International Association of STM Publishers

Policy and Advocacy Committee

Vision and Mission and Objectives for 2019

Vision and Mission

'Trusted Partners in the Advancement of Research'

STM's Policy and Advocacy Committee works in partnership with all stakeholders to advocate for policies which support researchers and the quality, integrity and sustainability of the scholarly communication ecosystem. In dialogue with our partners, we aim always to be seen as enablers and drivers of change, particularly in relation to the development of Open Access and of Open Science in general. While representing the publishing community in all its diversity, we speak with one voice to governments, funders and university leaders, responding to their missions while advocating for policies which accommodate both change and sustainability. We evidence the value publishers add to research and its communication, and the wider contributions the industry makes to societies and economies. As experts in policy, the PAC is a resource for STM's Board, and a source of briefing and information for all the Association's members.

Key Goals

1. To **influence public policy decisions** in support of the advancement of research and of an effective and sustainable system of scholarly communication.
2. To influence policy makers, funders, governments, library and university leaders such that they recognise publishers as **trusted, valued and needed partners**: so that they see us as experts and enablers helping them achieve their goals; as change drivers and innovators; as independent, critical friends who can shape and improve policies; as credible and transparent; as representative of our industry, and as delivering on our promises.
3. To help shape the development of policy in relation to **Open Science and Open Access** and its implementation. (Where Open Science is used only as the common term for 'open research.'
4. To **serve the entire research community**, maintaining an open trust-based dialogue with stakeholders, recognising the realities of their goals and missions, creating opportunities for collaboration and for working in partnership.
5. Bring together members so that we **speak with one voice**, positively and passionately, recognising the diversity of publishers and our industry, and supporting our advocacy with evidence. **Collaborate with other trade bodies** to advance our common interests.
6. To work **globally, but also regionally**.
7. To be a **resource to STM's members**, a source of information, evidence and expertise on public policy, engaging a wider membership in our activities.

Governance Issues

1. PAC will aim to meet in person at least twice, ideally three times a year.
2. Members commit to attend and to engage at all meetings (monthly, plus extraordinary meetings as needed) and to online dialogue, positively and constructively, listening to others to develop consensus positions.

3. Meetings will focus on strategy and tactics. They will not feature extensive reporting, which will be prepared and read in advance.
4. PAC will liaise closely with other Standing Committees, particularly IPC. Overlapping committee memberships will be used to enable communication with reciprocal attendance of chairs at committee meetings as needed.
5. PAC sees the value of the Open Science Committee in terms of signalling the intent of the industry, and as developing programmes of activity.
6. The PAC Brussels group enables local tactical discussions which free up the PAC itself to focus on strategy, though critical decision points should come back to the committee. GATF operates similarly in the US but is open to non-members and trade associations. In the course of this year we will evaluate both, especially the goals and membership of GATF.
7. PAC will continue to engage with other similar groups that have local expertise in areas of common interest and other local Trade Associations.
8. The STM chapter groups in Japan and China operate somewhat independently but will always need to follow the broader global STM position, as overseen by the CEO.
9. Rather than create an 'affiliate member' group for PAC, we will rethink our reporting to the wider membership to ensure they feel informed and engaged.

Objectives for 2019

1. **Rebuild trust and credibility**. Proactively convene **conversations with stakeholders** to discuss positively and constructively the future of scholarly communications, aiming to build mutual trust and confidence. Develop position papers and public statements in support of such activity. Provide evidence of, and messaging about, the value publishers add to the research ecosystem.
2. Develop one voice in the industry to influence the uptake, development and implementation of **Plan S**, taking recommendations to the STM Board, starting with a response to the Plan S consultation by 1 February 2019.
3. Influence the development of the **Digital Single Market** legislation, and subsequent implementation and interpretation across member states. Focus on articles which are relevant to STM and its members.
4. Influence the formulation of **Horizon Europe** policies, including the model grant agreement, reacting rapidly as necessary, and influencing implementation.
5. Constructively influence the formulation of publishing related policies at the **OSTP** and among the US Federal Agencies, working closely with AAP.
6. Engage with **Congress, European Institutions** and selective other legislatures in relation to Open Science, Open Access, Intellectual Property and related issues to influence legislation and policy under development.
7. Formulate an **Open Data** agenda for discussion with funders and legislators especially in relation to the EOSC and OSPP, in support of STM's goal to 'make Open Science a reality.'
8. Engage with governments and stakeholders on broader data access initiatives, including support for data access, seeking opportunities for collaboration, and pushing back on efforts to define **articles as data** or as public property.