



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL & MEDICAL PUBLISHERS

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STM response to ‘Major international associations join together to underscore their support for immediate open access to research articles’ statement

A recent statement by the Confederation of Open Access Repositories (COAR) and allied associations advocates immediate open access with the elimination of any embargo period as a goal. Sustainable economic models already achieve this and are [supported by STM and its members](#). These include 'gold' open access, whereby publication is funded by an article publishing charge paid by the author or another sponsor, or any one of a number of hybrid publishing options.

Also ‘green’ open access can be achieved by post-embargo self-archiving of manuscripts published in a subscription journal. Where a self-archiving approach toward open access is taken, policy makers have wisely and universally used embargoes to allow publishers time to recover the significant costs of enabling the discovery and dissemination of today’s scholarly communication. Many now understand that the length of embargos should depend on the nature of the content, usage and readership patterns, and the frequency of the publication. One size does not fit all.

STM agrees with UK Science Minister David Willetts who has said repeatedly that the worst route to open access is via self-archived articles with short embargoes that undermine the publications they depend upon for peer review, article discovery and navigation.

The Association and its members are committed to ensuring the widest possible dissemination of the content they publish and believe that a balanced, evidence-based approach to this goal will result in the sustainable models of access necessary to ensure academic freedom and the integrity and permanence of the scholarly record.

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