RAS Publishing Policy

This statement outlines the policy of the RAS with respect to its scholarly publications. It was approved at the Council meeting of 8 June 2012.

1. The RAS is a not-for-profit organisation operating as a registered charity with the objectives: "The encouragement and promotion of Astronomy, Solar System Science, Geophysics and closely related branches of science".
2. The Royal Astronomical Society has been engaged in disseminating information about Astronomy and Geophysics since 1820.
3. The Society regards peer review by specialist professionals as a fundamental requirement for the advancement of science by publication.
4. Income from the RAS publications directly supports the costs of peer review for the RAS journals.
5. All the financial surplus from the RAS publications supports activities which act to generate new scientific content for the journals, including the RAS Fellowships, the RAS small grants scheme, specialist discussion meetings, RAS monthly meetings and the National Astronomy Meeting
6. The RAS supports the free availability of peer reviewed results and supports its authors in distributing such results through open sources such as ArXiv when appropriate.
7. Both *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society* (MNRAS) and *Geophysical Journal International* (GJI) have open access options for authors at the time a paper is accepted.
8. The RAS delivers astronomical information to the interested public in a form more accessible to them than academic publications by means of press releases, public lectures and the "Friends of the RAS".
9. The RAS, through its publishing contract, supports programmes to deliver scholarly publications to more than 400 libraries in developing countries at minimal cost to the recipients through the PERI and INASP philanthropic initiatives.

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