



Bob Uttl <uttlbob@gmail.com>

FW: request for Elsevier's official position on providing public access to data

Wallien, Femke FA (ELS-AMS) <F.Wallien@elsevier.com>

Mon, Jun 2, 2008 at 6:50 AM

To: Bob Uttl <uttlbob@gmail.com>

Cc: snowpit@earthlink.net, Pascal Haegeli <pascal@avisualanche.ca>, Garry Timco <Garry.Timco@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>

Dear Dr. Uttl,

I have now had contact with both Drs. McCammon and Haegeli and also with Mark Seeley, our Senior Vice President.

I would like to start with the complete quote from the ethics policy:

Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared

to provide public access to such data (consistent with the ALPSP-STM Statement on Data and Databases), if practicable,

and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.

What is the role of Elsevier in this regard?

Elsevier does encourage authors to provide data to editors and reviewers as part of the editorial review process, and believes that the best practice in scholarly publishing is to provide data on underlying research to permit other researchers to review and compare data, as the editor has already confirmed. We recognize that there are in some cases proprietary or confidentiality concerns about releasing such data, and in some cases there may be practical limitations in the ability to provide or post such data, and consequently our policies in this area focus on "best practices" and encouraging transparency, rather than demanding or requiring it.

From my correspondence with the authors, especially Dr. McCammon, it became clear that the database requested by you represents, in contrast to the raw data, a considerable investment by his company. This information is in his research contracts routinely classified as business proprietary data and has substantial commercial value.

Bearing in mind Elsevier's role as described above we feel that we are not in a position to demand that Dr. McCammon gives you access to his database.

I understood from the correspondence that Dr. McCammon has already suggested that you could repeat his study using the same raw data and methods he described in his paper, and compare results with his findings. An alternative is, as suggested by Dr. Timco, to submit a discussion article to the journal.

I trust that the above clarifies in more detail Elsevier's position with regard to the ethics policy.

Best wishes,

Femke Wallien

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From: Bob Uttl [<mailto:uttlbob@gmail.com>]

Sent: 26 May 2008 16:54

To: Wallien, Femke FA (ELS-AMS)

Cc: Seeley, Mark (ELS-BUR)

Subject: Re: FW: request for Elsevier's official position on providing public access to data

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