



Canadian Research
Knowledge Network
Réseau canadien
de documentation
pour la recherche

CRKN LICENSING PROGRAM PRINCIPLES

- 1** We believe that research outputs are a common good and must be made available for the research community, students and faculty, and the public at large. Democratizing access to knowledge is at the core of what we do.
- 2** We are committed to a robust, sustainable, scholarly communication system that is at the heart of teaching, learning, and research activities, for the advancement of science, scholarship, bibliodiversity, and society in general.
- 3** Collaboration through CRKN empowers Canadian universities and presents a strong, unified, front to publishers for improved license terms and conditions and increased access to knowledge. While the ways in which we do business may change, our collective approach to overcoming challenges will not.
- 4** We recognize the value publishers bring to the scholarly communication system while also unequivocally rejecting the unsustainable oligopoly currently benefiting a minority in the research ecosystem.
- 5** We are committed to working collaboratively, at the national and international level, to actively transform the scholarly and scientific communication system toward open scholarship, open science, and open access.





PRINCIPLES FOR NEGOTIATIONS

The following set of principles for negotiations underpin CRKN's licensing and negotiation approach and ensure its alignment with CRKN's mission and vision. We encourage vendors to review these principles in advance of any negotiation with CRKN and we endeavour to prioritize licenses that are aligned with these principles.

1 Sustainable Scholarly Communications

Through our negotiations with publishers we actively contribute to transforming the scholarly communication system towards sustainable open access. We believe in substantially lowering subscription costs and increasing open access. We seek agreements in which payments for open access publication reduces the subscription fees in Canada and globally.

2 Equity of Access

Everyone should be empowered and enabled to access scientific and scholarly publications regardless of geographic location. We are committed to authors understanding and retaining their rights. CRKN will prioritize agreements that openly adopt technological means for adapting to evolving accessibility standards and content use, production, and dissemination for research purposes. We believe that open access content should be made available immediately and that cost and geographic location should never be a barrier to access.

3 Open Access Scholarship

Sustainable paths to open access must be prioritized. CRKN will endeavor to partner with vendors that:

- Make immediate, barrier-free open access available for CRKN members' authors' works;
- Provide requested open access publishing data in a timely manner;
- Are willing to transition from subscription to fully open access and recognize that transformative agreements are temporary transitional means to achieve open access;
- Contain costs and offer fair sustainable pricing ensuring that shifting to open access does not add cost;
- Keep the administrative burden to transition to open access to a minimum.

We are committed to supporting sustainable agreements that emerge from a diverse scholarly publishing landscape that allows for Canadian not-for-profit publishers to compete and thrive.

4 Transparency

We must eliminate non-disclosure agreements and transparently demonstrate the breakdown of fees for participating CRKN members. Global transparency enables equal access to information, fosters trust, and leads to fair negotiations required for fair agreements. We will not agree to non-disclosure clauses, nor can we accept agreements that do not illustrate how fees are established.