

Open Life Science Publication Database (OLSPub)

Building a Resilient European Biomedical and Life Science Infrastructure

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Why OLSPub?

The U.S. government is implementing changes that will have a negative impact on PubMed and, more broadly, on the independence of research.

A loss of access to PubMed would be noticeable. A distortion is not.

We have no tools to detect when there are **subtle changes** in what is actually being indexed.

Why OLSPub?

Reliance

- Free, fully U.S.-funded, with no alternative
- We base our training, our systematic review services and our information on it.
- Legal requirement for medical companies , in accordance with the Guideline on Good Pharmacovigilance Practices ([GVP Module VI](#)), to screen MEDLINE at least once a week.

Why OLSPub?

Implemented and planned changes

The most significant change for MEDLINE

Federal advisory committee to review journals ([LSTRC](#)) was terminated in [September 2025](#).

[Replaced](#) by individual external consultants. No longer clear who makes the final decision on admission today.

➤ Permanent, but not noticeable. A journal that isn't indexed doesn't leave a gap that anyone would easily notice.

Further changes

- *The National Library of Medicine* ([NLM](#)) will be merged with *The National Institute of General Medical Sciences* [NIGMS](#): the implications for governance remain unclear.
- No annual [MeSH](#) reindexing has taken place yet in 2026 (2025 and 2024: in spring).
- A [draft](#) of *The Office of Management and Budget* [OMB](#) regulation (federal grantmaking) would downgrade peer review to an advisory role in funding decisions and make it easier to terminate ongoing grants.

What is OLSPub?

ZB MED's goal is to create an open publishing platform for life sciences content, in particular from the field of medicine.

OLSPub will provide a stable, freely accessible alternative to PubMed.

OLSPub has not yet secured funding.

What we Can Do

It is not about predicting that PubMed will be shut down tomorrow.

It is about the fact that a source we present as the gold standard has **lost its verifiable reliability** — and we owe our **researchers** this information.

Proposal to establish an Interest Group in Switzerland

1. Observe

- Use existing monitoring systems instead of setting up your own ([Pubservatory](#), [NLM Technical Bulletin](#)).

2. Language Policy

- A common, objective wording for training sessions and information. No alarmism, but also no silence. Cite supplementary sources (Embase, Europe PMC, LIVIVO).

3. Connecting

- The European OLSPub initiative pursues precisely this goal: a complementary, parallel infrastructure supported by the community. A Swiss voice in this initiative would be valuable.

Interested?

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