



The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers
Shaping the Future of Learned and Professional Publishing



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Scholarly Publishing Groups Issue White Paper on Academic Use of Journal Content

Three prestigious organizations representing the international scholarly publishing community today issued a White Paper on the academic use of journal content. The position paper was issued by the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM), the Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers (AAP/PSP) and the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) in an effort to create a more balanced understanding of the actual rights policies in place at most journals, and in the hope of tempering the often overheated rhetoric regarding the role of copyright in scholarly communication.

The White Paper notes that the vast majority of academic publishers offer a high level of usage rights by authors and their institutions, including use within the classroom and internal postings for scholar-friendly uses. In addition, the position paper points out that the principles of “fair use,” “fair comment” or “fair dealing” and the fact that copyright protection does not extend to underlying facts or ideas, (but only to their expression) gives academics and critics the freedom to note and comment on research developments by criticizing and quoting published articles, without the need to obtain any form of consent.

The position paper lays out general terms for the appropriate balancing of rights for academic journal publishing, noting that:

- Academic research authors and their institutions should be able to use and post the content that such authors and institutions themselves provide (as noted above, most publishers already provide for this) for internal institutional non-commercial research and education purposes;

- Publishers should be able to determine when and how the official publication record occurs, and to derive the revenue benefit from the publication and open posting of the official record (the final published article), and its further distribution and access in recognition of the value of the services they provide.

The complete text of the paper can be found at: www.stm-assoc.org, www.pspcentral.org, www.alpsp.org

The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers – STM – is a global trade association representing the interest of about 100 scientific, technical, medical and scholarly publishers, collectively responsible for more than 60% of the global annual output of research articles, over half the active research journals and the publication of tens of thousands of print and electronic books, reference works and databases. STM is the only international trade association equally representing all types of STM publishers - large and small companies, not for profit organisations, learned societies, traditional, primary, secondary publishers and new entrants to global publishing. www.stm-assoc.org

Members of the Professional/Scholarly Publishing (PSP) Division of the Association of American Publishers, Inc. (AAP) publish the vast majority of materials used in the U. S. by scholars and professionals in science, medicine, technology, business, law, reference, social science and the humanities and are worldwide disseminators, archivists, shapers and enhancers of scientific research via print and electronic means. The Division's 100 plus professional societies, commercial publishers and university presses produce books, journals, computer software, databases and electronic products. www.pspcentral.org

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) is the international association for non-profit publishers and those who work with them to disseminate scholarly and professional information. It has over 350 members in 38 countries, between them publishing nearly 10,000 journals as well as books, databases and other products and services. ALPSP provides representation of the sector, good practice guidelines, collective services, professional development activities and a wealth of information and advice. www.alpsp.org

For further information please contact:

Michael Mabe, STM, email mabe@stm-assoc.org or phone +44 1865 339321