

# Standards for PsychOpen GOLD Journals and Periodicals

Last amended:  
February 25, 2021

Please use the most recent version of this document, which can be retrieved from  
<https://gold.psychopen.eu/call2021/>

The complete set of application documents comprises:

- [Standards for PsychOpen GOLD Journals and Periodicals](#)  
Quality standards for journals and periodicals published at PsychOpen GOLD
- [PsychOpen GOLD Journal Application Process](#)  
Process overview, principles, deadlines
- [PsychOpen GOLD Journal Application Form](#)  
Template for new applications or renewals
- [PsychOpen GOLD Publishing Services](#)  
Catalog of services supported by PsychOpen GOLD
  
- [Transparency and Openness Promotion \(TOP\) Guidelines Summary Table](#)  
Checklist to indicate the intended implementation level of open science practices

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# Standards for PsychOpen GOLD Journals and Periodicals

PsychOpen services provided by the Leibniz Institute for Psychology Information (ZPID) comprise several different options for publishing scientific works. Specifically, PsychOpen GOLD offers a high-quality publication platform for *primary publications* in psychology (see [PsychOpen GOLD Publishing Services](#)). PsychOpen GOLD is guided by the following principles:

- **Open Access:** PsychOpen supports free access to scientific literature. All publications in PsychOpen GOLD are accessible free of charge.
- **Open Science:** To promote the understanding and evaluation of psychological research results it is crucial to present the comprehensive research process and its products in an unbiased way. Therefore, for all publications offered on the platform, PsychOpen GOLD expects and supports the implementation of open science practices.
- **Community-based Publishing:** PsychOpen GOLD is a community-driven initiative, focusing on the European research community and its needs. As PsychOpen GOLD is a nonprofit publishing platform generating no revenue and therefore relying on limited resources, strong commitment by its community partners is essential.

All journals and periodicals applying for inclusion in PsychOpen GOLD are reviewed carefully and competitively, both at the time of application and on a regular basis (see [PsychOpen GOLD Journal Application Process](#); [PsychOpen GOLD Journal Application Form](#)). Compliance with the PsychOpen GOLD Standards outlined in this document is a basic prerequisite for acceptance and continuous support for journals and periodicals published at PsychOpen GOLD. Particular emphasis is placed on publication standards, which support open, transparent, and replicable psychological research.

## 1. Open Science Standards

Journal editors agree to the mission of PsychOpen GOLD to foster transparency and reproducibility of research by implementing principles and practices of open science.

- A. Open Access and Open Licensing.** The journal agrees to the principle of open access. Journal content is accessible at no charge, without requiring registration or other access barriers to users. In addition, the journal does not charge author fees. All content on PsychOpen GOLD is subject to a [Creative Commons License](#) (CC-BY). Thus, authors retain copyright for their work, but grant others permission to use it provided that the original work is properly cited.
- B. Open Science Policy.** The journal establishes and implements an open science policy (e.g., the [TOP Guidelines](#)), directing authors, reviewers, and editors in reasonable steps toward more transparency and openness in scientific communication.

- C. Open Data.** Empirical articles have a “data availability statement,” stating whether data are available (and, if so, where they are accessible) and if not, why. In general, publication of data is expected (see F).
- D. Open Scripts, Materials, Measures, Methods, and Workflows.** Authors are requested and guided to share “Supporting Information” like scripts, materials, measures, methods, workflows, and other resources required to replicate their research (see F).
- E. Article Formats Enhancing Openness in Research.** The journal supports article formats enhancing openness and transparency in research, replicability, and early publishing.
- The journal accepts the submission of Registered Reports (RR). To ensure [protocol transparency](#), accepted Registered Reports (protocols) are registered at PsychArchives (see F).
  - The journal accepts the publication of carefully conducted replications as well as meta-analytical approaches to foster cumulative research and research syntheses.
  - Publication of preprints (i.e., non peer-reviewed draft versions) prior to submission to the journal is accepted.
- F. Open Science Infrastructure.** To facilitate consistency in standards, the development and improvement of PsychOpen GOLD services, and monitoring of open science practices, the journal agrees to use the products and services offered by ZPID to implement open science practices outlined above. “Supporting Information” published with an article (e.g., data, scripts, materials, measures, methods, workflows), study protocols for Registered Reports, etc. are deposited (non-exclusively) at [PsychArchives](#). Persistent identifiers (usually DOIs) provided by PsychArchives are used within articles to refer to these resources.

## 2 General Publishing Standards

Journal editors agree to the mission of PsychOpen GOLD by supporting high quality scholarly communication in psychology and related fields, making original research freely available to the scientific community and the public, achieving high standards in reporting research outcomes, and adhering to best practices in ethical publishing.

- A. Publication Ethics.** The journal implements clear editorial policies for ethical publishing, ensuring fair, unbiased, and swift reviewing, handling possible conflicts of interest (of authors, reviewers, and editors), preventing research misconduct (including fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism), and promoting research transparency (see [Core Practices](#) by the Committee on Publication Ethics [COPE]).
- B. Endorsement by a Scientific Organization.** The journal is endorsed by a national or international academic or professional psychological society.
- C. International Editorial Board.** The journal is supported by an international editorial board consisting of recognized experts in the field. Affiliations for all editors and editorial board members are published at the journal website.

- D. **Peer-Review Process.** Submissions of research contributions are peer reviewed (open, single-blind, double-blind) by at least two independent external experts in the field (including statistical review where appropriate).
- E. **Reporting Standards.** The journal takes appropriate measures to assure compliance of its publications to established community standards and best-practices in reporting research outcomes, including methodological and statistical standards (e.g., JARS, CONSORT, PRISMA), as well as formal (e.g., APA style), and linguistic (sufficient language level) standards/best-practices. In addition, all published research articles include author contact information, date of submission, acceptance, and publication, and license/copyright information.
- F. **Language of publication.** To improve reception and attract a broad range of authors, publication is in English exclusively.
- G. **Technological Standards.** The journal implements, supported by PsychOpen GOLD, technological standards (e.g., JATS, OAI) which improve the findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reuse of its contents ([FAIR Principles](#)).
- H. **Publication Volume and Mode.** The journal attracts a constant stream of quality submissions ( $\geq 30$  submissions sent to review/year), resulting in a continuous output of publications ( $\geq 12$  articles/year). Articles are published as soon as they are produced and approved (article-based publication model). Number of submissions and accepted and published articles are published annually.
- I. **Journal impact.** The journal achieves a verifiable impact on the research community, documented by citations in scholarly publications, acceptance by journal indices and quality controlled scholarly databases (e.g., Web of Science, Scopus, PsycINFO, PubMed Central, or research field specific databases), number of submissions, number and (geographic, organizational) diversity of authors, composition of editorial board, etc.

### 3. Standards Compliance Review

Compliance with PsychOpen standards will be reviewed at the time of application of a new journal project as well as on a regular basis.

#### 3.1 Initial Review at Journal Application

At application, journal editors have to convincingly demonstrate that the journal is willing and able to fulfill the Standards for PsychOpen GOLD Journals outlined in this document. This is done mainly by carefully working through and answering the [PsychOpen GOLD Journal Application Form](#). In addition, fulfillment of these standards will be part of a *Memorandum of Understanding*, to be signed by the journal owner (e.g., scholarly society, founding editor), the editors in chief, and ZPID after a journal is accepted for PsychOpen GOLD.

## 3.2 Regular Review

Alignment with the “Standards for PsychOpen GOLD Journals and Periodicals” is reviewed every time the Memorandum of Understanding between journal and ZPID terminates and can be renewed. This is regularly the case every two years.