



Goodbye genome paper, hello genome report: the increasing popularity of 'genome announcements' and their impact on science.

Smith DR
Brief Funct Genomics. 2016 Jun 23

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FM Marjori Matzke
F1000 Plant Biology
Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology,
Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.

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DOI: 10.3410/f.726445914.793520320

This engaging and informative article describes the emergence of 'genome report' papers, defined as 'fast tracked and stripped-down versions' of more extended 'genome papers'. The rise of genome reports reflects the response of journals to the growing number of submissions describing DNA data, which has necessitated a new publication structure and format. The author discusses the pros and cons of genome report papers. A major drawback is the comparatively high publication costs. A notable plus is that genome reports represent citable, peer-reviewed genome resources that provide technical and biological information potentially missing from sequence databases. Despite the current popularity of genome reports, it is unknown whether they will survive as a means for documenting genome sequences or face extinction as a result of rapid changes in publishing life science research.

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ABSTRACT

Next-generation sequencing technologies have revolutionized genomics and altered the scientific publication landscape. Life-science journals abound with genome papers-peer-reviewed descriptions of newly sequenced chromosomes. Although they once filled the pages of Nature and Science, genome papers are now mostly relegated to journals with low-impact factors. Some have forecast the death of the genome paper and argued that they are using up valuable resources and not advancing science. However, the publication rate of genome papers is on the... **more »**

rise. This increase is largely because some journals have created a new category of manuscript called genome reports, which are short, fast-tracked papers describing a chromosome sequence(s), its GenBank accession number and little else. In 2015, for example, more than 2000 genome reports were published, and 2016 is poised to bring even more. Here, I highlight the growing popularity of genome reports and discuss their merits, drawbacks and impact on science and the academic publication infrastructure. Genome reports can be excellent assets for the research community, but they are also being used as quick and easy routes to a publication, and in some instances they are not peer reviewed. One of the best arguments for genome reports is that they are a citable, user-generated genomic resource providing essential methodological and biological information, which may not be present in the sequence database. But they are expensive and time-consuming avenues for achieving such a goal. © The Author 2016. Published by Oxford University Press.

DOI: 10.1093/bfpg/elw026

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