

International Association of STM Publishers

Intellectual Property Committee

Mission and Objectives

Vision and Mission

'Legal Frameworks for the Advancement of Research'

STM's Intellectual Property Committee advocates for legal frameworks that enable effective and sustainable systems of scholarly communication worldwide. In the context of fast evolving technologies, funder policies and research practices, we work to maximise the potential of these developments while defending principles that are fundamental to a healthy research ecosystem. We hold that a sound Intellectual Property framework will always be necessary to scholarly communication, whatever the business model, and essential to the successful development of Open Science and Open Access. We want the industry's engagement with the IP framework to be an enabler of progress, and believe that licensing offers fast, flexible and adaptable solutions to changes in technology and the environment. Cybercrime and IP piracy undermine the research communication ecosystem and we will work to combat them wherever they arise. We aspire to help create an intellectual property framework that maximises the potential for the advancement of research and will provide expertise, advocacy and education in support of this goal.

Key Goals

1. Be the **global voice** of scholarly publishers in relation to IP, and **source of expertise** to the STM Board and to the industry.
2. Advocate for **legal frameworks** that are clear and sustainable, and that recognise the diversity of practice across disciplines, professions and regions. Support frameworks that underpin the ability of publishers to advance research and innovation, while defending against threats that would significantly erode the sustainability of the research communication ecosystem.
3. Respond positively to **technology innovations** that enable the practice of research and scholarly communication while protecting the IP rights of its producers and publishers. Seek greater clarity over developing legal issues, such as platform responsibility and digital exhaustion.
4. Advance **licensing** as providing fast, flexible, adaptable solutions to changes in technology and the environment, rather than legislation or contract overrides. Present licensing as an enabler of progress.
5. Show how clear and supportive legal frameworks are essential for the success of **Open Access and Open Science**.
6. Develop **frameworks for academic best practice** which are seen by authors and researchers as supportive of science and scholarship, of their work and their rights. Create easy to follow, well-understood pathways that support normal, bona fide academic practice. Aspire to a universal understanding of how IP frameworks enable the community to write, read and collaborate in a way that maximises the advancement of research.
7. In conjunction with the Enforcement Taskforce combat **cybercrime and piracy** that undermine the scholarly communication ecosystem.

8. Create an advocacy capability and strategy in **China** to foster the development of a healthy IP framework.
9. Support **freedom to publish** universally.

Objectives for 2019

1. Advise STM and PAC as needed on the interpretation and implementation of the **EU Digital Single Market directives** – e.g. copyright, PSI, e-commerce, enforcement.
2. Understand the legal dimensions of **Plan S and the wider European Open Science agenda** and advocate for sustainable IP policies in the implementation of both.
3. Provide suggestions for what should be included in **Horizon Europe** model grant agreements to protect IP rights in support of PAC's advocacy work.
4. Support the development of an IP framework for the curation and publication of **research data** in support of STM's role as an EU Research Data Champion, and of the research community in general.
5. In conjunction with the ETF, support advocacy in relation to cases at the CJEU concerning **platform responsibility**, and combat **cybercrime and piracy** that undermines the advancement of research.
6. Review STM's **IP policies and position papers** in the light of the Association's rethought strategy. Develop positive statements about the role of IP in enabling access while protecting authors' rights and ensuring the sustainability of the system.
7. Begin the process of influencing the development of a healthy IP capability in **China**. Advocate internally in STM for the provision of resource and begin the development of an IP advocacy strategy in the country.
8. Intervene and advocate in **regional copyright legislation** if material and as required.
9. Create and involve an **affiliate member group** to ensure wider member participation in the work of the committee.