

**Report from UKSG Workshop B - Titles Moving Publisher:
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The workshop was designed to gather feedback on the newly formed UKSG project called Transfer. This group is looking at creating best practice guidelines and standards for the movement of titles between publishers. The ultimate aim of the group is to create an industry code of practice similar to the excellent work that the Project COUNTER organisation has done for journal usage statistics.

The movement of titles brings a set of challenges for librarians, publishers and intermediaries. When discussing these challenges each of the workshops identified the following common themes:

For Librarians the issue of perpetual rights was a huge problem. When a title moves publisher the librarian is unaware of the change until access is cut-off due to a change of URL, or access arrangement. A particular frustration is when the librarian loses both access to the newly published issues of the title, as well as those back-volumes that they have paid for in the past. Another key problem is when a title moves between two publishers who offer different pricing models: for example a librarian may receive full access to a title via their consortia deal, but when a journal moves they have to resort to re-buying a journal subscription if the title moves to a publisher that does not offer a similar consortia-collection model.

Publishers attending the workshop highlighted how upon receiving a journal they often did not receive the required amount of subscription information required in order to be able to ensure un-interrupted access to the journal for the newly-transferred subscribers. Their call was for standards to ensure that a minimum amount of core information is supplied by the transferring publisher. They also emphasized that many of the contract decisions and timings of journal transfers were due to the editorial board or owner-society making decisions without understanding the consequences to their library customers.

The next half of the workshop examined the three core issues identified by Transfer as key areas for standards to emerge. The first was Communication, the workshop considered who, what, when and how parties within the info chain can learn about title transfers. Agents were identified as being key stakeholders in ensuring that this level of information was provided to its library customers, but agents in turn rely on timely information from publishers. The second theme was Legacy ie: how to track and record which volumes of a transferred journal are available, where they are hosted, and how to identify who has rights to them. All agreed that a central repository of such data would be extremely valuable to cope with these issues. Finally we discussed Packages and price models: looking at how journal transfers are handled in the context of the big deal in terms of pricing, access rights and licensing.

Purpose of Workshop

- To discuss the best practice principles relating to titles moving between publishers to ensure uninterrupted access for the end-user.
- To brainstorm the three key themes identified as the most problematic areas when a title moves
- To discuss the standards suggested by the ALPSP

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There are currently some good ALPSP guidelines in place that have been designed to guide society publishers through many of the issues identified above. The workshop discussed some of the more quantitative guidelines in details and fed back on whether they were provided an adequate standard for best practice.

Results of the Discussion of ALPSP guidelines:

- Both publishers to continue to offer parallel access for at least 6 months

The workshop delegates felt that this was satisfactory

- Journal URL to be passed to new publisher OR a redirect in place for a minimum of 1 year

The workshop delegates felt that this was satisfactory

- All subscriber details to be passed to new publisher. If agreement cannot be reached then subscription agents could help.

Agreed

- Extension of grace periods, at least 2 months is recommended.

Three months was felt to be more helpful.

The ALPSP guidelines can be found at: <http://www.alpsp.org/socjourn1.pdf>

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