



**Paper for discussion: Draft communications strategy**

**Agenda Item: 8**

Please see attached paper for discussion.

## DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

### Issue

1. Members have expressed the need to have a standardised approach for publicising SACN reports or dissemination strategy so that they are cited as authoritative documents and experts are alerted to them.

### Current situation

2. Currently, when published, SACN reports are posted on the SACN website. They are also printed in hard copy and remain available for purchase from the Stationary Office.

### SACN website

3. The SACN website is currently being re-designed and will include one main mailing list feature, which will enable further dissemination of information:
4. The mailing list option will be available so that subscribers can be notified when a report has been published and papers are posted on the SACN site. Subscribers will also have the option to specify and receive information on their area of interest.

### Open access

5. Open access (OA) is immediate and unrestricted online access to digital scholarly material, primarily peer-reviewed research articles in journals. OA was made possible by the advent of the Internet.
6. The first major international statement on open access was the Budapest Open Access Initiative in February 2002. This provided a definition of open access, and has a growing list of signatories. Two further statements followed: the Bethesda Statement on Open Access Publishing in June 2003 and the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities in October 2003<sup>1</sup>.
7. An open access publication is one that meets the following two conditions<sup>2</sup>:
  - The author(s) and copyright holder(s) grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual (for the lifetime of the applicable copyright) right of access to, and a licence to copy, use, distribute, perform and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works in any digital medium for any reasonable purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship, as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open\\_access](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_access)

<sup>2</sup> MRC Website 2007 -

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/PolicyGuidance/EthicsAndGovernance/OpenAccessPublishingandArchiving/DefinitionofOpenAccessPublishing/index.htm>

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8. For further detail about open access, please see paper at Annex 1.

### **Web based publishing site**

9. One option is to place SACN reports on to a web based publishing site which will enable them to be cited as other routine scientific publications.

### *UKPMC*

10. One such site is the UK PubMed Central (UKPMC), which is a developing UK biomedical digital repository, which includes copies of peer-reviewed papers and reports and other scientific material that are freely available to anyone who has access to the internet. UKPMC is based on PubMed Central (PMC) and the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature.
11. NIH has nominated for its scientists and grant holders to deposit copies of their publications within 12 months of publication. MRC and other UK agencies have similarly recently established UKPMC as the repository for copies of their scientists and grant holders papers, to be deposited within 6 months of publication.
12. UKPMC is part of a network of PMC International (PMCI) repositories. MNCI is a collaborative effort between the US National Library of Medicine (NLM), the publishers whose journal content makes up the PMC archive, and organisations in other countries that share NLM's interest in archiving life sciences literature.
13. UKPMC is fully searchable and will provide context-sensitive links to other online sources, such as gene and chemical compound databases. Currently all documents in UKPMC are linked to databases hosted by the National Centre for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) at the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). There are plans to provide additional links to resources hosted in the UK and Europe which are of interest to the UK biomedical research community.
14. In addition to mirroring PMC, UKPMC also provides a manuscript submission system (UKMSS) to enable researchers, funded by the UKPMC Funders Group, to deposit articles that have been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. As of January 2007, this system holds details of around 15,000 grants awarded to over 8000 researchers.