

ETHICAL AND EFFECTIVE PUBLISHING GROUP Terms of Reference

The Ethical and Effective Publishing Group (EEPG) pursues the interests of RLUK in relation to the purchasing of scholarly information content and services from publishers and other. Further, it acts as the main liaison point between RLUK and Jisc Collections.

A large proportion of a typical RLUK member's acquisition budget is spent licensing content from a small number of large publishers. Over the past few years an additional activity has been the purchasing of publication services related to open access – particularly the payment of gold open access article publication charges (APCs). The EEPG works to address RLUK member concerns in this area. In particular, it seeks to:

1. Obtain fair deals for RLUK members for the licensing of publishers' 'big deal' content. The Group will canvas views from the membership regarding the shape of big deals and relay these to Jisc Collections and directly to publishers. The Group will pursue strategies designed to ensure that acceptable deals are placed before the membership (and the wider UK community).
2. Promote a fair and fully-functioning market in APC charges. The EEPG will work to ensure that libraries and institutions put in place mechanisms to ensure that APCs are reasonably priced and that there is a downward pressure on costs.
3. The UK is currently investing significant sums in Gold OA. While this continues the EEPG will work to reduce double-dipping by publishers whereby subscriptions prices do not reflect the increasing OA content in hybrid journals. The Group will seek remedies at the institutional level, so institutions paying most in APCs see the greatest reductions in subscription costs.
4. Many of the issues facing libraries around scholarly communications arise from the dysfunctional nature of the journal and APC market. The EEPG will work within the UK and international regulatory regimes to promote a rebalancing of the markets.
5. While the main focus of the EEPG will be on journals, attention will also be paid to monographs, textbooks, datasets, and other forms of content.

Membership

The Group will consist of no more than 10 members, consisting of representatives from RLUK members plus members from external bodies where appropriate. The Group will be Chaired by the RLUK Executive Director whose responsibility it will be to report on the Group's activity to the RLUK Board and to ensure that the work of the Group fits within the overall RLUK strategy.

The remit of the Group will be reviewed by the RLUK Board after two years, or sooner if appropriate in conjunction with a review of the wider RLUK strategy.