

The Bibsam Consortium

Since the mid 90's The National Library of Sweden negotiates license agreements for electronic information resources. This on behalf of the Swedish universities, university colleges, governmental agencies and research institutes. 72 different institutions participate in at least one of the agreements. This is called the Bibsam Consortium.

Since the Bibsam Consortium is not a legal body, the parties of an agreement are each individual institution ("the Licensee"), and the vendor ("the Licensor"). A power of attorney from participating institutions allows the National Librarian to sign the agreements.

The National Library of Sweden has six members of staff dedicated to negotiate and administrate the 40 license agreements for approximately 100 e-resource packages. These include agreements with scholarly journal publishers as well as abstract and indexing databases, reference works, and e-books. The turnover is 33 million EUR (2015), and the 10 largest Universities account for 73 % of the turnover.

Six representatives (library directors and a vice-chancellor as chairperson) from the participating institutions form the Bibsam Consortium Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is focusing on developing strategies and overall principles regarding negotiations, price models, and content.

Selection Criteria of e-resources

The selection of e-resources is based on the following criteria:

- Should meet the demands of the participating institutions (e.g. a number of institutions must be interested in the e-resource offered)
- The vendor should have exclusive rights to the licensed material
- Offers must include both financial and administrative savings for participating institutions and provide favorable terms of usage
- Price models should be transparent (e. g. FTE-based)
- The license terms must be in agreement with the Bibsam Consortium's fundamental principles

Bibsam Consortium's Fundamental Principles

When negotiating with vendors the Bibsam Consortium acts according to a set of basic requirements and licensing principles. The license agreements should permit:

- Printing and electronically saving parts of the licensed material
- Scholarly sharing
- Incorporating parts of the licensed material in Course Packs and on Virtual Learning Environments
- Document delivery between libraries (Inter Library Loan)
- Walk-in use
- Institutions to opt in, but also opt out of multi-year agreements
- Self-archiving
- Swedish law as governing law

The Consortium negotiates e-only resources and it is of importance that the vendors provide:

- Usage statistic on a regular basis
- Post-termination access
- Metadata relating to the licensed material

Basic Technical Requirements and Industry Standards

In addition to the fundamental principles, we expect vendors to comply with the basic technical requirements and industry standards.

Webb Access

Licensed material must be accessible through a Web interface and no installation of any special software, other than an ordinary web browser, should be necessary.

IP Access

Licensed material must be available through the university's or the institution's network by IP-address authentication. This must apply even if the university or institution is located in several geographical places.

Remote Access

In order for researchers, students and staff/personnel to have access to the licensed material outside of the university or workplace, authorized users must be permitted remote access via a secure network, for example via VPN or proxy login.

Accessibility and W3C

In order to ensure that the licensed material is accessible to all users, the vendors will use all reasonable efforts to meet the W3C standards (www.w3.org/WAI/Resources/#in), established by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI).

The licensed material shall be available to read with compensatory aids (Braille displays, voice synthesizers, and other such devices) for reading impaired users.

It is desirable that the licensed material is adapted to mobile interfaces and/or provided by downloadable applications (apps).

COUNTER and SUSHI

In order that the licensee(s) can fully assess the use and therefore value of the licensed material the vendors will:

- Provide the licensee(s) with fully COUNTER-compliant usage statistics every three months (<http://www.projectcounter.org>)
- Implement the Standardized Usage Statistics Harvesting Initiative (SUSHI) protocol (<http://www.niso.org/workrooms/sushi>).

Open URL Standard

In order to ensure that users can discover and find the licensed material, the vendors will use all reasonable efforts to meet the Open URL standard

(www.niso.org/kst/reports/standards?step=2&gid=&project_key=d5320409c5160be4697dc046613f71b9a773cd9e).

Project Transfer Code of Practice

In order to ensure that journal content remains easily accessible by licensee(s) and their users when there is a transfer of material between parties, and to ensure that the transfer process occurs with minimum disruption, the publisher will use all reasonable efforts to keep to the Code of Practice of Project Transfer (www.projecttransfer.org).

Discoverability and KBART Compliance

In order to ensure accurate, up to date representation of the licensed material and to ensure users have ease of access the vendor agrees to:

- Provide the link resolver suppliers with the algorithm or syntax for constructing an article-level link from an article’s metadata within the licensed material.
- Use all best efforts to comply with the KBART (Knowledge Bases and Related Tools) recommendations (<http://www.uksg.org/kbart/s5/guidelines>).

If not KBART compliant, the vendor will use all reasonable efforts to provide to link resolver, A-Z and knowledge base suppliers the following information about each title in the licensed material on a monthly basis/regular schedule:

- Title
- ISSN or eISSN
- Previous title, if appropriate
- Previous ISSN or eISSN, if appropriate
- First volume and issue made available as part of the offer or, if volume and issue are not available, first year, final volume and issue or year and URL.

Archive

In order to ensure that the licensed material is archived and preserved for future scholarship, the vendor will archive the licensed material in at least one of the following archiving solutions: Portico, Clockss or Lockss.

Contact

For more information, please contact Britt-Marie Wideberg, Head of Licensing, Bibsam Consortium. britt-marie.wideberg@kb.se / +46 10 709 36 60