New ALPSP survey shows 90% of journals are now online – a rise from 73% in 2003.

ALPSP has carried out a second major study of the policies and practices of 400 international academic journal publishers, both not-for-profit and commercial, drawn from the memberships of ALPSP and other major publishing associations. A response rate of 55% was achieved (including all the major publishers), providing hard evidence of the significant changes in publishing policy and practice that have been made since the first survey was undertaken in 2003.

The survey (Scholarly Publishing Practice: Academic journal publishers’ policies and practices in online publishing) by John Cox of John Cox Associates Ltd and Laura Cox of Frontline Global Marketing Services Ltd was carried out at the end of 2005. Of the 174 publishers who responded, 123 also publish books and 33 publish databases.

Sally Morris, Chief Executive of ALPSP, said: `These facts and figures shed very interesting light on the way that publishers are responding to the challenges of the online world. Almost all journals are now online, in most cases with their backfiles as well; pricing and licensing models are evolving rapidly to meet customer demands; and there is widespread experimentation with new models’.

Key findings include:

- Publishers now make even more content available online - 90% of journals are now online, compared with 75% in 2003.

- The number of journals continues to grow. 174 publishers have launched 1,048 new journal titles in the five years to 2005, averaging 6.02 per publisher, while they discontinued 185 titles, averaging 1.06 each.
The availability of back issues online has increased by 5% to 91% in 2005. Many publishers have digitised back to Volume 1 Issue 1; 47 offer online access to pre-1990 content. Continuing access to previously subscribed volumes is provided by about 60%. Access to journal back volumes is becoming an integral part of the online product; 63% of publishers provide active subscribers with access at no extra cost.

About a fifth of publishers are experimenting with full open access journals (199 journals in total).

Online article submission and peer review processes have been widely adopted in the last five years.

Almost all publishers offer more content to more users via bundling and/or consortia deals; pricing models vary considerably; and many smaller publishers are now included in multi-publisher packages such as the ALPSP Learned Journals Collection.

All categories of publishers are now extending usage rights to be 'library friendly'.

Although most publishers still require journal authors to assign copyright, the proportion willing to accept a licence to publish has grown significantly in the past two years.

**Notes for Editors**


A summary of the main conclusions can be found at [www.alpsp.org](http://www.alpsp.org).

The Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP) is the international trade association for not-for-profit publishers and those who work with them. It provides representation of the sector, collective services, professional development activities, and a wealth of information and advice. It has some 340 members in 36 countries, publishing nearly 10,000 journals.

**Contacts**

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