



Media release: for immediate release

## Scholarly journals have never sufficiently rewarded peer-reviewers - PeerJ introduces an innovative program to reward contributors with genuine benefits

*Contributors now earn PeerJ Tokens for reviewing and editing submissions to PeerJ journals. Tokens can be exchanged for discounts - up to 100% - on PeerJ's Article Processing Charge.*

[PeerJ](#), the award-winning open access publisher, has announced an innovative new reward program for peer review contributions. Based on contributors earning PeerJ Tokens for each submission they peer review or edit, the publisher aims to address two of the major issues facing peer review and scientific communication: lack of reward for the time and effort put in by editors and reviewers; and the general congestion of peer review. "By fairly incentivising engagement and contribution we hope that more academics and researchers will sign up to review submissions made to our seven journals" says Pete Binfield, PeerJ's Publisher and Co-Founder. "We know that our contributors' time is valuable, and we think they deserve to be rewarded for their contributions."

The Tokens program is flexible and fair. Tokens can be accumulated over time, as they have no expiry date, and they can be combined (or 'stacked') to maximize a contributor's discount. Co-authors can pool their Tokens and allocate them to a single submission, and contributors can even transfer their Tokens to another PeerJ user to help them towards their publication fees. Tokens - and the equivalent discount they are entitled to - are commensurate with the contribution made by users, rewarding those who do more.

"We're listening to the communities that we work with. They are frustrated by spiralling and frankly scandalous costs of Open Access publishing, especially because without their contribution the whole scholarly publication system would fall apart. We are aiming to make peer review rewarding for every party involved and do more to make *open* accessible to all," says Nathaniel Gore, PeerJ's Director of Communities.

Users earn Tokens for reviewing and editing. Prospective reviewers can sign up to the new [PeerJ Reviewer Match](#). Upon receiving their first invitation to review, they will receive 5 Tokens - equivalent to a \$50 discount - whether they accept the invitation or not. From them

on, for each submission they peer review, they will earn another 10 Tokens - a \$100 discount. Academic Editors can also earn Tokens for handling submissions - researchers who are interested in joining one of PeerJ's Editorial Boards can apply at [peerj.com](https://peerj.com). There is no limit on the APC discount that can be earned, meaning that active reviewers and editors can claim a 100% discount.

"In 2022 we are celebrating a decade of PeerJ and we have no intention of standing still," says Jason Hoyt, PeerJ's Co-Founder and CEO, "Journals today mostly act as if the only person on the field contributing is the quarterback or forward. Even worse, publishers like to think that they're the star of the show. It's about time we started to do more to recognize and reward the researchers who are responsible for the bulk of scholarly knowledge by making peer review work for them."

Researchers can find out more at [peerj.com](https://peerj.com).

ENDS

Contact: [press@peerj.com](mailto:press@peerj.com) for enquiries.

About:

PeerJ is an Open Access publisher of seven peer-reviewed journals. PeerJ's mission is to give researchers the publishing tools and services they want with a unique and exciting experience. All works published by PeerJ are Open Access and published using Creative Commons licenses (CC BY 4.0, CCO, or CC BY-NC ). PeerJ is based in San Diego, CA and the UK and can be accessed at [peerj.com](https://peerj.com).

In 2022 PeerJ is celebrating its first decade of publishing and innovation.