

REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE INFORMATION SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE COPYRIGHT ECOSYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

During the upcoming 42nd Session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights (SCCR), an Information Session on the Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Copyright Ecosystem will take place. In order to provide a clear overview of the “impact on the cultural, creative and educational ecosystem, including copyright, related rights, and limitations and exceptions”, the Secretariat kindly invites Member States and Observers to share existing examples of situations that arose and actions that were taken and/or interventions that were made during the Covid-19 pandemic with respect to the industries or institutions that are being considered in the Information Session. We ask you to describe these situations or actions by providing the information requested below. If you are able to give us some elements of your response before March 15, it could help our researchers who are preparing the overview. In addition, all contributions received by the eve of the Information Session will be uploaded (with your permission) onto the WIPO web site.

Please send this form by email to the following address: copyright.mail@wipo.int with the subject: “Information Session”.

INFORMATION REQUEST

1. Full name of the entity or individual submitting the response.
International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers (STM)
2. Contact person with email address and telephone number for questions or clarifications about the submission.
Ms Caroline Sutton, Chief Executive Officer, STM
Email: caroline@stm-assoc.org

Carlo Scollo Lavizzari, legal counsel to STM, Lenz Caemmerer, Basel Switzerland
Email: csl@lclaw.ch
3. Would you accept having your response made public (e.g. posted on the WIPO website)?
 Yes
 No
4. Do you accept having the information contained in your responses mentioned in studies and presentations for the Information Session?
 Yes
 No
5. **Brief** description of example, measures or interventions that took place (up to 200 words).
(Explanation: Please briefly explain the situation and why it is of interest for the Information Session. Examples could include policies put in place or other measures aimed at increasing the resilience of an industry or institution, or to assist the people they serve.)

STM's members have acted rapidly and decisively to support the continued global response to the rapid worldwide spread of COVID-19 with immediate access to accurate and validated articles and monographs that the public can trust.

In direct response to the health emergency, publishers provided free access to relevant peer reviewed publications to ensure that throughout the duration of the outbreak, research and data quickly reaches the widest possible audiences. On 30 January 2020, STM reached out to members to coordinate and broaden the wider efforts to make relevant research quickly and freely available. Over the subsequent days and weeks, more than 32,000 articles, chapters and other resources have been made findable and useable in this manner.

This resource page was deployed on 10 February 2020, whilst throughout the month, publishers worked to continue to identify and improve the use of resources in tandem with world governments and non-governmental organisations. Agreements have been made to ensure that resources are available under terms and in formats that enable machine analysis and reuse. Crossref have also provided assistance to make it easier for researchers to identify, locate, and access content for text mining.

The publishing community is committed to helping combat COVID-19. We continue to offer researchers the full range of publisher systems and solutions to enhance their abilities to address the global health crisis and hope that these provisions will aid the global response and make a difference.

At the STM website link below are links to publisher's resource hubs and freely available articles: [Coronavirus \(Covid-2019\) - STM \(stm-assoc.org\)](#)

6. Territory where it took place (continent, country, and city or region).

Global and in national areas of special concern, e.g. Research 4 Life initiative STM is partnering with UN sub-organisations, such as WHO, FAO, UNDP, WIPO, STM and its members have also collaborated with national agencies, such as NIH in making covid-related research available. STM has also collaborated with national Publishers Associations and the International Publishers' Association, IPA, to coordinate where needed access to copyright-protected continuing further and higher education materials.

7. Relevant sector or sectors.

Educational and Research, Publishing, Libraries

7.1 Additional observation or sector not listed above:

Scholarly Communications including Humanities, Social Sciences, History, Arts, Humanitarian international law,

8. Please provide the key lessons from this example.

In STM's view collaboration and speedy decision-making in concertation with stakeholders such as national libraries, research organisations and governments and private sector as well as international organizations is key. Private sector and private-public cooperation is key.

Whilst every situation is different and Covid is/was special in that it affected the entire world almost simultaneously and ubiquitously, STM was fortunate to have learnt from previous emergency experiences how to act. These access emergency experiences were also made immediately and voluntarily concerning also copyright-protected information available, eg during the time of the earthquake in Haiti, or the accident in and natural disasters such as at Fukushima, Japan, or the South East Asian Tsunami. STM and its members also support and are active partners in the UN-

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suborganisations and library access programs under the umbrella Research 4 Life [Home - Research4Life](#)

9. Please provide links to relevant documents or other sources that could provide further information about this example.

The International Publishers' Association, Geneva, Switzerland and its members also provide information on access measures. They are too numerous to list them all.

By way of Example:

South African Example:

[Oxford University Press SA During The COVID-19 - PASA \(publishsa.co.za\)](https://publishsa.co.za)

Global Example

<https://www.elsevier.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

<https://www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center>

Copyright Alliance

<https://copyrightalliance.org/trending-topics/resources-from-creator-copyright-community-to-ease-coronavirus-impact/>

USA example

<https://publishers.org/aap-news/covid-19-response/>

10. Please provide any additional comment you might have.

The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations and its members also acted responsibly and at speed in collaborative ways.

By way of example the measures CCC in the US and globally took:

- **Open to Read COVID-19 Content.** CCC recognized publishing and other information organizations for contributing to the common good by providing free access to relevant COVID-19 content and created a resource page on copyright.com to amplify the availability of this open to read material. In the first few months, our primary users were large pharma companies and governmental health entities.
- **RightsLink Permissions.** Numerous publishers contacted CCC requesting to modify their permissions options to authorize no-cost education and related permissions during the COVID-19 crisis. CCC's product team is addressed these requests in real time.
- **Hub for Educators.** To accelerate sharing of knowledge and ease online learning, CCC published a resource page on copyright.com to amplify the good work of publishers in making educational resources open for K-12 and higher education during this crisis.
- **Education Continuity License.** On 23 March 2020 CCC launched the Education Continuity License, a new, no-cost license in response to numerous inquiries regarding the use of copyrighted materials in student lessons since the forced closings of U.S. schools and universities. CCC is coordinated with publishers to authorize use of their materials in creative distance learning as required by the pandemic, at no cost to the user. We had strong publisher support.
- **Annual Copyright License for Curriculum and Instruction.** In July of 2021, in response to the need for flexible licenses for in person, remote and hybrid learning we launched a new

license to enable a broad set of educational uses, including in Education Technology applications.

Finally, it is important to consider that viable publishing and creative industries are not only part of what feeds humanity in crisis but also part of what can let humanity rebuild and refresh after an immediate emergency or crisis. The sectors have struggled and many authors, researchers and publishers as well as the distribution chain such as bookshops have suffered enormously.

In spite of these issues and with the aspirations of feeding humanity intellectually and being part of free expression and discourse the sector of publishing and scientific publishing has demonstrated a great heart and spirit in a very timely manner.

To illustrate the need to foster and rebuild the wider research, education and creative sectors see: [ARTICLE DETAIL IFRRO SUPPORTS EY STUDY ON CULTURAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES BEFORE AND AFTER COVID 19 3510](#)

About STM

At STM we support our members in their mission to advance research worldwide. Our over 140 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.

STM contact details

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