

Coffee & Bit(e)s

THE COFFEE LECTURES FOR SCIENTISTS

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Post publication peer review - A chance to improve the publication process and scientific literature quality?

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARY BERN

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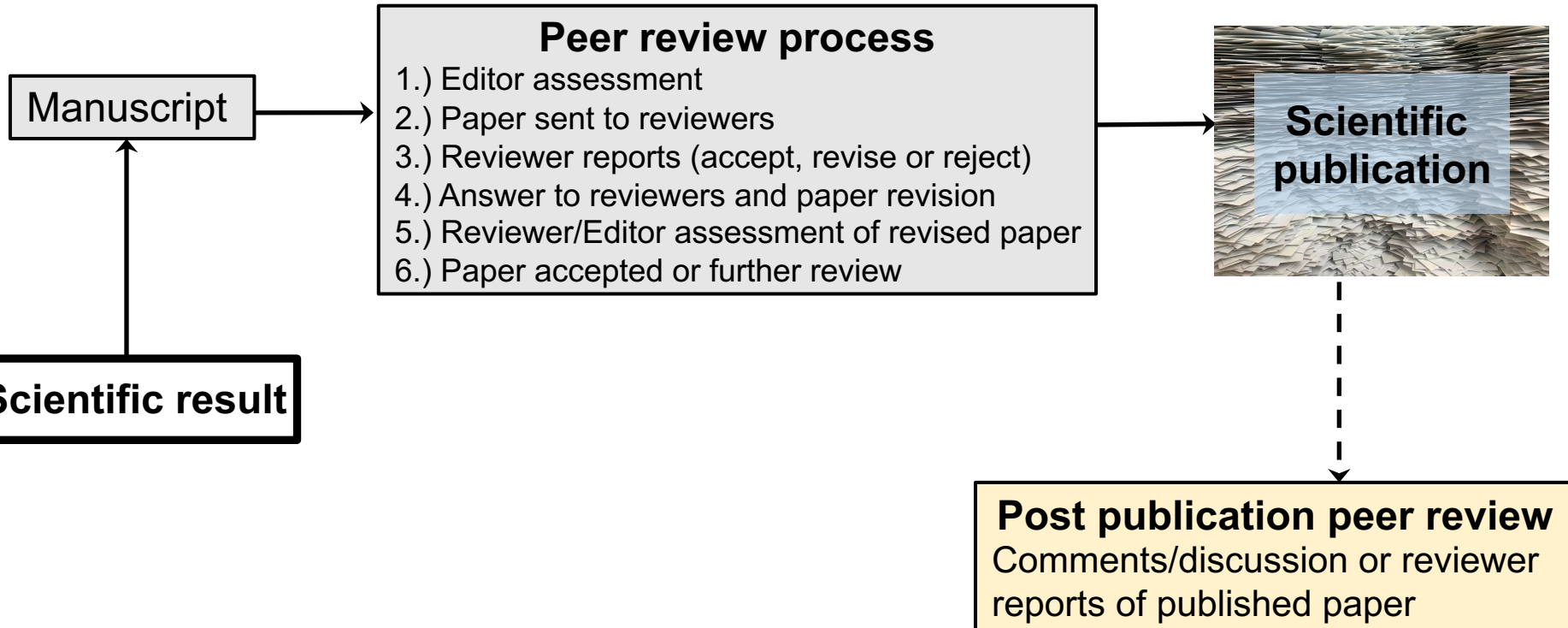
www.ub.unibe.ch/research/fachinformationen/portal_natural_sciences





