



## SDG Publishers Compact Fellows Action Group

### HESI Annual Report, 2023

The SDG Publishers Compact Fellows work with academic publishers, editors, researchers, practitioners and policymakers to help facilitate the journey towards a publishing ecosystem that addresses societal sustainability challenges and supports human progress. Under the aegis of the Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, Fellows operate as both a think tank and action group. Our mission is to give practical tools and actionable guidance that publishers, editors, researchers and practitioners need to prioritize SDGs in the research agenda and in educational materials while improving connections between practice and research.

#### Report submitted by

Debra Rowe and Roger Worthington (Co-chairs), Jo Wixon and Sally Wilson (Fellows).

#### Deliverables/outputs

The Fellows continue to promote their Top Action Tips on actions for authors, researchers and publishers to improve sustainability, using the [SDG Rubric](#) and [Author Guides](#) on how to share practical implications of research beyond academia to increase SDG impact.

We have recently added new guidance on [Equity in Research and Publishing](#), which we see as a foundational concept underpinning the whole SDG agenda.

In collaboration with the HESI action group on Ratings, Rankings and Assessment in HE, Fellows were members of a *Joint Task Force on Outcomes and Impacts* [JTFOI], which held an extended series of meetings (2022-3). The JTFOI produced a [Report](#) that makes a number of recommendations on enhancing measurement, practice, funding and other key points relating to ratings, rankings, and research assessment and core functions of higher education institutions.

## Outreach activities

Fellows communicate with non-members through the following means:

- a) a [quarterly newsletter](#) sent to virtual community subscribers and a [LinkedIn group](#),
- b) collaborating with partner organizations on events focussed on the sharing of practical implications of research to drive change,
- c) speaking at UN events, such CSocD, STI and HLPF conference side events
- d) presenting at publishing industry events, such as the Researcher to Reader conference, the London Book Fair, STM Sustainability Day and APE conferences.
- e) two of the Fellows are co-chairs of ALPSP's [SDGs and Publishing SIG](#), which has attracted over 50 members since launching in September and produced a list of [SDG resources on the ALPSP website](#)
- f) building our [LinkedIn presence](#), significantly increasing our list followers
- g) communication through [the website](#), and through publications, such as an article in Logos (Brill Publications) on "[Higher Education Sustainability Initiative SDG Publishers Compact Fellows](#)".

## Planned activities

- Equity. Improving equity in relation to article processing charges levied by publishers in support of Open Access and issuing supplementary guidance, such as on waivers.
- Accessibility. Strive to make research on sustainability more accessible, encourage the inclusion of implications for practitioners and/or policymakers in abstracts and the use of plain language summaries.
- Engagement. Continued active engagement with partner organizations, such as UNESCO, STM, ALPSP, EASE, Kudos, ratings and rankings organizations, OpenPharma and others.
- Inclusion. Extending the reach of the Fellows into Africa, including welcoming new members from Southern Africa.
- Dissemination. Contribute articles on SDGs and speak at conferences and other events (see above).

## Timeline

- Short term:
  - Community. Build communities to drive change and shift systems
  - Standards. Establish and share best practice and standards
- Long term:
  - System Shift. Drive and demonstrate systems change.

## Collaborations

Existing collaborators already on our website include: EASE, STM and ICLEI.

Collaborators recently added are listed below and include:

*Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) to:*

- officially recognise and promote the [Top Action Tips](#) and the [Rubric](#) across the global publishing industry to increase awareness and implementation
- run an ALPSP '[SDGs in Publishing](#)' special interest group (SIG), supported by the Fellows as appropriate when resource needs are identified
- co-host events and promote each other's events or outputs that drive action towards the SDGs
- work together to increase the number of SDG Publishers Compact signatories among ALPSP's members.

*OpenPharma for:*

- Increasing communication of practical applications of research outside academia
- Joint DORA10 author training session on [communicating practical applications of research outside academia](#)
- [Session](#) at Open Pharma multi-stakeholder summit on Plain Language Summaries.

## Membership

The Fellows function as an action group and think tank, focused entirely on promoting the SDGs. While not all Fellows attend every meeting, we continue to meet once a week as a group, and at any given time, smaller subgroups may be working on individual projects, such as the development of new guidance. Individual Fellows take responsibility for communicating with partner organizations / collaborators and advising the larger group on issues such as marketing and outreach, and uses of Artificial Intelligence in academic publishing.

The Fellows group has expanded since last year and currently has 30 members:

*Alphabetical (by first name) list of Fellows:*

Andrew Bostjancic

Arend Küster

Caroline Lock

Chirag Jay Patel

Claire Jackson

Clarice Martel

Dana Compton

Debra Rowe (Co-chair and Founder)

Derek M. Lough

Gerald Beasley

Hannah Ells

Hilary Belleville

Holly Koppel  
Jason Maitland  
Jo Havemann  
Jo Wixon  
Liz Allen  
Lucas Toutloff  
Matt Giampoala  
Natalie Webster  
Nicola Jones

Nikita Lad  
Rachel Burley  
Rachel Martin  
Ratna Lindawati Lubis  
Rebecca Kirk  
Roger Worthington (Co-chair)  
Sally Wilson  
Stuart Cooper  
Victoria Gardner

