

# 

# Introduction

This guide suggests several methods to help keep up-to-date with published literature. The methods listed and the associated pros and cons of each method are not exhaustive, are subjective, and therefore intended to be illustrative only. Reading is a highly personal activity and you are encouraged to try various tools and techniques to suit your desired reading experience.

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# Twitter and social networks



Photo by [Sara Kurfeß](https://unsplash.com/@stereophototyp?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText) on [Unsplash](https://unsplash.com/search/photos/social-networks?utm_source=unsplash&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=creditCopyText)

Pros: Helps develop an academic community around shared research interests

Cons: Be aware of your digital wellbeing

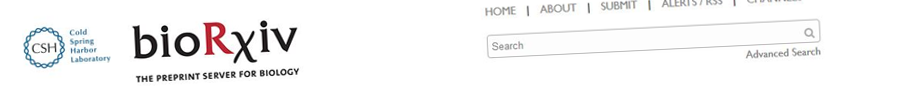
Cons: There is no quality filter; anyone can post anything

Notes: The information gained can be self-selecting based on whom and the hashtags you follow

Notes: Once you know the right hashtags to use when posting and follow, your contact and information network will quickly grow

Notes: Retweets, likes and comments do not necessarily correlate to quality nor mean that others have read the article they are sharing

# Journal databases and preprint servers (via email and RSS feeds)



<https://www.biorxiv.org/> screenshot

Pros: Journal databases have journal inclusion criteria and therefore come with a degree of editorial control. The quality of the articles in the journals, however, is not guaranteed

Pros: Search alerts can be as sensitive or specific as you wish to make them, thereby retrieving a wide range of information with many results, or a focussed alert based on a narrow search that will retrieve fewer but more relevant articles

Pros: Search alerts are journal agnostic and therefore increase the breadth of your reading

Cons: Email alerts and RSS feeds can get lost in your inbox

Notes: Content can be self-selecting depending on the databases or servers you get the alerts from. Depending on your research interests you may need to set alerts from several databases to retrieve the cross-disciplinary breadth of the topic of interest, or use a multidisciplinary database

Notes: Preprints allow the sharing of very new research, but they are not yet peer reviewed. Use your critical appraisal skills to judge their quality

Sources: A list of [databases by subject](https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/library/specificsearch/databasesbysubject/); A list of [preprint servers by subject](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preprint)