Scientific publication process

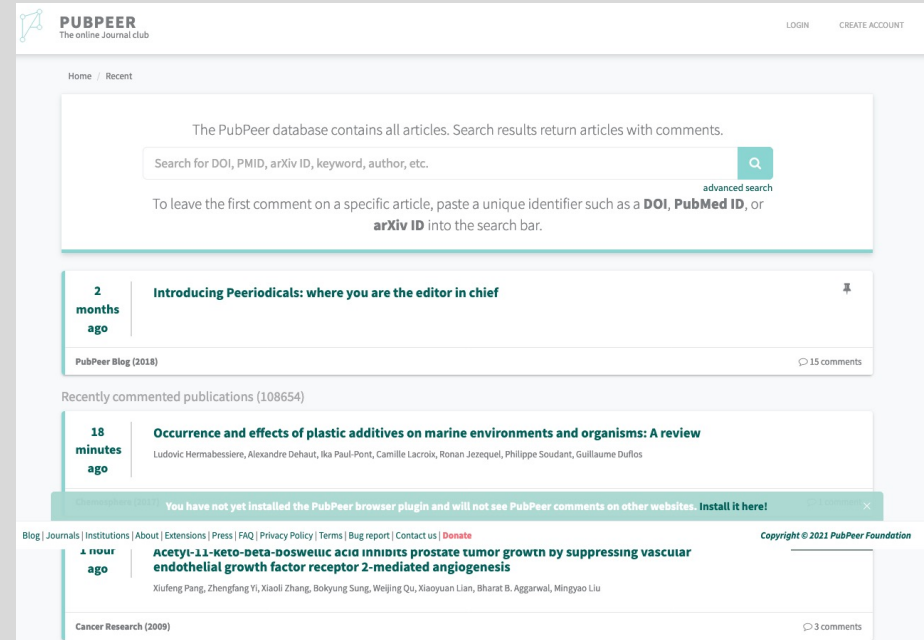
Post publication peer review: Option A)



Post publication peer review platforms

PubPeer

- The PubPeer platform allows comments on any article
- For starting comments on a new article, use a unique identifier
- Comments can be made anonymously and address major or minor issues of a paper
- Authors are alerted automatically if there are comments on their paper



@ <https://pubpeer.com>

Anonymous commenting legal battle

- 2013 anonymous [PubPeer comments](#) led to the retraction of several papers of a Univ. Michigan researcher due to falsified data
- 2014 the researcher sued the commenters for defamation trying to reveal their identity
- 2015 the court [decided](#) in favor of PubPeer and anonymous commenting

Meet the researcher with 13 retractions who's trying to sue PubPeer commenters: Fazlul Sarkar

Fazlul Sarkar has not had a good month: In the last few weeks, he has earned 13 retractions across four journals, the latest in the fallout from a string of legal cases that have pitted him against one of science publishing's major players.



Fazlul Sarkar

Sarkar gained attention in 2014 when he sued anonymous commenters of PubPeer for defamation, and for potentially costing him a new gig at the University of Mississippi. But before all that, he

