

Response from Taylor & Francis to ICOLC's Statement on the Global COVID-19 Pandemic and Its Impact on Library Services and Resources

Taylor & Francis welcomes the recent [statement from ICOLC](#). We would like to emphasise that we share a common perspective with library partners about the magnitude of the crisis. Over recent weeks we have been working with a range of stakeholders to put in place measures to support research and mitigate the impact on learning with a focus on 3 areas:

- Ensuring **all relevant COVID-19 research** is accelerated through the review and publication process, is made free at the point of publication, and is directed to those at the forefront of research in this area;
- Directing resource to **supporting off-campus access** for researchers and students who are no-longer able to attend their institution, including adding additional authentication options and extending licences to enable students to access their core texts remotely;
- Providing support to **authors and editors** to enable them to continue to publish, whilst recognising that many may be working in disrupted circumstances.

A statement from Annie Callanan, CEO Taylor & Francis, outlines this work and is available [here](#).

In response to the considered requests made by ICOLC, we have outlined our approach to supporting libraries during this crisis:

1. **Making any relevant content and data sets about COVID-19, Coronaviruses (regardless of species affected), vaccines, antiviral drugs, etc. currently behind subscription-only paywalls Open Access immediately** to facilitate research, guide community public health response, and accelerate the discovery of treatment options.

*Since late January, Taylor & Francis has been providing free access to all original research articles, case reports, editorials and reviews **where it helps with understanding and treating the virus**. This is based on a defined set of terms in order to support the response to COVID-19.*

Free access is being updated frequently in order to ensure that the newest literature is available rapidly after publication.

A range of chapters from ebooks and etextbooks covering relevant research are also available to access free of charge.

F1000Research (now part of the Taylor & Francis Group) has created a dedicated Gateway to showcase research published in this area, including preprints, to ensure immediate access to the latest research developments https://f1000research.com/gateways/disease_outbreaks/coronavirus

Access to journal and ebook content is being provided directly via www.tandfonline.com and www.taylorfrancis.com and aggregated through a micro-site at www.taylorandfrancis.com/coronavirus.

Taylor & Francis is coordinating with external partners at WHO and NLM to ensure this research is consolidated with content from other publishers. This is to make discovery as seamless as possible for researchers at the forefront of understanding and combating COVID-19.

2. **Removing and waiving all simultaneous user limits** to an institution's licensed digital content during this period when universities are going all online in order to allow research, discovery, and learning to proceed.

Taylor & Francis' journal subscriptions and direct eBook sales served on Taylor & Francis' own platforms are supplied on an unlimited user basis.

We are working with several partners to support access to our ebooks and etextbooks. We are providing free access to ebooks through our partnerships with [VitalSource](#), Kortext (in conjunction with [JISC](#)), and [RedShelf](#) through the remainder of the Spring 2020 semester. This access is available to students whose campus has closed, and who therefore cannot access core textbooks from their libraries.

In addition, Taylor & Francis is participating fully with both ProQuest, EBSCO, Dawsonera, Gardners and Bibliu to extend single user and 3 user eBook licences to unlimited user licences at no charge until the end of the current semester (June).

3. **Lifting existing contractual ILL restrictions or photocopying limits** temporarily so that libraries may assist our students to complete their term.

We have many options available for remote access and see this as the simplest and most effective route to access content off-campus.

- *As highlighted above, Taylor & Francis is working closely with 3rd party eText platforms as well as library aggregators to enable enhanced free access to students and researchers to end-May (for eTexts) and end-June (for libraries).*
- *Faculties which have had to close campus can gain free access to eTexts for their students via these 3rd parties.*
- *Taylor & Francis has worked with EBSCO, Proquest, Dawsonera, Gardners and Bibliu (library aggregators) to upgrade all customer user licenses to Unlimited User licenses until end-June. By providing free access via these vendors, in combination with unlimited user access on Taylor & Francis' own platforms, we are confident our customers are able to access the content they need without amending ILL restrictions and photocopying limits.*

4. **Allowing the maximum extent of copyright limitations, exception and fair use, even if contractually restricted**, to enable institutions to continue their vital teaching missions as campuses transition to an online, remote format.

Taylor & Francis recognises the importance of copying limits applied by all Reproduction Rights Organisations (RRO) worldwide during this time.

- *Taylor & Francis supports the maximum level of copying allowed by each RRO's license terms. Noting that copyright legislation and copying limits can vary in each region we believe these terms provide a very high level of tolerance to support current teaching requirements.*
- *Both the Journals and eBooks platforms at Taylor & Francis allow unlimited user concurrency and our customers can therefore access directly the works from their VLEs without the need to consider RRO limits to copying.*
- *For all non-subscribed content, institutions can of course continue to take advantage of any RRO Collective Licenses for copying, adhering to the individual RRO's usage guidelines.*

We ask that publishers begin planning to:

5. **Allow flexible renewal periods and lengthened payment due dates** as we do not know the future impacts on health or business operations for either consortium staff who facilitate the renewal, or for the librarians at our member institutions. If the regular renewal cycle is disrupted, we ask that **publishers keep access on for our member libraries**, even though the consortium's or institution's current agreement may have expired.

We are in frequent touch with many of our customers and are already taking steps to assist them where we can. We will continue to establish solutions that reflect individual circumstances on a case by case basis.

6. **Delay or minimize any planned price increases** until the upheaval and disruption that we are seeing in our user communities, public health systems, and stock markets all over the world calms. The financial impacts on institutions of higher education and the global economy are as yet unknown, and price increases will add even more pressure to already-stressed universities and municipalities. In stable times, standardized pricing and terms may work relatively well. But today, libraries will be under heavy pressure to divert financial resources to other areas of immediate concern within the institution or local government.

We review our pricing regularly and will be closely monitoring the economic situation at the points when we would normally do this in order to be sensitive to the unfolding situation.

7. **Develop plans to temporarily lift paywalls or develop alternative methods of authentication** to allow access to subscribed content if traditional campus authentication mechanisms (VPNs, proxy servers) are overloaded under the increased traffic.

We are currently working with librarians so they are clear about their remote access options. We are also in the process of rapidly launching a new tool on Taylor & Francis Online at the beginning of April 2020 to add to the remote access options available.

8. **Lift campus-only restrictions**, so that teaching activities can continue online and remotely, despite University closures.

None of our licences are restricted to campus only access. In the unlikely event that any library customer finds that their Taylor & Francis access is restricted to campus only access, we will certainly be happy to consider extending it on a temporary basis for an appropriate period.