

# STM Article Sharing Framework – Publisher Implementation Testimonial

Maxine Smith

Online Development Editor

Geological Society of London

The Geological Society of London (GSL) is possibly the smallest publisher to implement support for the Article Sharing Framework (ASF). One person worked on the implementation, deferring to the management team for choosing the correct sharing policies.

## Why did we do it?

GSL decided to be an early adopter of the ASF for several reasons:

1. GSL had already joined [How Can I Share It](#) and this was just the next step.
2. Researchers and commercial content sharing platforms require clarity on what sharing is permitted and this seemed a good way of enabling this for content that is not considered Open Access.
3. By making article sharing policy information freely available from a central repository (i.e., Crossref), multiple content-sharing platforms can easily receive consistent and current sharing policy information.

## Getting Started

Our first step was to choose which combination of the ASF policies best represented the GSL sharing policy for any given published article. It took a couple of attempts to choose the correct policies, but having a small team meant that once we understood what was required we could quite quickly decide. GSL has chosen 5 ASF policies for our content:

- **OA content:** no ASF policies applied; a public use license like CC-BY applied instead.
- **Broad sharing:** non-OA content with few restrictions on sharing. Examples would include editorials and promotionally free content, plus UKRI content by exception.
- **Limited sharing:** non-OA content with more limited sharing. Examples would include research articles that don't fit into one of the two profiles above. GSL also split out the sharing for accepted manuscripts versus Version of Record as GSL has a 12-month embargo.

Once we determined which ASF sharing policies would apply to which types of content, we could move on to develop our technical implementation.

## Technical Implementation

From a technology standpoint there are two steps to implementing the ASF:

1. Adding two machine-readable metadata fields to each article PDF that enables unique article identification: the DOI and the Journal Article Version (JAV) are inserted into the PDF's XMP metadata area during the production process and those fields travel with the PDF.
2. Adding one or more ASF sharing policy indicator(s) to each article's metadata record in Crossref.

GSL implemented the first step 18 months ago and so GSL's content since then has included that data. GSL has not yet inserted this information into legacy content.

For the second step of the process, GSL first tackled the legacy content for all DOIs published until September 2022 using a very large CSV metadata deposit to CrossRef. The plan is, until our platform provider can deposit this information for us, to deposit one month at a time.

One GSL staff member has been responsible for the technical implementation with a lot of help from Dan O'Brien at the ACS.