

Oxford University Long-term Access Policy for E-Journals

Introduction / Summary:

Many readers and librarians are concerned about long-term access to electronic resources, particularly journals. As with everything to do with electronic access, the position is complicated. In answering enquiries from readers or colleagues, the most important point to note is that OULS is committed to ensuring long-term access to licensed electronic journal content where the publisher and licensing model allow for this. This document describes what current arrangements are in place to ensure long-term access.

1 Provision in licence agreements

1.1 Post-cancellation access to current years

1.1.1 Ideally, all OULS licences should include a clause on **post-cancellation access**. This means that the university retains access to previously paid for electronic journals *after* the contractual agreement for these materials has been terminated in the same way as OULS would retain previously acquired print copies on library shelves for future years.

1.1.2 However, a licence clause on post-cancellation access does not necessarily guarantee easy access to the content.

- a. The preferred option is that the content is available online from the publisher's platform or via a third party system (e.g. Portico). This model ensures that content and functionality are updated or migrated regularly as technology continues to develop. Example: *Elsevier, Springer, Taylor & Francis*.
- b. The less preferred option is when a publisher provides the library with full text files on a data carrier and the library is required to upload the data and make it browse- and searchable. Unfortunately, OULS does not yet have a system or workflow in place to make such files available through the campus network. Example: *Project Muse*.
- c. As indicated above, OULS prefers option (a) and will continue to put pressure on publishers to comply with this more user friendly and convenient model.

1.1.3 Post-cancellation access gives users continued access to the full texts for those journals and volumes to which a subscription was held. In the case of 'Big Deals' or other publishers' packages, conditions vary whether the library also has post-cancellation access to those journals to which *no* paid print subscription is or was held. Example: *Wiley*.

1.1.4 Nearly all journal publishers allow post-cancellation access. However, there are some exceptions where journals are part of aggregator databases. Providers of aggregator databases typically negotiate the full text content with publishers and we observe a rapid turnover of content. These providers, who typically operate in the field of Business and Law, are in direct competition with each other for key journal

content which explains why aggregators are unable to make promises about long-term access. Example: *ProQuest ABI INFORM, EBSCOhost Business Source Complete*.

1.1.5 A further problem arises where a journal publisher changes and the original publisher no longer retains the rights to publish or display that content. In this case OULS cannot necessarily guarantee to provide continued access to that journal but would make all reasonable efforts to negotiate such rights with the new publisher. This is a recognised problem across the publishing industry and many publishers are working to find a solution. [This is not an issue with JSTOR as described in section 1.3].

1.2 Access to back volumes

1.2.1 Journal content prior to c. 1996 is normally offered under separate licence agreements from current volumes. Back volumes can be purchased outright or subscribed to on an annual basis. The situation with JSTOR is mentioned in a separate section 1.3.

- a. Some back volumes are purchased outright, either as individual journal titles or in subject or publisher bundles. Outright purchase gives OULS legal right to perpetual access. Long-term access is achieved through one of the two models described in section 1.1.2. OULS has a strong preference for option (a).
- b. In some cases back volumes are paid for on a subscription basis. In these cases no further access is granted once the subscription is cancelled. Example: *American Chemical Society*.

1.3 JSTOR

1.3.1 JSTOR acts as an e-journal aggregator for back volumes and is one of the most popular online services in Oxford. However, few librarians and readers are aware of the fact that JSTOR is a subscription-based service and termination of our subscription would mean immediate exclusion from access. This rule applies not only to Oxford University, but to all universities in the UK and abroad.

1.3.2 On the other hand, content with JSTOR is comparatively secure, as publishers are under no circumstances allowed to withdraw any content from the service.

1.3.3 A similar arrangement also applies to other third party backfile providers such as *BioOne*.

1.4 Open Access journals and free back content

1.4.1 Not all e-journals are accessed based on a licence agreement. The most obvious exceptions are Open Access journals. In addition to OA journals, some other publishers – mainly not-for-profit STM societies – make all their back content freely available on the internet. In these cases OULS cannot secure long-term access via licence agreement. Examples: *National Academy of Sciences, American Association*

for *Cancer Research*, *BMJ Publishing*, *Soil Science Society of America* and many others.

1.4.2 Many of these societies place their back file content on PubMed and Highwire. There are no guarantees on continuing long-term access other than individual publisher statements about making their back files freely available.

2 Non-publisher programmes securing perpetual access

2.1.1 Regular post-cancellation access depends on the publisher being able to provide access. However, possible scenarios can be imagined where a publisher is no longer able to offer access to their content: a publisher can stop operations, cease to publish a title, or there can be catastrophic and sustained failure of a publisher's delivery platform.

2.1.2 In order to offer secure access in such circumstances OULS subscribes or supports to several initiatives.

2.2 LOCKSS (www.lockss.org)

2.2.1 LOCKSS (Lots of Copies Keep Stuff Safe) is a Stanford University Libraries project, founded in 1998. This is a non-profit initiative providing tools and support for libraries in preserving web-published materials. The technology is open source, peer-to-peer, decentralized digital preservation infrastructure. It uses a special web-crawler to collect copies of material and can verify that permission from the publisher has been granted if necessary. The system allows a library to collect and preserve material to which it is subscribed, for which they have permission from the publisher. Open Access titles can also be preserved. The material is then stored in a 'LOCKSS Box' – a normal PC converted into a digital preservation appliance. All formats and genres of web published content are stored. LOCKSS is OAIS-compliant; the software migrates content forward in time; and the bits and bytes are continually audited and repaired. Content preserved through LOCKSS becomes a part of a library's collection, and they have perpetual access to all of the titles preserved in their LOCKSS Box. Access occurs when content is not available from a publisher, so post-cancellation access is provided for all preserved material.

