

NEWS RELEASE

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STM opens community-wide consultation on article sharing

- **Trade body produces draft 'voluntary principles for article sharing on scholarly collaboration networks' for broader comment**
- **Views and wider discussion sought on how scholarly community can work together to provide sharing framework**

The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) today opened a communitywide consultation into the sharing of research articles. Running from 9th February until 10th April 2015, the consultation aims to start discussion and to gain a better understanding of the current landscape of article sharing through scholarly collaboration networks and sites. Feedback is invited, including input on a draft outline of voluntary principles.

STM would like to make sharing simple and seamless for academic researchers, enhancing scholarly collaboration, while being consistent with access and usage rights associated with journal articles. The consultation process aims to build consensus around a commonly agreed framework whereby all players within the community can work together to facilitate sharing which benefits researchers,

institutions, and society as a whole, with a core set of principles that maximises this experience for all.

The working group convened by STM to draft the principles and seek community input includes representatives from a number of organisations. Project Lead Fred Dylla (CEO and Executive Director of the American Institute of Physics) said: "We see this as a first step in what we hope will be an ongoing collaborative process. We want to ultimately develop practical solutions. To do that, we need to work together with scientific collaboration networks, researchers, libraries and publishers. We hope to get expressions of interest in getting involved, support for the voluntary principles and feedback that will inform our collective path forward."

The consultation will close on 10th April 2015. STM will collate and publish all submitted feedback on its website.

More information will be available on the STM website from the 9th February.

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Notes to Editors

- 1) Project Lead Fred Dylla <link through to: <http://www.aip.org/staff/h-frederick-dylla>> is available for interviews about both the STM consultation and voluntary principles document. This can be arranged by contacting Matt McKay on the information provided above.
- 2) 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.