



July 10, 2019

## UC Academic Council Statement on Supporting Alternative Access to Elsevier Journals

The Academic Council of the University of California has voted to endorse the following statement asking all UC stakeholders to stand firm in their support of the University's negotiating position with Elsevier.

*"The Academic Council recognizes and appreciates the efforts of the UC Libraries to engage and collaborate with faculty, both at the systemwide and campus levels, during the ongoing journal negotiations between the [UC and Elsevier](#).*

*Academic Council has full confidence in the ability of the UC Libraries to provide researchers and other users including faculty, students, clinicians, and staff with alternative access to Elsevier journal articles now that UC no longer has access to some Elsevier journal articles through Elsevier's website (this applies only to articles published on or after January 1, 2019, as well as to a subset of journals for which UC does not have perpetual access rights).*

*Academic Council encourages all stakeholders across the University who may require Elsevier journal articles, to trust in their campus libraries and utilize [alternative access methods](#) that have been established when needed. Moreover, Academic Council feels that the Alternative Access Assessment Team, which has been charged by the UC Libraries with assessing the ability of alternative access methods to meet the needs of all users and with monitoring the effects on faculty and student welfare, will be essential for informing future decision making around subscriptions and publisher negotiations.*

*Accordingly, Academic Council strongly encourages all stakeholders across the University who may want to take their own countermeasures for disrupted journal access, to refrain from any new independent subscriptions to Elsevier journals. Not re-subscribing will enable the Alternative Access Assessment Team to conduct its own formal and systemwide assessment of impact. The UC Libraries will report back to the University Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC) and other appropriate Senate committees on a regular basis.*

*Academic Council firmly believes that by demonstrating our solidarity and our commitment to signing [transformative agreements](#) with journal publishers (as many of our faculty have already [pledged](#) to do), and by "holding the line" on not paying for subscriptions when we have walked away from negotiations, the UC can help change the system of scholarly communication for the betterment of all."*

For the Academic Council,

Robert C. May, Chair  
Academic Council

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Vice Chair  
Academic Council