2.2.2 A list of publishers and their titles that are available for preservation in a LOCKSS Box is available here: http://www.lockss.org/lockss/Publishers_and_Titles.

2.2.3 Over 200 publishers are currently listed here (plus additional Open Access titles), although it is important to recognise that not all of their titles will be authorized for preservation via LOCKSS. For example, the *Institute of Physics* is listed as a participating publisher but only two of their journals are involved in this scheme. Likewise, *Taylor and Francis* are listed as having titles hosted by *Project Muse* included – however in reality this covers only one T&F title.

2.2.4 OULS is a member of LOCKSS, i.e. Oxford holds a 'LOCKSS Box'. However, the Oxford server is only sufficient for the archiving function and could not provide a production delivery service. Further investment in infrastructure and development time would be required for LOCKSS to provide an online service. Further, it has limited coverage in terms of our subscriptions.

2.3 CLOCKSS (www.lockss.org/clockss)

2.3.1 'Controlled LOCKSS' is an example of a 'Private LOCKSS Network'. CLOCKSS Host libraries are collecting and preserving a comprehensive collection of scholarly material, including materials to which they do and do not have a subscription. There are seven CLOCKSS Host libraries (and this number will not grow to more than fifteen) with two LOCKSS boxes each, that are preserving content on behalf of everyone. Twelve major publishers are involved: *American Chemical Society, American Medical Association, American Physiological Society, Wiley-Blackwell, Elsevier, Institute of Physics, Nature Publishing Group, Oxford University Press, SAGE Publications, Springer, Taylor & Francis*, as well as seven institutions: Indiana University, the New York Public Library, the OCLC, Rice University, Stanford University, the University of Virginia and the University of Edinburgh.

2.3.2 Access to the material will be provided when no publisher has current responsibility for the material and no one is providing electronic access to selected content. Should this happen, impacted material will be made available to everyone via a hosting platform.

2.3.3 The ultimate goal of the CLOCKSS initiative is to cover all the titles produced by the publishers listed, although this only covers twelve publishers.

2.3.4 OULS is not a member of CLOCKSS.

2.4 Portico (www.portico.org)

2.4.1 Originally launched by JSTOR in 2002, Portico is an electronic archiving service which provides "*a permanent archive of electronic (peer-reviewed) scholarly journals*". The material is mainly preserved via 'migration', so content is transitioned from one file format to another as technology evolves and older formats become obsolete. The service therefore offers a permanent archive of the material, protecting against the potential loss of e-literature from a library's collection. Portico will provide campus-wide access to archived material when titles are no longer available from the publisher (or elsewhere). Access is also provided following certain 'trigger' events, including: a publisher ceasing operation, ceasing to publish a particular title, ceasing to offer back issues or after a 'catastrophic and sustained failure' of their delivery platform. Participating publishers can choose to designate Portico as their provider of post-cancellation access.

2.4.2 Portico's operating costs are covered from diversified funding sources. Both publishers and libraries are asked to make annual contribution to defray a portion of

Portico's costs. For libraries, payments towards operational costs are tiered according to a self-reported total Library Materials Expenditure (LME).

2.4.3 The list of participating publishers can be found here:
http://www.portico.org/about/part_publishers.html.

2.4.4 The Portico initiative covers proportionally more larger, scholarly publishers (46 publishers are currently listed – see appendix) than either LOCKSS or CLOCKSS, and covers a far higher number of journal titles (6,071 are currently committed). OULS consider the collection available through Portico superior to the content of LOCKSS or CLOCKSS.

2.4.5 Portico experienced its first trigger event in December 2007. *Graft: Organ and Cell Transplantation*, published by SAGE Publications from January 2001 to March 2003, will be removed from SAGE's online offering at the end of 2007 creating the first ever trigger event for the Portico archive and Portico's participating publishers and libraries. Following this event, Portico will make *Graft* available to its library participants via the Portico website. This event also acted as a trigger for CLOCKSS which now offers access to the journal in question.

2.4.6 OULS is a subscriber and Founding Member of Portico. The annual subscription fee is borne by the library materials budget.

OULS Collection Management (AK, JMCA, CD) 29/11/07

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Appendix: PORTICO PUBLISHERS

American Accounting Association *

American Anthropological Association *

American Chemical Society

American Institute of Physics

*American Mathematical Society **

American Meteorological Society

American Physical Society

American Psychological Association (APA) *

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

Annual Reviews

Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) *

Berkeley Electronic Press *

BioOne *

Cambridge University Press

CSIRO Publishing

Copernicus *

*Duke University Press **

The Ecological Society of America *

Elsevier, including *

Cell Press

The Lancet

Haworth Press *

Hindawi Publishing Corporation *

IEEE

Institute of Physics Publishing (IOPP)

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B) *

Johns Hopkins University Press

John Wiley & Sons *

The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery (JBJS®) *

Now Publishers Inc.

*NRC Research Press **

Oxford University Press *

SAGE Publications Inc. *

*SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) **

SPIE (Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers)

Symposium Journals (Oxford UK)

Taylor & Francis Group *

*University of California Press (UC Press) **

University of Chicago Press

BOLD = OULS subscribes to all titles (as of 31 Oct 07)

BOLD Italics = OULS subscribes to many titles (as of 31 Oct 07)

Publishers indicated with an asterisk (*) have chosen to name Portico as one possible mechanism to fill post-cancellation access claims submitted by participating Portico libraries.