

Clarification from Wiley regarding permission to republish material

There has been some recent confusion and concern regarding the policies and processes for obtaining permission to republish material published in *The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* elsewhere, most particularly in print journals. We hope that the following explanations will help to clarify the situation.

New Licence for Publication Form

Firstly, it is important to realise that the new Form does not require authors to assign any extra rights to The Cochrane Collaboration than the previous form. In fact, the new form states additional authors' rights for what they can do with their review.

As previously, authors are required to assign an exclusive licence to The Cochrane Collaboration to publish their review in electronic editions of The Cochrane Library, and to prepare reprints of that review in print form.

The new Form also offers authors the opportunity to assign worldwide print rights to The Cochrane Collaboration for publication in print publications. The reason that this option has been included is that Wiley is currently investigating the possibility of launching at least one Cochrane Journal. We think that the Collaboration having its own journal(s) will offer authors the opportunity to gain print citations and even higher profile for their reviews. We would hope that the Journal(s) would fast become the preferred option for republication of Cochrane reviews in print form. This will also be an effective way of increasing the profile of the work of the Collaborative Review Groups. However, we recognise that some authors might wish to continue submitting versions of their Cochrane review for print publication elsewhere and this is why the new Form allows them to retain the print rights if they so wish.

Permission to Republish in Print

If authors wish to republish their review, in complete or shortened form, elsewhere in a print journal they are required to seek permission from Wiley. This is the same procedure as for the previous publishing arrangement, when authors had to seek permission from Update Software.

To make such a request to Wiley please complete a Copyright Permission Request Form, attached with this e-mail, and send to the Permissions Department at the address shown on the form. Permission will be granted provided that reference will be made in the republished version to the original publication source (The Cochrane Library). There will be no charge for such a request.

If another publisher requests permission to republish a Cochrane Review then they will be instructed to seek also the permission of the authors. A charge will be levied on the other publisher for such a request to cover administrative costs. This is a routine arrangement within publishing and we think it is justified because the publisher is acquiring valuable content to publish, and the expectation should be that some financial value should be assigned to the right to republish. The charge levied is lower than the true value of the content because we recognise that the extra dissemination provided by the republication is a positive.

A similar charging policy will be adopted if another publisher requests permission to translate and republish a Cochrane Review in another journal.

Deborah Dixon
John Wiley & Sons Ltd
02 July 2003