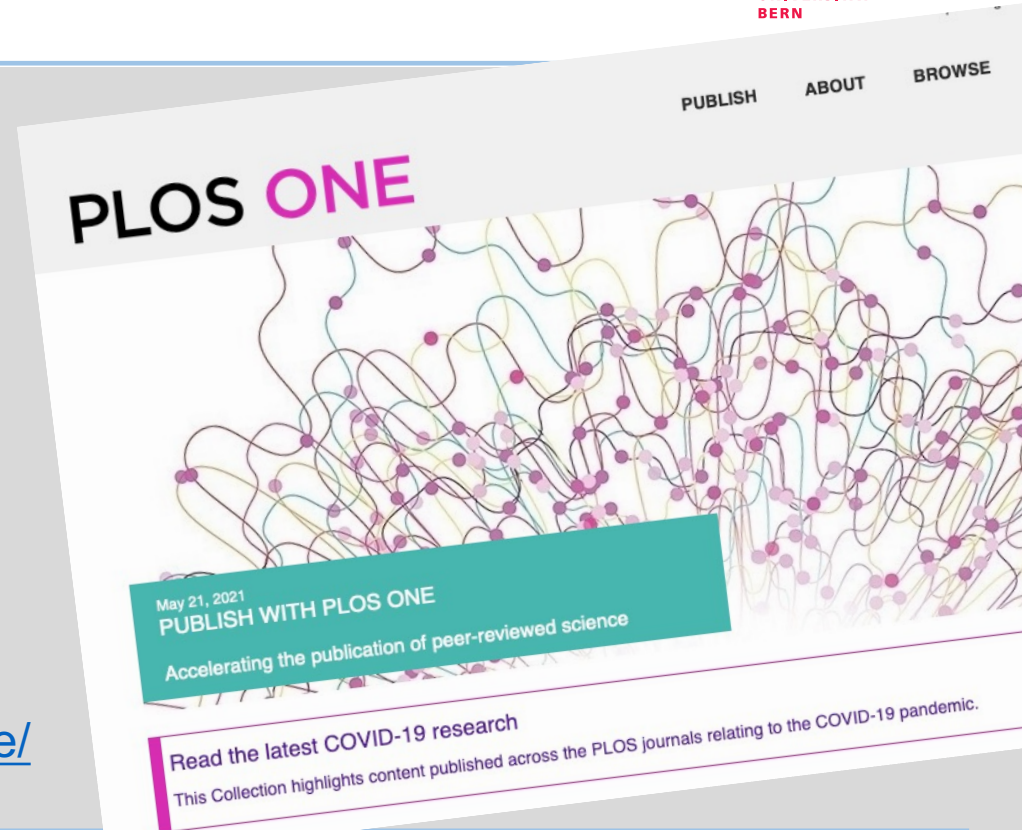
<https://retractionwatch.com/2016/08/12/meet-the-researcher-who-tried-to-take-on-pubpeer-commenters-fazlul-sarkar/>

Post publication peer review platforms

Plos One

- Open-Access peer reviewed Journal
- Commenting possible for registered users
- Comments should add to the research or make clarifications

@ <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/>



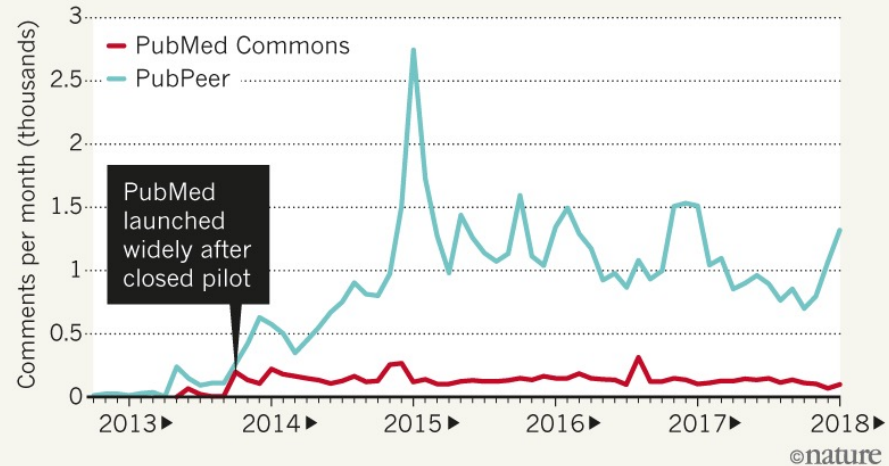
Discontinued platforms

PubMed

- [PubMed](#) launched a commenting platform with only real names for commenting allowed
- Comments could be added by Authors of PubMed papers or upon invitation
- Platform discontinued for lack of engagement

A LITTLE-USED COMMONS?

