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## **BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, 2020–2021**

1. As per Governing Council [Resolution GC/58/R6](#), the Director is requested to report on publication activities on a biennial basis.
2. Publications are generally the responsibility of the unit of Publishing, Library, and Web Services (PLW), within the Services to Science and Research Branch (SSR). In addition, the Evidence Synthesis and Classification Branch (ESC) manages three flagship publication series: the *IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans*, the *IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention*, and the *WHO Classification of Tumours* series (the “WHO Blue Books”).

### **Digital strategy and dissemination of publications**

3. During the 2020–2021 biennium, the focus was on stewarding the IARC E-Bookshop, and in particular the annual subscriptions to *WHO Classification of Tumours Online*, which was launched in September 2019. At present the digital subscription website offers the full set of volumes from this renowned series, along with whole slide images. The number of subscriptions has grown steadily throughout the biennium, complementing the sale of print books by WHO Press. The current total of digital subscriptions stands at 5900. Hospital libraries, pathology units, and other institutional subscribers are offered a bulk discount model.
4. The 2020–2021 biennium was also a period of intense behind-the-scenes work to make the Agency’s publications compliant with the technical standards of the United States National Library of Medicine (NLM), whose Bookshelf database serves as a repository and additional dissemination channel for many IARC titles, providing free online access.

### **Publications metrics**

5. The IARC Medium-Term Strategy 2021–2025 prompted a revision of PLW’s KPI reporting on publications. Moving away from predominantly impact factor-driven metrics, PLW strives for a more thoughtful and well-rounded view of the impact of the Agency’s scientific publishing by considering the *h*-index, altmetrics, and collaboration with countries.

### **Open Access**

6. In terms of the broader Open Access landscape, this biennium witnessed the launch in January 2021 of Plan S, an Open Access initiative supported by an international consortium of research funders. Open Access compliance with funding authorities, including Plan S members, is a priority for the Agency, and an information session for IARC scientists was co-presented by PLW with a staff member of WHO Press in December 2020.

7. Since 2015 €50 000 per annum have been earmarked for Open Access from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for journal article processing charges; GCSF supported 25 articles in 2020 and 23 articles in 2021. Although comparative baseline figures are only available for 2014, the tracking of IARC’s Open Access journal article output suggests that the GCSF for Open Access has had a notably positive impact on Open Access publishing at the Agency. The percentage of immediate Open Access articles has increased steadily since 2014. At present approximately 50% of IARC’s external journal articles are published as immediate Open Access.

**Table 1: Proportion of immediate Open Access to total journal article output<sup>a</sup>**

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%)

<sup>a</sup> 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.

8. The GCSF has provisioned for Open Access support from 2015 to 2022 inclusive, for a total of €400 000 (Resolutions GC/57/R11, GC/60/R12, and GC/62/R12). Because Open Access publishing is now routinized, ongoing support for it is integrated into operational budget planning.

#### Revenue from the sale of IARC publications by WHO Press

9. Net revenue from the sale of IARC publications in 2020–2021 amounted to €3 882 295 (€1 935 517 in 2020, and €1 946 778 in 2021). 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 by WHO Press	Revenue from sales by WHO paid to IARC <sup>a</sup>	Other revenue from publications (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 <sup>b</sup>	48 079 <sup>c</sup>
2020	1 706 737	1 701 531 (99.7%)	1 708 370 <sup>d</sup>	228 780 <sup>c</sup>
2021	1 465 844	1 461 197 (99.7%)	1 465 844	480 934 <sup>c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> After freight charges were deducted from the overall figure.

<sup>b</sup> 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.

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

<sup>d</sup> 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.

10. The WHO Blue Books series on its own (in print format) generated 99.7% of the overall WHO Press-derived publications sales revenue for IARC in 2020, a similar figure as in 2021. Sales of subscriptions to *WHO Classification of Tumours Online* accounted for approximately 25% of the net annual revenue for 2021.

**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%)

### Publications in 2020–2021

11. During the 2020–2021 biennium, IARC published the following reference publications:

#### WHO CLASSIFICATION OF TUMOURS

[WHO Classification of Soft Tissue and Bone Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

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

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

#### IARC MONOGRAPHS

[Volume 120, Benzene](#) (print)

[Volume 121, Styrene, Styrene-7,8-Oxide, and Quinoline](#) (print)

[Volume 122, Isobutyl Nitrite,  \$\beta\$ -Picoline, and Some Acrylates](#) (print)

[Volume 123, Some Nitrobenzenes and Other Industrial Chemicals](#) (PDF and print)

[Volume 124, Night Shift Work](#) (PDF and print)

[Volume 125, Some Industrial Chemical Intermediates and Solvents](#) (PDF and print)

[Volume 126, Opium Consumption](#) (PDF)

[Volume 127, Some Aromatic Amines and Related Compounds](#) (PDF)

[Volume 128, Acrolein, Crotonaldehyde, and Arecoline](#) (PDF)

#### IARC SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

[Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume XI, IARC Scientific Publication No. 166](#) (PDF and print)

#### BIENNIAL REPORT

[Biennial Report 2018–2019](#) (print)

[Rapport biennal 2018–2019](#) (PDF)

#### NON-SERIES PUBLICATIONS

[World Cancer Report: Cancer Research for Cancer Prevention](#) (PDF and print)

[A Checklist for Dad](#) (print)

[Patterns of Care for Women with Breast Cancer in Morocco: An Assessment of Breast Cancer Diagnosis, Management, and Survival in Two Leading Oncology Centres](#) (PDF)

#### ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

[Atlas of Visual Inspection of the Cervix with Acetic Acid for Screening, Triage, and Assessment for Treatment](#), IARC CancerBase No. 1