We, the above-mentioned associations, support the positive developments which have taken place in the context of the European Commission’s ‘Licences for Europe’ Working Group 4 on text and data mining (TDM) for scientific research purposes.

The purpose of Working Group 4 (WG4) was to explore solutions such as standard licensing models as well as technology platforms to facilitate TDM access, with the objective to promote the efficient use of text and data mining (TDM) for scientific research purposes. Several participants presented a range of practical and innovative solutions in this regard, which represent the result of major investment by the publishing industry and the licensing organisations with whom they work. Some of these initiatives are already successfully being used by publishers and researchers, while others which are being launched now or being piloted with a view to being launched in the coming months.

These initiatives include a sample licence clause, presented by STM, which allows publishers to easily provide a quick answer to requests made by the scientific community to be able to text and data mine content for which they have a subscription. Other initiatives include PLS Clear, a digital clearing house initiative from the UK’s Publishers Licensing Society (PLS) developed with the assistance of a group of leading publishers and researchers, which connects researchers and publishers to further simplify TDM. Crossref’s Prospect initiative shows that thanks to technical innovations TDM for research for non-commercial purposes is possible via a click-through licence, and with simultaneous access to cross-publisher content in one standardized format, as is the Copyright Clearance Centre’s (CCC) pilot TDM service concerning both subscribed and non-subscribed content for commercial researchers, set for commercial release in 2014. “PDR” licences have also been successfully developed for the pharmaceutical industry for commercial uses.

It is clearly for the mutual benefit of both publishers of content and miners to find licensing solutions which permit researchers to mine works and allow them to do so as seamlessly and easily as possible, while securing the publishers’ investments in their publications. It is important that potential miners continue to engage with the publishers to achieve the best outcome for their research, given that the different platforms used by publishers have different capabilities and given that it is important to avoid any potential disruption or degradation to these platforms, which is possible when unmanaged mining takes place without publisher support.

It is also important to underline that it is critical for the long-term sustainability of the research and publishing communities that the end results of any research must not become a substitute for the published content, which would jeopardise the authoritative content that publishers provide which helps research to advance. It should remain up to rightholders to decide how their content may or may not be re-used by others.

In conclusion, publishers continue to be open to discussing and finding licensing solutions together with the research community, to facilitate text and data mining with the potential to further research. As we heard in WG4, publishers and researchers are already benefiting from the solutions which have been developed to date. We welcome these innovative solutions and the continued work in this field and believe that this non-legislative approach represents the most constructive way forward for both the researchers and publishers concerned.

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1 Further details of these initiatives can be found in various presentations and other documents which are available on the Licences for Europe website: http://ec.europa.eu/licences-for-europe-dialogue.
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