integrating knowledge for the progress of science and the benefit of society. Visit <https://www.annualreviews.org> and follow [@AnnualReviews](#).

About: The Charleston Hub brings together librarians, vendors, and publishers to discuss areas of common interest and to find relevant information. Visit <https://www.charleston-hub.com/> and follow [@chsconf](#).

For further information or questions please email: lallen@annualreviews.org.

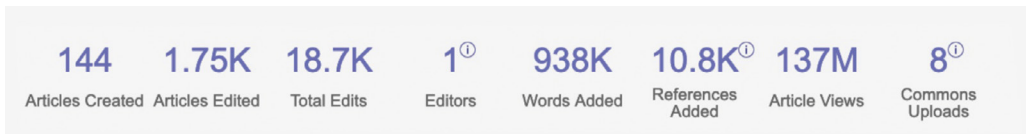
Making Knowledge Accessible to All

Our efforts to deliver research knowledge to the entire community extend beyond making the journals open access.

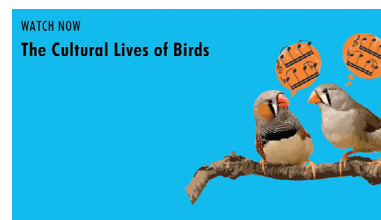


One project is a collaboration with Wikipedia, the world's largest reference website with a billion visitors per month and a major gateway to scientific and medical information. Divisive online voices often amplify disinformation, making fact-based perspectives harder to hear. Working with Wikipedia, Annual Reviews is helping to make accurate information easily findable. We were one of the first publishing companies to offer free access to trusted Wikipedia medical editors through the Wikipedia Library. In June 2020, we went further and engaged an experienced Wikipedia Editor. Our Wikipedian-in-Residence adds relevant Annual Reviews article references to Wikipedia entries and creates pages about scientists, research organizations, and scientific topics. She is improving the reliability of the encyclopedia daily and allowing its users to gain a deep dive into subjects of interest.

Impact of the Annual Reviews Wikipedian-in-Residence



Free online events have become a popular component of our outreach. Our live conversations and audience–researcher Q&As address topics relevant to society and day-to-day lives, such as mitigation of climate change in urban centers, health equity, and the workings of the brain at different life stages. Each event includes a lively chat forum for viewers to connect with one another and dedicated time for audience questions. More than 10,000 people from around the world have attended nearly 30 live online events with more than 30,000 viewing the replays.



Making Knowledge Engaging to All

Open access removes paywalls from academic literature, but the knowledge contained in journal articles can be difficult for non-specialists to understand, enjoy, and apply. Annual Reviews has taken several actions to build a better bridge between research and application.



In 2017, we launched *Knowable Magazine*. It uses science journalism to stoke curiosity about scientific topics and explain the impact of research on peoples' lives. Many of the featured stories are inspired by articles published in Annual Reviews journals. In addition, *Knowable's* opinion editor works directly with leading researchers to craft clear, cogent, and jargon-free opinion pieces that offer readers solid scientific information and provocative viewpoints.

Knowable Magazine has won numerous awards for its outstanding science coverage and its appealing design. The articles are freely available online. Many other media outlets republish the articles at no cost, delivering evidence-based and fact-checked science journalism to readers in their publications of choice. Publication partners include the *Washington Post*, the *Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, *USA Today*, *Ars Technica*, NPR, and *BBC Future*.

