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STM publishers present copyright and licensing options for a digital European future

- **STM publishers help drive debate at European Commission's Licenses for Europe initiative**
- **Publishers commit to the facilitation of text and data mining for non-commercial scientific research in the European Union**
- **Submissions to workings groups cover interoperability, multi-territory access and small scale 'micro-licence' solutions**

A broad coalition of STM publishers have been supporting the European Commission's ['Licenses for Europe' initiative](#) to demonstrate their continuing commitment to appropriate copyright and licensing within the new digital landscape which is emerging across the continent. As part of this engagement, publishers have pledged support to a roadmap to enable text and data mining (TDM) for non-commercial scientific research within the European Union.

[13 signatories](#) have already committed to granting the necessary copyright licenses to permit TDM of copyright-protected content so that bona-fide researchers at non-commercial institutes are able use TDM to harness its potential to drive discoveries in medical and scientific disciplines. The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) issued a [variety of sample licenses](#) which publishers can adopt for TDM purposes, and now hopes, that the TDM roadmap will inspire even greater collaborative working to ensure that big data and big science successfully converge.

Speaking of the STM sector's input into the Licenses for Europe debate, and the launch of the TDM roadmap Wim van der Stelt, Executive Vice President Corporate Strategy from Springer Science+Business Media said "STM publishers already now enable successful text and data mining, foremost by leveraging their existing infrastructure and by granting the necessary rights regarding subscribed content. Licensing is the smart way to develop text and data mining solutions that brings together the best published research with the best technology, independent of the business model that drives the investment in quality content to be mined. Assuring quality and bringing together big science and big data is an important part of what publishers will be doing in future."

The Licenses for Europe dialogues commenced in December 2012 with the formation of four working groups. The STM sector has been an active part of three of those working group led debates. Within Working Group 1: on inter-operability of content delivery platforms and devices as well as multi-territory licensing. Within Working Group 2: STM assisted with the identification of potential legal issues and the determinants of user experience on social and other online platforms. Likewise, user-generated content was explored, leading to solutions for individualised licensing to be presented.

With the increasing digitisation of content across Europe, it is crucial that this content licensing be smart, speedy and intuitive. It is hoped by all STM publishers that their active and constructive engagement with the Licenses for Europe Working Groups, that the interests of research and knowledge creation can be furthered alongside the maintenance of high levels of copyright and database protection to ensure both a sustainable as well as a digital future.

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Notes to Editors

- 1) A statement of commitment by STM publishers to a roadmap to enable text and data mining (TDM) for non-commercial scientific research in the European Union

Signatories to the commitment are shown within the document

http://www.stm-assoc.org/2013_11_11_Text_and_Data_Mining_Declaration.pdf

- 2) Further details on the Licences for Europe initiative can be found on the European Commission website: <http://ec.europa.eu/licences-for-europe-dialogue/>

- 3) **STM** is an international association of over 120 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. We are 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.