

Mastodon, RSS, BlueSky

Egon Willighagen 

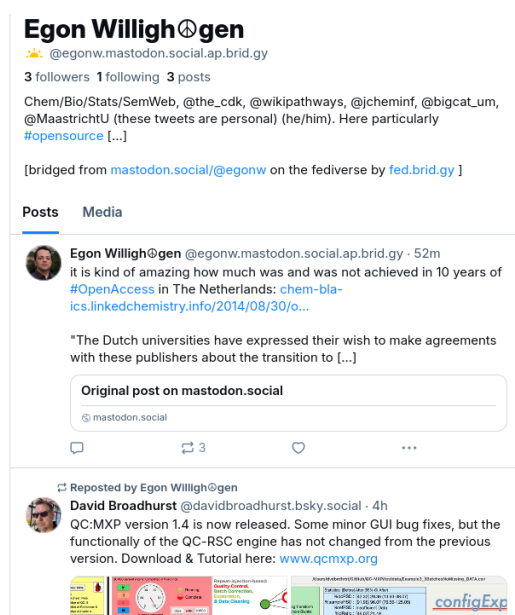
Published November 10, 2024

Citation

Willighagen, E. (2024). Mastodon, RSS, BlueSky. *Chem-bla-ics*. <https://doi.org/10.59350/yxyp4-r5j24>

Keywords

Mastodon



The screenshot shows a Mastodon profile for Egon Willighagen (@egonw.mastodon.social.ap.brid.gy). The profile includes a bio with various handles and a link to #opensource. Below the profile is a post from 52 minutes ago. The post text reads: "it is kind of amazing how much was and was not achieved in 10 years of #OpenAccess in The Netherlands: chem-bla-ics.linkedchemistry.info/2014/08/30/o...". Below the text is a quote: "The Dutch universities have expressed their wish to make agreements with these publishers about the transition to [...]". There is a link to the original post on mastodon.social. Below the post are interaction icons for reply, retweet (3), like, and more options. Below the post is a reposted message from David Broadhurst (@davidbroadhurst.bsky.social) from 4 hours ago, announcing the release of QC-MXP version 1.4. The reposted message includes a link to www.qcmxp.org and a row of small thumbnail images for various software tools like ChemDraw, Marvin, and others.

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chem-bla-ics

The x-odus continues and there is a wave of researchers moving from X to another walled-garden called [Bluesky](#). This is good and bad. First, it is good that people are leaving X (imho) and it is good that they move to a platform that supports open standards, the [AT Protocol](#). But I am less sure, about moving to another closed source platform. I prefer [Mastodon](#). You can follow Mastodon accounts with their [RSS](#) feeds and that gives BlueSky users the ability to follow me on social media. This is important to me. I have a LinkedIn account too, but you can only follow me there if you have an account there too. To me, that does not align with the Open Science ideals.

But while you can follow me Mastodon accounts with RSS (or just by checking the two webpages), this is a read-only access. That is, you cannot reply. For that, you still need an Mastodon (or Fediverse) account too.

But then there is [Bridgy Fed](#). It *“is a decentralized social network bridge. It connects the fediverse, the web, and Bluesky”*. I learned about this recently, and it seems to do what it promises. Using the AT Protocol, it allows me to follow and reply to BlueSky users (if they have enabled the bridge), and BlueSky users can interact with me.

So, if you have BlueSky and want to follow one or both of my Mastodon accounts, check out:

- [@egonw.social.edu.nl.ap.brid.gy](#) (focused on my research)
- [egonw.mastodon.social.ap.brid.gy](#) (more general open science)

But only if they enabled the bridge too, I can follow them back.

References