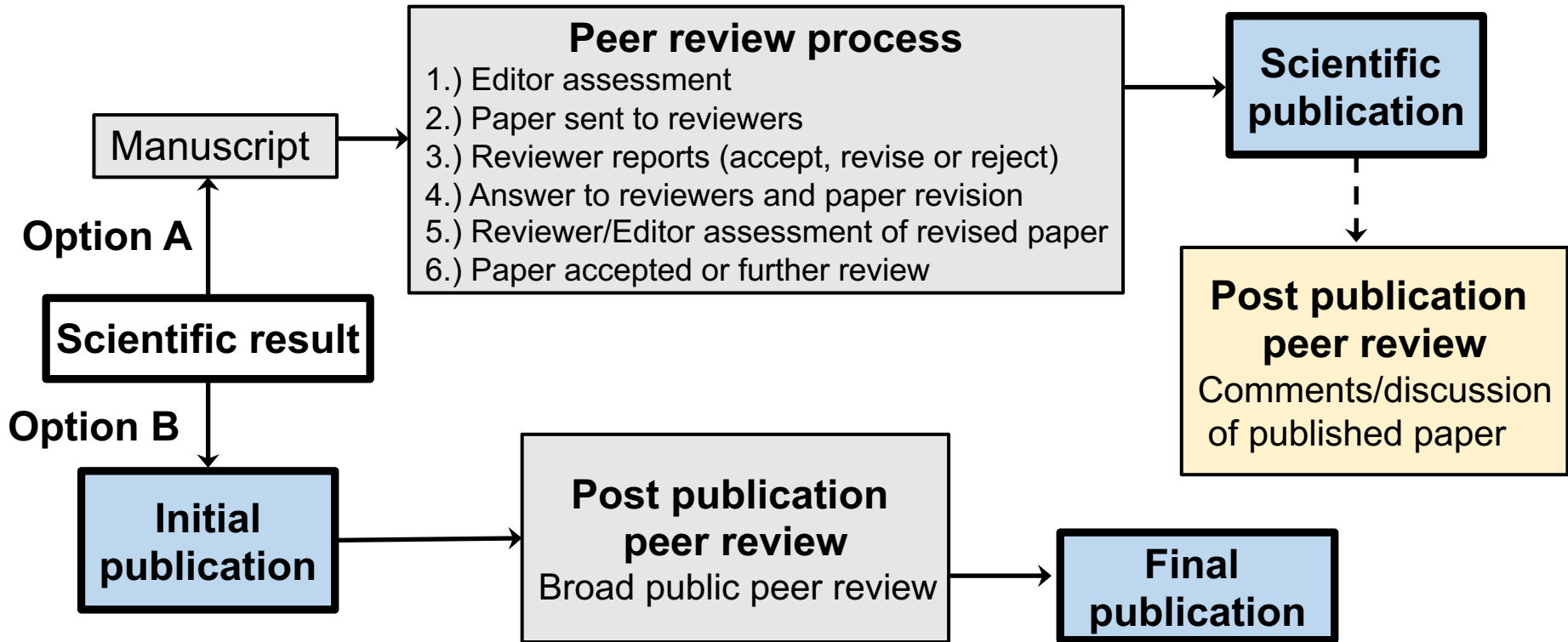
Around 7,500 comments have been logged on published abstracts on PubMed Commons. By contrast, more than 54,000 comments have been made at PubPeer.



<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01591-4>

Scientific publication process

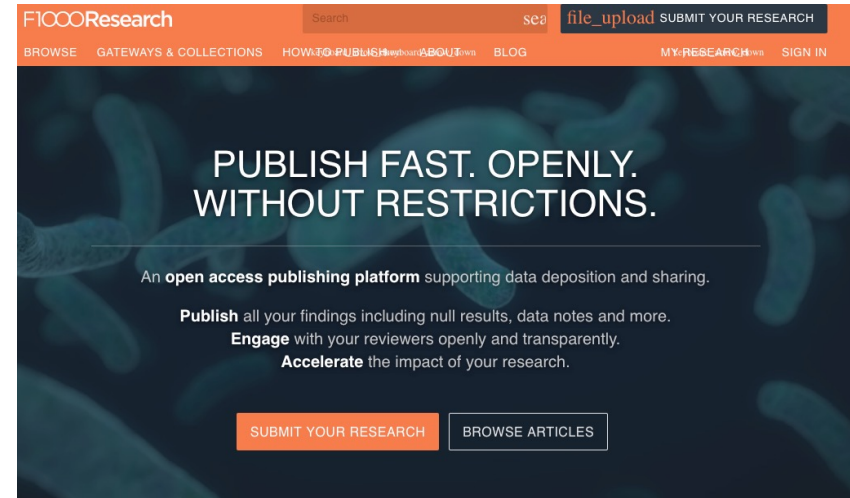
Post publication peer review: options A) and B)



