

What is CUSAP?

As Open Access and content syndication gain momentum, publications will increasingly be distributed across various platforms, increasing the likelihood of identical content hosted on multiple sites. This poses a risk of some copies becoming outdated in case of retractions, corrigenda, or other updates – potentially leading researchers to rely on incorrect or incomplete content.

The **Content-Update Signalling and Alerting Protocol (CUSAP)** is a project of the International Association of STM Publishers that aims to enhance the transparency and integrity of scholarly records through a protocol and unified service. The CUSAP team is developing a **push-based alerting service to effectively communicate changes to all platforms hosting scholarly content**, ensuring stakeholders are promptly informed of updates and that researchers are working with updated materials.

What We're Doing



Supporting Accuracy

STM publishers want to facilitate the use of the correct, trustworthy scholarly literature – the version of record – and prevent the use of out-of-date, amended or retracted content.



Gathering Opinions

The CUSAP team interviewed 26 stakeholders, including university repositories, subject repositories, repository software systems, platform providers, CRIS systems and DOI agencies, to verify the need for an alerting service and find out what they'd like to see in the protocol.



Testing Tools

The working group developed a metadata package for update alerts and will be working with stakeholders to test the package and the delivery mechanism.



Seeking Input

The team continues to seek input to inform how we develop CUSAP and how we can leverage existing infrastructure. Content with DOIs – including journal articles, books and book chapters, videos and data sets – will be the focus.

CUSAP working group representatives from:

- Atypon
- Cambridge University Press
- Crossref
- Elsevier
- Highwire
- IEEE
- Springer Nature
- STM
- Taylor & Francis
- University of Regina

Types of updates requiring notification:

- Additional Material Added: peer-review added, addendum, clarification
- Content Modification: correction, erratum, new version, name change
- Status Change: retraction, partial retraction, withdrawal, removal, expression of concern, republication.

Why it matters

Retractions by the Numbers (June 2024)

- Almost 600,000 errata and retractions on Scopus
- Over 300,000 updates from publishers (including retractions) on Crossref
- 174,000 errata and retractions on PubMed
- Over 50,000 retractions on Retraction Watch Database
- 12 types of accepted updates on Crossref

CUSAP

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