

## PRESS RELEASE

### Growth for STM publishers in 2008

#### STM releases new report on scientific and scholarly journal publishing

Oxford, UK – 13 October 2009

The International Association of Scientific, Technical, and Medical Publishers (STM – [www.stm-assoc.org](http://www.stm-assoc.org)) has published, 'The STM Report: An overview of scientific and scholarly journal publishing', a follow-up to the 2006 report, 'Scientific publishing in transition: an overview of current developments'.

Funded by STM, and prepared by Mark Ware Consulting and STM, 'The STM Report' collects the available evidence, and provides a comprehensive picture of the trends and currents in scholarly communication. It shows that scholarly communications are undergoing profound changes driven by technology and economic factors, while authors' core motivations to publish remain stable. collects the available evidence, and provides a comprehensive picture of the trends and currents in scholarly communication.

Annual revenues generated from English-language STM journal publishing are estimated at \$8 billion in 2008, up by 6-7% compared to 2007, within a broader STM publishing market worth some \$16 billion. About 55% of global STM revenues (including non-journal STM products) come from the USA, 30% from Europe, 10% from Asia/Pacific and 5% from the rest of the world.

Continued growth in output, particularly from China and East Asia, will put further pressure on the system, especially when combined with funders' desire for greater return on research investments and the pressures on researchers to accelerate the research cycle.

There are approximately 2000 journal publishers globally, and the main English-language trade and professional associations for journal publishers include 657 publishers producing around 11,550 journals - about 50% of the total journal output by title. Of these, 477 publishers (73%) and 2334 journals (20%) are not-for-profit.

There were about 25,400 active scholarly peer-reviewed journals in early 2009, collectively publishing about 1.5 million articles a year. The number of articles published each year and the number of journals have both grown steadily for over two centuries, by about 3% and 3.5% per year respectively. The reason is the equally persistent growth in the number of researchers, which has also grown at about 3% per year and now stands at between 5.5 and 10 million, depending on definition, although only about 20% of these are repeat authors.

The 'STM Report' also shows that the debate over business models and access to information paradoxically occurs at a time when access to literature has never been wider nor cost per download lower. Within this maturing debate, there remains an increased interest on an evidence-based approach to these various business models

'The STM Report' will be updated and released once every three years, presenting an overview of the current state of the world of scientific journal publishing.

"There is a real need for regular, evidence-based overviews of the publishing landscape for a wide range of constituencies," said Michael Mabe CEO of STM. "I am proud that STM has been able to satisfy this requirement for our sector."

.....

STM is an international association of over 100 scientific, technical, medical and scholarly publishers, collectively responsible for more than 60% of the global annual output of research articles, 55% of the active research journals and the publication of tens of thousands of print and electronic books, reference works and databases. It is the only international trade association equally representing all types of STM publishers - large and small companies, not for profit organizations, learned societies, traditional, primary, secondary publishers and new entrants to global publishing.

**Mark Ware Consulting** provides publishing consultancy services to the STM and B2B sectors.

For further information, please contact:

Michael Mabe, [mabe@stm-assoc.org](mailto:mabe@stm-assoc.org) or phone +44 1865 339321

