



London

3rd Floor
15 Fetter Lane
London
EC4A 1BW

☎ 020 3006 6000

🌐 jisc.ac.uk

The Publishers Association,
50 Southwark Street,
London
SE1 1UN
19 March 2020

Outbreak of the COVID-19 virus and implications for teaching and research

Dear Mr Lotinga

We write as representatives of the UK Universities, Research Councils and Further Education library community and the communities these libraries represent. Publishers have a pivotal role in alleviating some of the acute challenges UK libraries face in delivering teaching and research during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We recognise that this is a period of uncertainty for publishers as well as our member institutions and we commend the publishers that have already put in place measures that extend access to resources beyond the physical campus or other restraints.

The ability for students, teachers and researchers to access content is an essential aspect and to assist publishers in responding to this requirement, we would like to share the attached document that sets out the actions UK publishers can take to help UK institutions maintain their library services and in turn sustain much of the UK's teaching and research activity during this period.

We request your assistance in sharing this statement, which aligns with [international statements](#), with your members and encouraging them to sign up to the measures outlined. In turn we would publicise the action that these publishers are taking to the UK university community.

UK libraries stand ready to work in partnership with UK publishers during this rapidly evolving period which we hope will be to the ultimate benefit of UK publishing, education and research.

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Earney, Director Digital Resources, Jisc
David C Prosser, Executive Director, RLUK
Ann Rossiter, Executive Director, SCONUL