STM and Access


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STM’s position on access

- Publishers are committed to the wide dissemination of, and unrestricted access to, their content.
- We support any and all sustainable access models that ensure the integrity and permanence of the scholarly record.
- We do not support unfunded mandates that constrain scholarly authors or affect the sustainability of the publishing enterprise.
- Services that publishers provide must be paid for in some way.
“More people have access to more content than at any point in the history of mankind.”

Benefits of digital access

For researchers
- Remote, desktop access
- Fast search
- Interlinked articles
- eFunctions, eg eMail alerts
- Links to datasets

For librarians
- Easier collection management
- Usage data per journal
- Reduced storage space
- Staff efficiencies

Source: “E-journals, their use, value and impact”, 2009 RIN/Ciber
Researchers highly satisfied with journal access

% Very + Fairly easy to access

- Research articles in journals: 93%
- Reference works: 74%
- Clinical guidelines: 73%
- Professional/Trade publications: 63%
- Books/Monographs: 62%
- Technical information (e.g. characteristics of materials): 57%
- Patent information: 56%
- Conference proceedings: 56%
- Historical archives/public records: 44%
- Doctoral theses/dissertations: 43%
- Market Research reports: 38%
- Data set/Data models/Technical Info/Algorithms and programmes: 38%

Access to research articles by region:
- North America: 97%
- Western Europe: 94%
- Eastern Europe: 84%
- Middle East: 85%
- APAC: 91%
- Latin America: 88%
- Africa: 78%

Source: PRC global study (forthcoming)
Non-university researchers are also satisfied with journal access

Publishers and other stakeholders are working to understand and close remaining gaps

PRC study: Survey of access to professional and academic information in the UK, August 2009 – companion report
STM industry initiatives – expanding access

**Development of new business models:**
- Author/Funder pays model (Golden Open Access)
- Deepdyve – Research, Rent and Read
- Pay Per View
- Pilot projects for SMEs

**Information philanthropy**

PatientInform
- Programme that brings together publishers and trusted health organisation to provide access to patients and caregivers
  - [http://www.patientinform.org/](http://www.patientinform.org/)

Developing country access to the world’s best research
- Online access to over 8,100 peer-reviewed journals, books and databases
- Public-private-partnership
  - [http://www.research4life.org/](http://www.research4life.org/)
VAT is a barrier to electronic access

**Situation:**
Higher VAT rates on electronic products over print versions are acting as barriers to a fully digital environment

**STM position:**
...the lowest possible (or zero) VAT rate should apply to all kinds of academic and professional publications (journals and books) irrespective of the format in which they are produced, commercialized or delivered
STM Publishers:

• deliver a **valued service** to the research community
• strive for the **widest possible access** to their publications and support ALL and ANY sustainable models
• **led the way** in a digital revolution that has expanded access
• are **experimenting with new approaches** to fill remaining access gaps and deal with the challenges of data

Europe is the global leader in STM publishing; we want to work closely with the Commission to ensure it stays that way