# Table of contents (ToC) alerts (via email and RSS feeds)

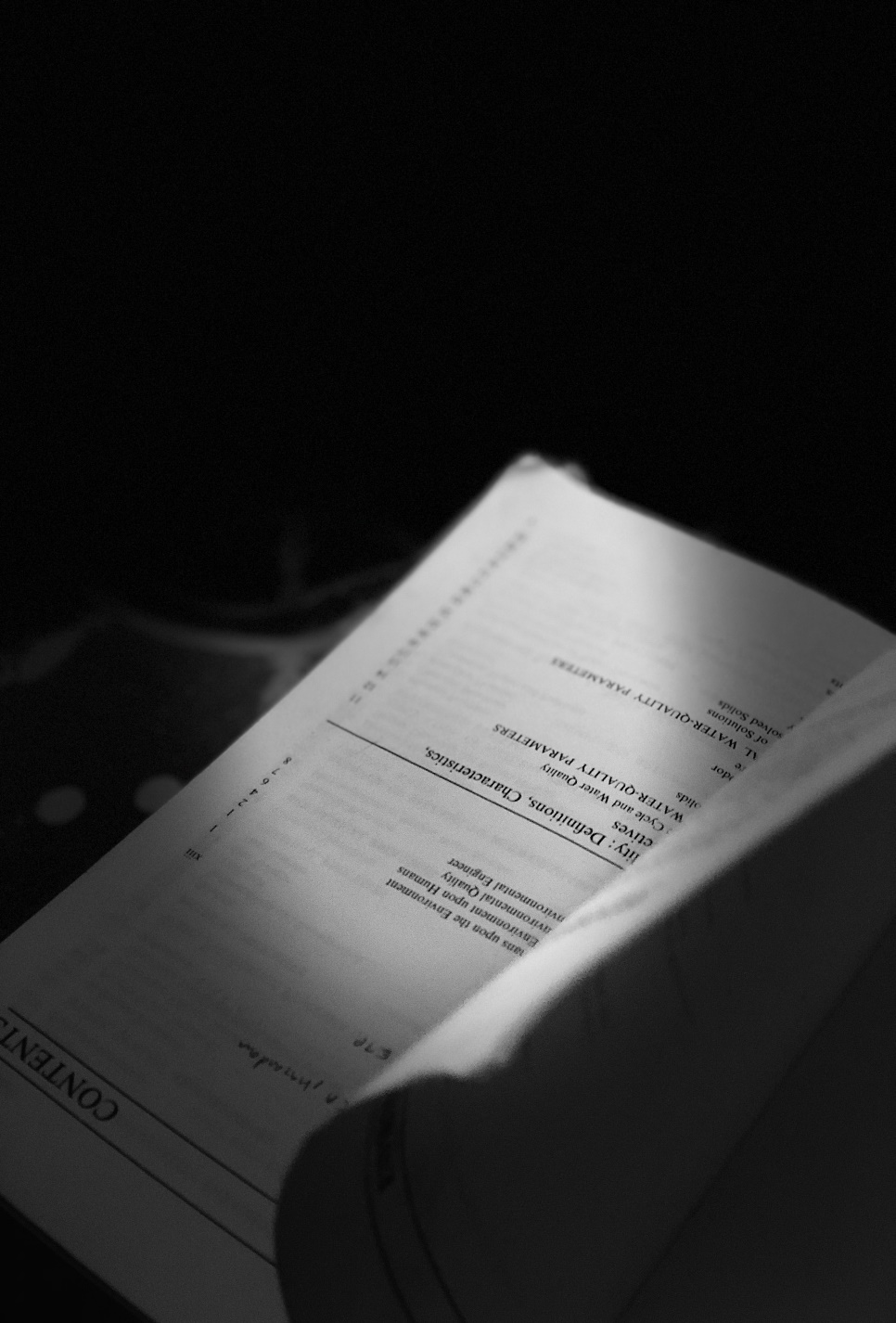


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Pros: Table of contents alerts notify you when new issues of journals are published. You can therefore filter the alerts to journals you know publish relevant research

Cons: Articles published in ‘high impact’ journals do not necessarily correlate to good research

Cons: Email alerts and RSS feeds can get lost in your inbox

Notes: Content can be self-selecting depending on the journals you are alerted to

Sources: [Zetoc](http://zetoc.jisc.ac.uk/); [JournalToCs](http://www.journaltocs.hw.ac.uk/)

# Citation alerts (via email and RSS feeds)



<https://www.scopus.com> screenshot

Pros: Identify who is reading your work or the work of prominent authors

Pros: People citing your work are possible future collaborators

Pros: Analyse who is citing relevant work and develop a citation network

Cons: Email alerts and RSS feeds can get lost in your inbox

Cons: Reading can be focussed on one topic and self-selecting based on who you follow

Sources: [Scopus](https://eleanor.lib.gla.ac.uk/search~S6/y?search=scopus&SORT=D); [Web of Science](https://eleanor.lib.gla.ac.uk/search~S6/y?search=web+of+science+core+collection&SORT=D); [Altmetric Explorer](https://www.altmetric.com/explorer/highlights)

# Peer reviewing



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Pros: Peer reviewing can enhance your academic CV and develop your critical reading skills

Pros: Sites like [Publons](https://publons.com/benefits/researchers) allow you to practice and develop your peer review skills in a closed community

Cons: The peer review process can be time consuming

# Apps and other tools



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Pros: Offer personalised recommendations based on your reading history/library/interests

Cons: Content filters may ‘silo’ your reading

Cons: Some are premium/paid for services

Notes: Be aware of the privacy settings of apps and tools

Sources: Society publishers; Mendeley, F1000, Read by QxMD, amongst many others [this list is not a recommendation of tools or services]

# Credits

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