

PUBLISSO – Publishing open access for achieving the Sustainable Development goals (SDGS)

Ursula Arning
ZB Med – Information Centre for Life Sciences
Cologne, Germany



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Abstract

With its wide-ranging focus on life sciences, ZB MED is promoting "good health and well-being", as stated in SDG 3. At the heart of these medical publications, in-house publisher German Medical Science provides researchers and other interested parties with subject-specific or interdisciplinary journals. These include GMS German Medical Science, an interdisciplinary e-journal for all medical topics, and the GMS Journal for Medical Education, covering all aspects of medical training.

Accompanying journal publications, editors and authors can choose from further life sciences-oriented topics and media on open access platform PUBLISSO. Authors are able to continuously update their research by using "living handbooks", while a similar tool to provide "living encyclopaedia" is currently being developed. With the "MAK Collection", occupational safety reports, their documentations and methods are made available. And since all publications will be long-term archived, this knowledge is also open to future researchers in medicine and other life sciences.

The PUBLISSO¹ open access publishing platform from ZB MED – Information Centre for Life Sciences is connected in terms of content to the SDG 3 (health and well-being) and the SDG 4 (quality education) and in terms of technical issues to the SDG 9 (infrastructure).

¹ <https://www.publisso.de/en/publishing/>

ZB MED has been an open access stakeholder since the Berlin declaration. The publishing platform German Medical Science² for Medicine exists since 2003 and the complementary publishing platform PUBLISSO since 2015. On these platforms you can publish different types of publications like Living Handbooks, series (e. g. „MAK Collection” -financed by DFG - Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Germany’s largest funding organisation), Living Encyclopaedias (e. g. „OAPEnz” – financed by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and also journals and meeting abstracts (in development). Apart from these publishing services there are accompanying services like trainings (personal, workshops and webinars) on all topics of publishing and furthermore on intersecting topics like open access/ open science, long-term preservation and research data management. The content of the platform is **findable, accessible, readable and reusable** – by researchers, practitioners and all other interested parties. It is also **up to date** – the platform allows continuous updates of publications. In addition, it’s **free of charge** for the authors (diamond or platinum model) – publication fees are paid by learned societies.

However, what are we doing to fulfill the SDGs? With our publishing platforms in the field of Medicine and Life Sciences we are working on the **Improvement of health-care services via open access** (SDG 3.8) and the visibility of research results. As we are engaged in the open access field, we also fulfill the SDG 4.5: eliminate gender disparities in education and **ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training** for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations. As a consequence, up-to-date knowledge on health topics is made available to researchers, practitioners and all other interested parties. Updates of content are not only easy to submit and fast to publish. Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) are also assigned. Additionally, authors can enhance content by adding links to referred research data, videos, etc. One example is the **Living Textbook of Hand Surgery**³ with which the authors intend to „resolve the great delay to the progressive research and development of treatment in this field”. Or the Living Handbook of **Urogenital Infections and Inflammations**⁴ which aim is to bundle the international interdisciplinary knowledge of urologists, gynaecologists, clinical microbiologists, and infectious diseases specialists.

Another SDG goal is the focus on hazardous chemicals and pollution with the aim of decreasing the number of deaths and illnesses. This goal we are able to fulfil with “The MAK Collection”⁵, available since 2020 on PUBLISSO. This is a collection by the Permanent Senate Commission for the Investigation of Health Hazards of Chemical Compounds in the Work Area and its aim is to publish recommendations for health-based threshold levels at the workplace.

Furthermore, as our infrastructure PUBLISSO – System is open source we are also fulfilling with our services SDG 9 by developing a new publishing platform which is reusable in a sustainable manner for all interested parties.

² <https://www.egms.de/dynamic/en/index.htm>

³ https://books.publisso.de/en/publisso_gold/publishing/books/overview/49

⁴ https://books.publisso.de/en/publisso_gold/publishing/books/overview/52

⁵ <https://series.publisso.de/en/pgseries/overview/mak>