

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

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Publishers continue commitment to combating COVID-19 by extending immediate access to resources

Publishers today announced an extended commitment to support the continued global response to the rapid worldwide spread of COVID-19.

Sharing the worldwide concern about the spread and impact of COVID-19, publishers recognize the crucial role they can play in supporting the response to this crisis and advancing the research that will be critical in combating the virus.

In immediate response to the epidemic announcement by the World Health Organization (WHO), members of the International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM) moved to:

- Provide [immediate free access to all relevant peer-reviewed publications](#) to ensure that for the duration of the outbreak, research and data quickly reaches the widest possible audiences. More than 32,000 articles, chapters, and other resources related to COVID-

19, other coronaviruses, and related epidemics have already been made available in this manner;

- Accelerate the review and publication of articles that are relevant to researchers currently addressing the crisis;
- Enable the use of artificial intelligence and other tools to analyze the freely available research content through open, interoperable systems such as [Crossref](#) and other aggregated solutions; and
- Continue to offer researchers the full range of publisher systems and solutions to enhance their abilities to address the global health crisis

Following ongoing conversations with the US Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and noting the recent request from science advisors around the world, STM is now announcing further steps that have been taken by our members to enhance the use of these resources, to ensure that these will be available for additional analysis and reuse, including by machine tools and artificial intelligence. These strides will enable researchers to further identify trends and solutions that could help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Participating publishers will:

- Ensure that publications related to COVID-19, other coronaviruses, and related epidemics are available in both human- and machine-readable formats, with rights to enable text and data mining, re-use and secondary analysis;
- Work to support others – including the US National Institutes of Health’s National Library of Medicine and the World Health Organization (WHO) – who are creating centralized collections of these resources for researchers’ use, by making publisher

resources available through these portals including PubMed Central (PMC) and other repositories; and

- Ensure that data related to publications are also available, where possible

Speaking of the announcement, Ian Moss STM's CEO said "We are all gravely concerned about the significant threat that COVID-19 represents to public health. In order to aid the efforts to slow the spread of the virus and, fundamentally, to save lives, STM publishers are committed to work collectively to ensure that research findings are shared quickly to advance cutting-edge research. As a community, we hope that the provision of immediate access will aid the global response and make a difference."

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Notes to Editors

About STM

At STM we support our members in their mission to advance research worldwide. Our 150 members based in over 20 countries around the world collectively publish 66% of all journal articles and tens of thousands of monographs and reference works. As academic and professional publishers, learned societies, university presses, start-ups and established players we work together to serve society by developing standards and technology to ensure research is of high quality, trustworthy and easy to access. We promote the contribution that publishers make to innovation, openness and the sharing of knowledge and embrace change to support the growth and sustainability of the research ecosystem. As a common good, we provide data and analysis for all involved in the global activity of research.

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