Publish before peer review

Faculty of 1000 open peer review

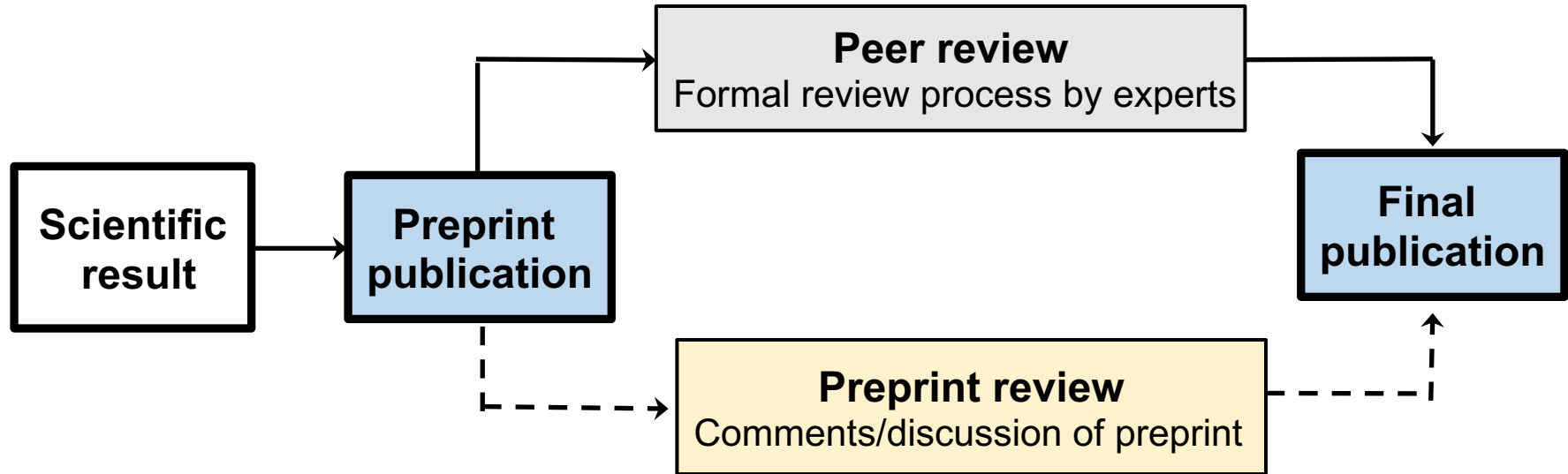
- F1000Research: open-access platform for biology and medicine
- Papers are published before peer review
- Referees are invited and peer reviewers names and comments are visible
- Data is downloadable in addition to articles
- Negative results can also be published



@ <https://f1000research.com>

Preprints in the scientific publication process

Post publication peer review



- Commenting on preprints can be a form of post publication peer review
- No strict guidelines for commenting
- [BioRxiv](#): 12 % of non-author comments [are full review reports](#)

Post publication peer review

- Aim of post publication peer review: allow broad discussion on scientific articles and improve scientific literature quality
- ! Open peer review can take place after the conventional publishing process, as an alternative to the conventional peer review process or in parallel to a formal peer review
- Various platforms for different post publication peer review schemes
- Can these tools help to improve the publication process?

Thanks for your attention

Questions?

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