

Hi,

I read that you are still taking comments about this proposed act. One of the things that really worries me is this act will limit students, international colleagues, and those who are not actually in a specific field from being able to engage with the larger scientific community.

Case in point - I am in the IT field, but because I read and enjoy open resource scientific papers, I was recently able to help two master students find the research they need for their dissertations. This may not seem like a big thing on the surface - but can any of us say where these two bright young ladies will go in the future?

Since reading these papers is a hobby, I simply cannot pay the fees to read papers that are not open source. These two students are in the UK, their college is fairly small, and does not have a lot of access to resources outside of the UK and Europe. Access to open source American papers was crucial to both of their projects and contained information they simply could not have paid for, nor would their college have paid for.

Please take a moment to think of the chain reaction this act could cause. Taking public research and then limiting access to only those who can pay for it would create a domino effect; limiting the ability of people in other fields to contribute, creating barriers across the international community, and creating obstacles for students that. We need open sourcing - there is too much at stake to think otherwise.

-Mary Rudig
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