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The questions and answers below have been compiled to further explain APS’s position on its institutional electronic subscriptions.

Q: How do employees or students at an institution gain access to the APS electronic publications on a daily basis?

A: Via I.P. address recognition, so that patrons do not need to login to the APS Online Publication platform. Access is quick, easy, and seamless.

Q: What if the institution has more than one campus or location?

A: APS asks each institution to identify the campuses and locations served by the I.P. ranges it provides access to when first subscribing.

Q: How is the annual subscription price of an institution's online access determined?

A: APS uses a number of factors to determine the price of the Society's electronic publications including the size of the institution, the quantity of APS publications subscribed by the institution and its patrons, and the number of faculty, students, and/or employees at the institution who are identified as potential users. APS is a nonprofit society publisher, and it is the Society's goal to make the APS publications widely available online to as many potential users as possible at a reasonable price. The APS governing council, which is comprised of scientists from universities and agricultural companies worldwide, wants to maintain the financial integrity of the publications while achieving a broad distribution of the scientific research.

Q: Will my institution have access to all online publications from APS?

A: Only if the institution requests pricing on all publications. APS does not require that the institution subscribe to everything, but it is somewhat less expensive per publication to do so. Gold Open Access journals are available to all and subscription journals require annual renewal to maintain access. APS offers a variety of access options for [online books, images, and protocols](#).

Q: May employees, faculty, and students gain access to APS publications when they travel to other locations or from their homes, dorm rooms, etc. by remote personal login to their institution's internal network?

A: Yes, but only if they work, teach, or attend the institution in the location(s) served by the I.P. ranges where the electronic access is subscribed. Experiment station employees and employees at other satellite facilities that are not physically on the same campus must be identified by the institution at the time the institution subscribes to be included as qualified users, even if the users of the subscribing institution share time at both sites.

Q: What happens if an institution subsequently drops its electronic journal subscriptions?

A: The institution would continue to have access to more than 50 years of freely available online journal content but loses access to the protected paid content (12-month embargo period).

Q: Are institutional users permitted to make copies of APS materials for distribution outside the institution's own employees, faculty, students, and/or local library patrons where the publication is subscribed?

A: No.

Q: What about interlibrary loan?

A: Subscribing institutions may supply occasional interlibrary loan to the extent that they do normally with a print publication (fewer than 20 times per year).

Q: Will licenses or signed agreements be required in the future?

A: APS reserves the right to require licenses or signed agreements in the future.

Q: Why did APS take this unprecedented approach of providing electronic access without a signed agreement?

A: APS believes scholarly materials should be available within institutions with as little restriction as possible; provided its publications maintain their financial integrity. APS also believes that authors, readers, institutions, and publications within the scholarly community have a common purpose. Because of this, APS hopes all members of the community will act appropriately to ensure the ongoing simplicity of this system of access.