



**Governing Council
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BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, 2024–2025

1. As per Governing Council [Resolution GC/58/R6](#), the Director is requested to report on publication activities at IARC on a biennial basis.

2. IARC publications as a whole are steered by the Publishing, Library, and Web Services unit (PLW), within the Services to Science and Research Branch (SSR). However, the production of the Agency's three flagship publications series – the *IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans*, the *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention*, and the *WHO Classification of Tumours* (the “WHO Blue Books”) – as well as the *IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems* series is overseen by the Evidence Synthesis and Classification Branch (ESC).

Digital strategy and dissemination of publications

3. During the 2024–2025 biennium, there was continued growth in the uptake of annual subscriptions to the *WHO Classification of Tumours Online* website, which was launched in September 2019. This digital subscription website offers the full set of fifth edition volumes from this renowned series, along with whole slide images; the first four volumes of the *IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems* series are also available. During 2023, there was a shift in dominance from revenues from print sales to revenues from online subscriptions; this trend is now an established pattern. The current total number of digital subscribers is nearly 24 000.

4. During the 2024–2025 biennium, there was also continuing investment in interoperability with external systems. PLW is up to date on making IARC titles available on the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM) Bookshelf, and on populating the WHO title management system (BiblioLive) with IARC publications metadata, which paves the way for greater technical efficiencies going forward.

Open Access

5. From 2015 to 2022, €50 000 per annum was earmarked for Open Access from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for journal article processing charges; in 2023, this Open Access fund was routinized as part of the Regular Budget. The fund supported 20 Open Access articles in 2024 and 12 Open Access articles in 2025. Starting from a baseline of 26% of IARC's external journal articles published as immediate Open Access in 2014 (before the IARC Open Access policy), the percentage of Open Access articles increased steadily until 2023–2024, suggesting both the positive impact of the GCSF funding for Open Access and the upward trend

of Open Access in the field of scientific publishing as a whole. In 2025, approximately 59% of IARC’s external journal articles were published as immediate Open Access.

Table 1: Immediate Open Access articles as a proportion of total journal article output^a

Year	Open Access articles	Non-Open Access (standard) articles	Total articles
2014	93 (26%)	267 (74%)	360 (100%)
2015	127 (35%)	234 (65%)	361 (100%)
2016	133 (37%)	225 (63%)	358 (100%)
2017	164 (43%)	217 (57%)	381 (100%)
2018	142 (39%)	224 (61%)	366 (100%)
2019	173 (44%)	218 (56%)	391 (100%)
2020	219 (48%)	241 (52%)	460 (100%)
2021	227 (54%)	192 (46%)	419 (100%)
2022	260 (59%)	180 (41%)	440 (100%)
2023	252 (67%)	122 (33%)	374 (100%)
2024	256 (65%)	140 (35%)	396 (100%)
2025	257 (59%)	177 (41%)	434 (100%)

^a Table figures based on Web of Science™. Comparison of Web of Science™ data with previously reported Open Access figures based on manual coding shows good consistency, generally ±2% for the overall Open Access total.

Revenue from the sale of IARC publications

6. Net revenue from the sale of IARC publications in 2024–2025 amounted to €6 128 521 (€3 105 924 in 2024, and €3 022 597 in 2025). In accordance with Resolution GC/56/R12, 75% of revenue is returned to the IARC publications programme.

Table 2: Publications – Revenue from sales (in Euros)

Year	Revenue from sales of all publications by WHO Press	Revenue from sales of WHO Blue Books in print by WHO Press	Revenue from sales by WHO paid to IARC ^a	Other revenue from publications (IARC E-Bookshop and royalties)
2017	1 756 548	1 752 327 (99.8%)	1 751 567	12 201
2018	1 280 242	1 272 663 (99.4%)	1 279 970	9 601
2019	1 258 412	1 255 618 (99.8%)	1 262 932 ^b	48 079 ^c
2020	1 706 737	1 701 531 (99.7%)	1 708 370 ^d	228 780
2021	1 465 844	1 461 197 (99.7%)	1 465 844	480 934
2022	1 078 102	1 077 242 (99.9%)	1 078 102	1 094 545
2023	709 323	706 452 (99.6%)	709 323	1 577 198
2024	1 034 519	1 033 605 (99.9%)	1 034 519	2 071 405
2025	795 795	794 741 (99.9%)	795 795	2 226 802

^a After freight charges were deducted from the overall figure.