47M+ VIEWS

USAGE ON KNOWABLE
WEBSITE + PARTNERS

2,500+

REPLICATION,
TRANSLATION
& SYNDICATION

1,300+

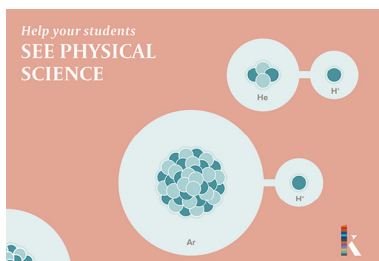
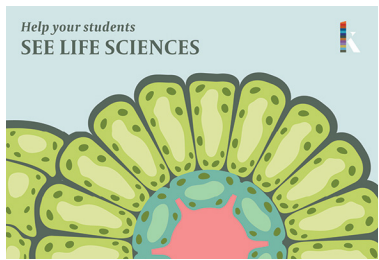
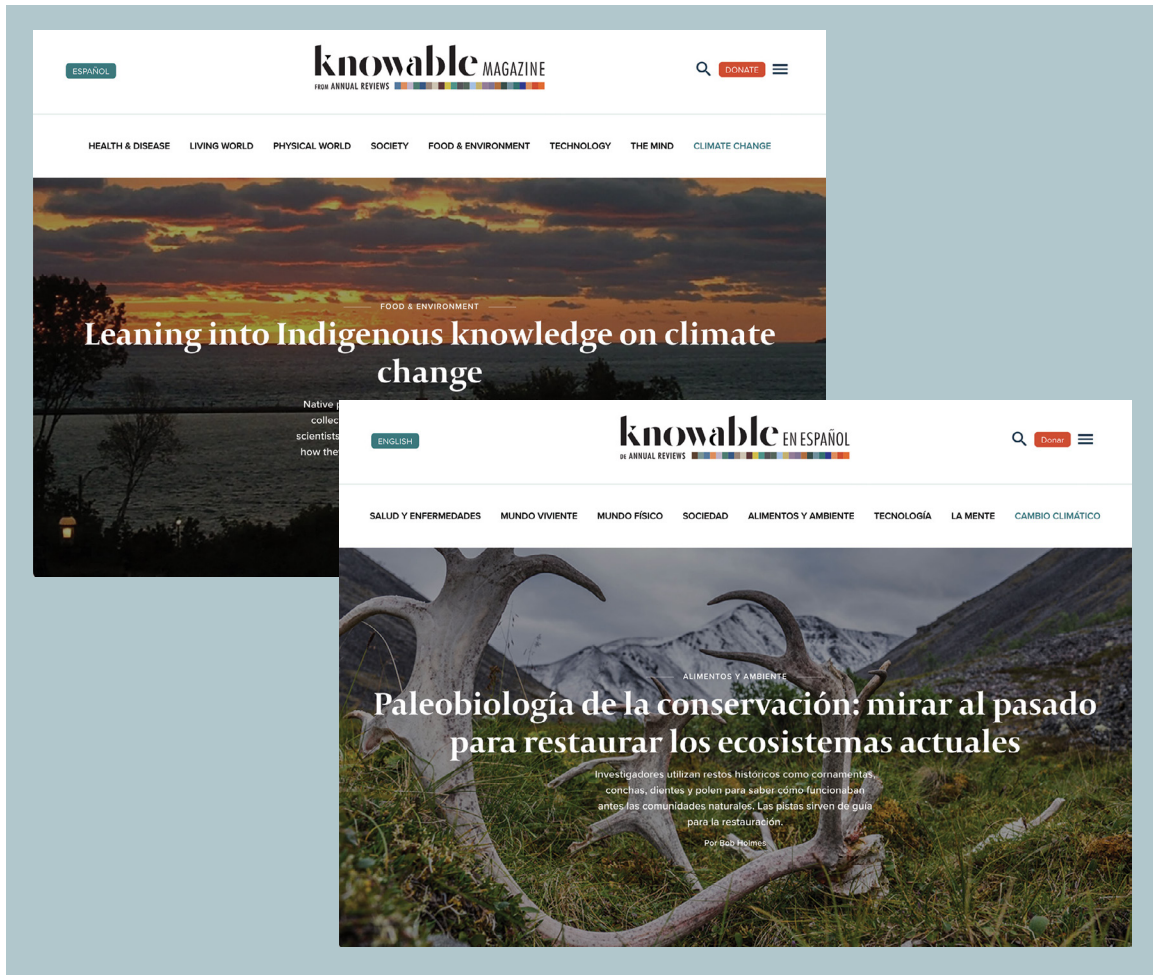
REVIEW ARTICLES
REFERENCED IN
KNOWABLE
MAGAZINE

120,000+

REFERRALS TO
ANNUAL REVIEW
JOURNAL ARTICLES



In 2022, *Knowable Magazine* added a Spanish language edition, *Knowable en español* (KEE). It publishes a blend of original content by Latin American science journalists and translated articles from *Knowable Magazine*. Like its parent publication, KEE is free to read and republish, and several media outlets in Latin America, including *La Nación* in Costa Rica and *El Espectador* in Colombia, as well as *El País* in Spain, regularly carry the content.



The quality visuals produced by the *Knowable Magazine* team make all the difference when it comes to understanding complex science. Seeing an application for this in the classroom, *Knowable Magazine's* Science Graphics Library makes the meticulously researched and designed diagrams, illustrations, and infographics produced for the magazine freely available for educators. The growing library already contains more than 200 infographics explaining biology, genetics, physics, and entomology.

As scientific understanding of the world continues to grow, *Knowable Magazine* and *Knowable en español* are informing citizens not just of research progress, but how that progress can directly benefit their lives. For more information, see *Knowable Magazine's* Impact Report: www.knowablemagazine.org/for-our-donors

Environmental and Social Responsibility

Annual Reviews provides extensive coverage of the challenges posed by climate change, pandemics, economic and political upheaval, and health and social disparities, and the research community's suggestions for solutions. We also recognize our responsibility to provide leadership as an ethical organization and have allocated resources and devised strategies to achieve this.



Beginning with the calendar year 2020, we have commissioned annual greenhouse gas inventories covering all Annual Reviews activities. We have taken steps to reduce our carbon emissions, include phasing out the publication of physical copies of journals and limiting air travel, and we offset our emissions each year using a verified Gold Standard carbon offset strategy. To date, this has prevented more than 1,000 tons of carbon from entering Earth's atmosphere through programs that promote environmentally sustainable solutions to human needs.



We recognize that embracing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) requires ongoing attention and must be visible and active at every level of the organization. To this end, we track and support multiple measures within our Editorial Committees and author base. In 2020, we created the Annual Reviews DEI Council with the remit to ensure that colleagues, volunteers, authors, and readers are fully respected; that we listen to and encourage different viewpoints, opinions, thoughts, and ideas; and that we embrace a culture of inclusion. We are an active partner of the Coalition for Diversity & Inclusion in Scholarly Publishing (C4DISC) and support the Joint Statement of Principles to make our industry more diverse, equal, and inclusive.

Responding to
Global Crisis

In May 2022, partly through the philanthropic contributions of our Board of Directors, Annual Reviews joined several organizations across the world in supporting the U.S. National Academies of Sciences Safe Passage Fund to assist Ukrainian scholars and their families forced to flee Ukraine because of the Russian invasion. We will continue to leverage our community and resources to stand alongside victims in times of crisis.

After more than 94 years, Annual Reviews continues to serve an important function in guiding researchers through a rapid expansion of scientific knowledge. Thanks to open access and additional efforts to make that knowledge accessible, we now leverage the reviews to assist wider society too. Synthesis, analysis, and distillation of what is known—and what we need to know—continues to be as important as ever, and it remains our passion.


Find Out More

 Annual Reviews • www.annualreviews.org

 *Knowable Magazine*: www.knowablemagazine.org • es.knowablemagazine.org

 Charleston Hub: www.charleston-hub.com

 LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/annual-reviews

 X (née Twitter): [@AnnualReviews](https://twitter.com/AnnualReviews)

 Facebook: www.facebook.com/AnnualReviews

