



19 February 2021

Dear ISC Member,

We are pleased to share the new International Science Council report [‘Opening the Record of Science: Making scholarly publishing work for science in the digital era’](#), to which many Members’ and/or their representatives have contributed over the past 6 months. It is sent to you in pre-design form. A fully designed version will be sent to you in several weeks’ time. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please fill in the form on the publication webpage above.

Quoting from its preface, *“The Report is primarily directed towards the scientific community and its institutions, seeking to establish, as far as possible, a shared view of the principles and priorities of the system through which its work is disseminated, and as a precursor for action to promote beneficial change. It has a distinctive logic. It proposes a series of normative principles that should underlie the operation of scientific and scholarly publishing; describes the current publishing landscape and its trajectory of evolution; analyses the extent to which the principles are observed in practice; and identifies problematic issues that need to be addressed in realizing those principles. With a few exceptions it does not make recommendations about how to resolve problematic issues. The Report will be used to set the agenda for a subsequent phase of discussion and action involving ISC Members and other stakeholders”*.

In this second phase of the project the Council will seek to engage and collaborate with its Members, with national and international funders, with universities, with open science bodies, publishers and individual scientists to create a powerful and broadly-based coalition for change to ensure that the processes of efficient dissemination and use of scientific work are central parts of a revitalized open science. A representative international Steering Group is currently being formed, whose remit is to advise the Council on tractable priorities for reform and action; to assist in identifying and addressing relevant regional priorities; and to advise on processes designed to implement change.

In order to inform the work of the Steering Group, it would be helpful to know whether:

- a) You are generally in agreement with the analysis of the report, recognizing that the issue is a complex one (the report recognizes and comments on a diversity of perspectives) and that any consensus will inevitably contain divergencies of detail.
- b) Whether you would wish to engage with the project, or at least to be kept informed of it.
- c) Whether you might wish to consider leading or stimulating related activities in your country or region.

Please share your feedback via the form [here](#).

We hope that you and your network of scientists working in your country and region will want to engage with the Council on this issue which is of immense importance to science and its capacity to contribute to the global public good.

With warm regards,

Geoffrey Boulton
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Vice-Chair, ISC Committee for Science Planning
Member of the ISC Governing Board

Heide Hackmann
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