^b For 2019, the total revenue included the reimbursement of €4549 for cost of direct shipment from the printer to the distributor Stylus paid by IARC.

^c Other revenue in 2019 and subsequent years also includes subscription revenues from *WHO Classification of Tumours Online* (see paragraph 3).

^d For 2020, the total revenue included the reimbursement of €1651 (€1633 with foreign exchange adjustment) for cost of direct shipment from the printer to the distributor Stylus paid by IARC.

7. The WHO Blue Books series on its own (in print format) accounted for 99.9% of the overall WHO Press-derived publications sales revenue for IARC in 2024 and 2025. Sales of subscriptions to *WHO Classification of Tumours Online* generated approximately 67% of the total net annual revenue in 2024 and 74% of the total net annual revenue in 2025.

Table 3: Publications – Volume of sales (print format)

Year	Total sales	Sales of WHO Blue Books
2017	33 786	33 544 (99%)
2018	23 911	23 530 (98%)
2019	21 037	20 908 (99%)
2020	29 928	29 584 (99%)
2021	22 130	21 927 (99%)
2022	16 895	16 862 (99.8%)
2023	9 488	9 366 (99%)
2024	10 568	10 532 (99.7%)
2025	10 506	10 476 (99.7%)

Publications in 2024–2025

8. During the 2024–2025 biennium, IARC published the following reference publications:

WHO Classification of Tumours

[WHO Classification of Head and Neck Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

[WHO Classification of Haematolymphoid Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

[WHO Classification of Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

[WHO Classification of Skin Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems

[WHO Reporting System for Lymph Node, Spleen, and Thymus Cytopathology, 1st edition](#) (print)

IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans

[Volume 129, Gentian Violet, Leucogentian Violet, Malachite Green, Leucomalachite Green, and CI Direct Blue 218](#) (print)

[Volume 130, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane and Four Other Industrial Chemicals](#) (print)

[Volume 131, Cobalt, Antimony Compounds, and Weapons-Grade Tungsten Alloy](#) (print)

[Volume 132, Occupational Exposure as a Firefighter](#) (print)

[Volume 133, Anthracene, 2-Bromopropane, Butyl Methacrylate, and Dimethyl Hydrogen Phosphite](#) (print and PDF)

[Volume 134, Aspartame, Methyleugenol, and Ioeugenol](#) (print and PDF)

[Volume 135, Perfluorooctanoic Acid \(PFOA\) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid \(PFOS\)](#) (PDF)

[Volume 136, Talc and Acrylonitrile](#) (PDF)

IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention

[Volume 19, Oral Cancer Prevention](#) (print)

[Volume 20A, Reduction or Cessation of Alcoholic Beverage Consumption](#) (print and PDF)

[Volume 20B, Alcohol Policies](#) (print and PDF)

IARC Scientific Publications

[Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume XII, IARC Scientific Publication No. 169](#) (print and PDF)

[International Incidence of Childhood Cancer, Volume III, IARC Scientific Publication No. 170](#) (PDF)

[Statistical Methods in Cancer Research Volume V: Bias Assessment in Case–Control and Cohort Studies for Hazard Identification, IARC Scientific Publication No. 171](#) (print and PDF)

IARC Technical Publications

[User’s Guide to Essential TNM, IARC Technical Publication No. 48](#) (print and PDF)

[Guía del Usuario TNM Esencial, IARC Publicación Técnica No. 48](#) (PDF)

[Developing a Legal Framework for Population-Based Cancer Registries: A Toolkit, IARC Technical Publication No. 49](#) (PDF)

IARC Working Group Reports

[Population-Based *Helicobacter pylori* Screen-and-Treat Strategies for Gastric Cancer Prevention: Guidance on Implementation, IARC Working Group Report No. 12](#) (PDF)

Biennial Report

[Rapport biennal 2022–2023](#) (PDF)

Non-series publications

[Assessment of Barriers and Interventions to Improve Cancer Screening Programmes in Latin American and Caribbean Countries: Outcomes of the CanScreen5/CELAC Project](#) (PDF)

[The Cancer Atlas, Fourth Edition](#) (PDF)

Electronic resources

[Атлас раннего выявления рака молочной железы](#) (Atlas of Breast Cancer Early Detection), IARC CancerBase No. 17

[Атлас кольпоскопии – принципы и практика](#) (Atlas of Colposcopy: Principles and Practice), IARC CancerBase No. 13