April 6, 2015

**Director's Matters**

*By H. Frederick Dylla, Executive Director & CEO*

**Sharing via scientific collaboration networks**

In this article I address the important topic of article sharing and how the scientific and publishing communities ought to support this rapidly evolving practice. This topic affects the entire scientific enterprise, in both markedly positive and potentially negative ways. It is therefore vitally important that all stakeholders—researchers, publishers, librarians, and sharing networks—fully understand the impacts and engage in mapping out fair use practice for new sharing tools.

When a scientist writes an article describing his or her latest research results, the authors usually share that article with colleagues who have a common interest in the topic. This sharing practice dates back to when the scholarly journal was first invented 350 years ago. Only the ease and methods of sharing have changed significantly, particularly after the journal articles went to online formats. In the print days, authors were often given or could purchase extra copies (post-prints) of their articles, which they could distribute to their research colleagues, students, or readers requesting a copy. With the widespread availability of photocopy machines, authors could replicate this process arbitrarily; readers could also make personal copies from the volume of the journals held by their institutional library.

Most scholarly publishers are comfortable with such sharing practices as long as they do not substitute for the publisher’s own offerings and services, such as repackaging of articles for resale, or, in some cases, the posting the publisher’s final version on widely available institutional websites. The practice of article sharing became a much simpler task with online publishing—a simple keystroke can send copies to thousands of readers.

[Read more.]

**Physics Resources Matters**

**Navigating ethics in the not so cut-and-dry**

On March 12, the Statistical Research Center sponsored a brown-bag lunch talk by sociologist Elaine Howard Ecklund titled, “Does That Count as Unethical?” Ecklund, Autrey Professor of Sociology
at Rice University, presented results from an NSF-funded study comparing US and UK physicists’ views on ethics related to their scientific work.

Read more.

Member Society Spotlight

Member Society representatives gather at AIP

On Friday, March 27, Member Society presidents and representatives gathered at the American Center for Physics. Society representatives participated in the Annual Meeting of the Corporation, while a small group of presidents met with AIP program directors to learn more about how our societies interact.

Read more.

Off the Press

Physics Today, April 2015 issue

Cover: The viability of an artificial hip, dental fixture, or other implant depends in large part on how strongly it bonds with native bone. To gain insights into that bonding process, materials scientists use three-dimensional imaging techniques to visualize the bone-implant interface. One such technique is atom-probe microscopy, which can image with chemical contrast and at spatial resolution on the order of nanometers. Kathryn Grandfield
(McMaster University), shown here with an atom-probe microscope, elaborates on it and other 3D bioimaging tools.

(Photo courtesy [http://paulinarz.format.com](http://paulinarz.format.com).)

### Coming Up

**April 8**
- Birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)

**April 11-14**
- APS April Meeting (Baltimore, MD)

**April 14**
- AIP All Staff Meeting; lunch included, 11am - 1pm (College Park)

**April 14-15**
- AIP Management Retreat (Annapolis, MD)

**April 16**
- L.S. Trimble Science Heritage Lecture given by Lillian Hoddeson of the University of Illinois, “Stanford Ovshinsky and the Creation of the Nickel Metal Hydride Battery” (College Park)

**April 17**
- AIP milk-and-cookies social (College Park)

**April 21**
- ACP Art Reception introducing the next exhibit: “Flow” (College Park)

**April 21-23**
- STM Spring Conference (Washington, DC)