

December 9, 1997

Edward A. Fox, Professor
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Dear Ed:

Following your letter of October 22 and our conversation at the CNI meeting the following week, I have now discussed your project within Elsevier Science. We are happy now to endorse the principles of the project to facilitate access to theses and dissertations.

We understand there is concern about two different aspects of the relationship between the proposed electronic access to ETDs and policies of formal publication and copyright.

- First, will we consider the electronic distribution of a thesis or dissertation to be prior publication and decline to consider either (sections of) the dissertation itself or other papers derived from the same project for publication within our journals? The answer to that is “no”. We believe that distribution as a dissertation is sufficiently different from publication in a refereed journal to not be of concern. We also wish to encourage graduate students to submit their articles for publication.
- Second, will we give permission to include within the ETD archives ES copyrighted articles that have already been published in Elsevier Science journals and are a part of a thesis or dissertation? Yes, we are happy to support the work of new research scientists in this way. The only conditions are that there cannot be any commercial sale of our copyrighted material or separation of the article from its context within a dissertation or thesis, the original publication must be properly cited (with the appropriate copyright notice), and there should be a link from the article to the home page (if any) for that journal on our Web site.

There is one additional condition that goes with these agreements. We want to be able to link to these dissertation archives from our Web sites when an archive contains information relevant to something on our site. If there are restrictions on who has access to the ETD archives, please let me know. Ideally, we would want to be able to pass on all interested parties.

We want to be supportive of the educational process for scientists and access to the results of their research. I look forward to hearing further from you. As this is a distributed system, I am not clear exactly how the implementation of our permission will be handled.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ka' followed by a horizontal line.

Karen Hunter
Senior Vice President

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