Article Sharing Framework
A Framework for Responsible Sharing

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why should publishers care about Article 17 – and with that, about Article Sharing Framework?**
   Article 17 of the Directive for Copyright in the DSM establishes new protections for publishers' protected works online and new responsibilities for platforms enabling article sharing. To activate the new mechanism, enable the sharing of authorised works and take action against infringements where those were to occur, publishers have to meet certain obligations, including the provision of relevant and necessary information about their works. The Article Sharing Framework is designed as a way for publishers to easily meet this obligation and co-operate with platforms.

2. **Is the Article Sharing Framework a tool or solution that platforms can plug-in?**
   No, the Framework is an implementation guide on what information publishers need to provide, and how. It also describes how platforms can utilize that information.

3. **What target platforms is the Article Sharing Framework intended for?**
   The Article Sharing Framework was designed for platforms covered by the new obligations set by Article 17 of the Directive for Copyright in the DSM. Article 17 DSM focuses on Online Content Sharing Service Platforms (OCSSP), i.e. platforms that are typically commercial in nature and that make available large amounts of content to the public. The policies expressed through the Framework are thereby focused on these platform types, and as such, personal blogs/websites as well as institutional repositories are not in scope.

4. **What costs are involved for platforms to implement the Article Sharing Framework?**
   For the Article Sharing Framework to work, the following elements are needed: a) software to extract metadata from PDFs is available **open source**, b) access to Crossref's metadata API: this API is available **free of charge**, yet for a better performant API, one is required to pay a modest fee. For more information, scroll to "Metadata Plus Subscriber Fees" on https://www.crossref.org/fees/.

5. **What costs are involved for publishers to implement the Article Sharing Framework?**
   For the Article Sharing Framework to work, publishers are required to embed additional metadata into places where they include metadata already (i.e. in PDF and Crossref). As such, the costs incurred are limited and likely mostly related to human resources required to set up the processes that thereafter are fully automated.

6. **To what content does Article Sharing Framework apply?**
   As part of the Article Sharing Framework, publishers are expected to deposit sharing policy indicators for content that typically does not bear a Creative Commons license. As such, the Framework is specifically applicable to open archive and subscription content.

   However, to identify the sharing permissions for a given article version, platforms have to look into the same Access and License Indicator (ALI) metadata section in Crossref that they would use to identify Creative Commons licenses.

7. **Why do publishers have to use STM sharing policies?**
   It is incredibly important to keep matters manageable for platforms and to enable them to automatically implement and use the license information that publishers provide. Given that there are over 5,000 academic publishers worldwide, having them coalesce around a limited set of policy types is of great importance and value.

   Also, many publishers have yet to define their sharing policies, and some may want to align theirs with what prevails in the industry. Being able to choose from a set of policies that have been defined by colleague STM publishers may be helpful. Although limited in number, the STM sharing policies offer sufficient flexibility for publishers to set a wide range of policies. This includes the ability to set different policies for accepted manuscripts and the version of record, or for sharing publicly vs for collaboration.

8. **What forms the basis of the 48 STM sharing policies?**
   The STM sharing policies defined in the Article Sharing Framework consider a number of parameters:

   Platform Type (2) * Sharing Method (2) * Journal Article Version (3) * Displayable Elements (4)

   These parameters make for a total number of 48 permutations. Publishers will choose a combination of these STM sharing policies to add to an article's Crossref metadata.

9. **How to select the applicable STM sharing policies for content?**
   The Framework's integration guide includes a helpful lookup tool to support publishers in assigning the right sharing policy indicators.

   STM offers implementation support through webinars and workshops. Interested to join? Please check the agenda and send a note to asf@stm-assoc.org.

10. **How to deposit STM sharing policies with Crossref?**
    The Article Sharing Framework builds on the same Crossref license metadata mechanism – Access and License Indicators (ALI) – as is used for Open Access and Text & Data Mining licenses. With this Framework, publishers add one or more STM sharing policy indicators to the article's Crossref metadata record to convey their sharing policies. This is in addition to any other metadata publishers deposit with Crossref.

    STM offers implementation support through webinars and workshops. Interested to join? Please check the agenda and send a note to asf@stm-assoc.org.

11. **What percentage of content published annually bears the DOI and JAV metadata tags?**
    Roughly 45% of all academic content published include the DOI and JAV metadata tags in machine-actionable form. This number will grow considerably in the coming months.

12. **What about legacy content, i.e. back files that do not have DOI and JAV metadata tags?**
    Reprocessing legacy content to include the DOI and JAV metadata tags in a machine-actionable form will be costly. It may however be possible to stamp these tags the moment a user requests the article from the publisher platform.

13. **How does the Article Sharing Framework relate to the STM Voluntary Principles for Article Sharing; and how can a platform support the Principles?**
    The STM Voluntary Principles for Article Sharing were published in 2015 and have been endorsed by a broad range of publishers and platforms. Implementing the Framework to enable responsible sharing concerns a logical next step for those parties that endorse the Principles.

    Note: whereas sign-up and compliance with the Principles is not a prerequisite for using the Article Sharing Framework, platform users may benefit from additional sharing permissions.

    Interested to learn more about the Principles? Please visit www.howcanishareit.com and get in touch if you wish to endorse them.

14. **Is the Article Sharing Framework an industry standard?**
    Yes, the Article Sharing Framework is an industry agreed standard. It builds on existing industry technology and infrastructure, e.g. DOI, Crossref and NISO recommended practices, to provide the information platforms need to facilitate article sharing in line with publisher policies.

15. **Is the Article Sharing Framework specific to the academic publishing industry?**
    Yes, the Article Sharing Framework considers some unique aspects of academic publishing e.g. different article versions, and different sharing methods (sharing in research collaboration groups, sharing for general access). Next to this, the Framework also leverages existing industry technology and infrastructure.

16. **Is the Article Sharing Framework just an upload filter?**
    No, it is not. Through the Framework, platforms obtain information about how to share content in a legally compliant way. Ultimately it will be up to the platform as to whether to upload a work or not. Nothing in the operation of the Article Sharing Framework can technically prevent this happening. There is no automated blocking. The value of the Framework lies in the fact that it gives an unambiguous indication as to what is permitted. If a platform decides to upload a work even when it is indicated they should not, then under the provisions of Article 17 of the Directive for Copyright in the DSM, they are liable for copyright infringement.

17. **Will the Article Sharing Framework lead to over-blocking?**
    No, the Article Sharing Framework will return all sharing options for a given article version, so e.g. if the full text cannot be shared, the platform has a means to identify alternative sharing options, for instance to allow the sharing of abstract and/or citation metadata.