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## **BIENNIAL REPORT ON PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES, 2022–2023**

1. As per Governing Council [Resolution GC/58/R6](#), the Director is requested to report on publication activities on a biennial basis.
2. General responsibility for IARC publications rests with the Publishing, Library, and Web Services (PLW) unit, 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* (the “WHO Blue Books”).

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

3. During the 2022–2023 biennium, there was significant growth in uptake of annual subscriptions to the *WHO Classification of Tumours Online*, which was launched in September 2019. The digital subscription website offers the full set of 5th edition volumes from this renowned series, along with whole slide images. In 2022 the *IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems* series became part of the subscription offerings; the first two volumes of that series are available. During 2023 there was a shift in dominance from revenues from print sales to revenues from online subscriptions. This trend is expected to continue. The current total number of digital subscribers is nearly 19 000. Hospital libraries, pathology units, and other institutional subscribers are offered a bulk discount model, and a new self-service application was set up to ease workflows for institutional customers.
4. During the 2022–2023 biennium, accessibility became an emerging priority for IARC publishing. Although IARC is not subject to the European Accessibility Act, for which the implementation deadline is June 2025, the Agency recognizes the importance of removing barriers to access. IARC stands to benefit from WHO’s work in this area, which has included an accessibility review of a sample of PDF publications by external consultants and the rollout of training for personnel.

### **Open Access**

5. Since 2015, €50 000 per annum has been earmarked for Open Access from the Governing Council Special Fund (GCSF) for journal article processing charges; the GCSF supported 28 articles in 2022 and 11 articles in 2023 from the remainder of the GCSF for Open Access. As of 2023, Open Access publishing was fully routinized, with ongoing support for it integrated into operational budget planning. 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 has increased steadily, suggesting both the positive impact of the GCSF for Open Access and the upward trend of Open Access in the field of

scientific publishing as a whole. In 2023, approximately 67% 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<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%)
2022	260 (59%)	180 (41%)	440 (100%)
2023	252 (67%)	122 (33%)	374 (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.

### Revenue from the sale of IARC publications

6. Net revenue from the sale of IARC publications in 2022–2023 amounted to €4 459 168 (€2 172 647 in 2022, and €2 286 521 in 2023). 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 <sup>a</sup>	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 <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
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

<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.

7. The WHO Blue Books series on its own (in print format) generated 99.9% of the overall WHO Press-derived publications sales revenue for IARC in 2022 and a similar proportion in 2023. Sales of subscriptions to *WHO Classification of Tumours Online* accounted for approximately 25% of the total net annual revenue in 2021, 50% in 2022, and 69% in 2023.

**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%)

#### **Publications in 2022–2023**

8. During the 2022–2023 biennium, IARC published the following reference publications:

#### **WHO Classification of Tumours**

[WHO Classification of Central Nervous System Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

[WHO Classification of Urinary and Male Genital Tumours, 5th edition](#) (print)

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

#### **IAC-IARC-WHO Cytopathology Reporting Systems**

[WHO Reporting System for Lung Cytopathology, 1st edition](#) (print)

[WHO Reporting System for Pancreaticobiliary Cytopathology, 1st edition](#) (print)

#### **IARC Monographs on the Identification of Carcinogenic Hazards to Humans**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **IARC Handbooks of Cancer Prevention**

[Volume 18, Cervical Cancer Screening](#) (print and PDF)

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

## **IARC Working Group Reports**

[Best Practices in Cervical Screening Programmes: Audit of Cancers, Legal and Ethical Frameworks, Communication, and Workforce Competencies, IARC Working Group Report No. 11](#) (PDF)

## **Biennial Report**

[Rapport biennal 2020–2021](#) (PDF)

## **Non-series publications**

[Cervical Cancer Elimination in Africa: Where Are We Now and Where Do We Need to Be?](#) (PDF)

[Mise en œuvre d'un programme pilote de dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus intégré dans les services courants de soins de santé primaires au Bénin, en Côte d'Ivoire et au Sénégal](#) (PDF)

[Implementation of a Pilot Cervical Cancer Screening Programme Integrated in Routine Primary Health-Care Services in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal: Report of a Pilot Project \(Care4Afrique\) in Three African Countries](#) (PDF)

## **Electronic resources**

[Atlas of Breast Cancer Early Detection](#), IARC CancerBase No. 17

[Using HPV tests for cervical cancer screening and managing HPV-positive women – a practical online guide](#), IARC CancerBase No. 18

[Cancer Incidence in Five Continents, Volume XII](#), IARC CancerBase No. 19

[Atlas de l'inspection visuelle à l'acide acétique du col de l'utérus pour dépister, trier et déterminer l'éligibilité des lésions au traitement ablatif](#)

[Tests VPH pour le dépistage du cancer du col de l'utérus et prise en charge des femmes positives au VPH – guide pratique](#)

[Atlas de colposcopie – principes et pratique](#)

[Atlas de la inspección visual del cuello uterino con ácido acético para tamizaje, triaje y evaluación para el tratamiento](#)

[Uso de pruebas de VPH para el tamizaje del cáncer cervicouterino y el manejo de mujeres VPH positivas – una guía práctica en línea](#)

[Atlas de colposcopia – principios y práctica](#)