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Subject: IEEE Principles of Scholarly Publishing

Colleagues:

As leaders in not-for-profit and scholarly publishing societies, we have been retooling our publishing environments for more than a decade to take advantage of a broad array of new communications technologies and the World-Wide Web. The changes that have been brought about by the application of new publishing technologies have also required us to rethink the business models that we apply in order to sustain our activities as scholarly societies.

In light of these changes and the growing awareness and interest in public access to government-funded research, the IEEE believes that current and future public discussions will be well served by having a set of fundamental values and publishing principles to guide us in the debate. It is our belief that however technology and business models may change, policy debates should be driven by a clear sense of mission and core values. We also believe that there is value to society in maintaining an economically healthy community of independent scholarly publishers.

On behalf of the IEEE and its publishing operation, we are pleased to share with you a brief document that lists nine principles that the IEEE believes are important to consider in any debate about publishing business models and government-mandated public access. We hope that as learned society publishers, you will consider these principles as you prepare or reaffirm your society's own position on these important issues.

We will be pleased to accept any feedback you may wish to provide regarding IEEE's "Principles of Scholarly Publishing," and hope to have it become a shared value among scholarly society publishers.

Sincerely,

John Baillieul
IEEE Vice President, Publications Services and Products

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