

Matti Shem Tov  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clarivate  
70 St. Mary Axe  
London EC3A 8B

Date: 27 February 2025

Dear Mr Shem Tov

The UK academic and research library community is profoundly concerned and disappointed at Clarivate's recent decision to discontinue the option for perpetual purchase of academic resources, as announced in your new subscription-based access strategy. This decision poses significant challenges to the sustainability and financial stability of academic and research libraries worldwide.

Perpetual access to scholarly content – in both physical and electronic forms – is a cornerstone of libraries' mission to provide long-term, reliable access to knowledge.

The shift by Clarivate to a subscription-only model will undermine this by imposing ongoing financial burdens on institutions already grappling with budget constraints by attempting to lock them into on-going contracts for sometimes fluctuating content. This is particularly problematic for UK-based institutions which are already facing a very significant funding squeeze as documented in the recent library finances report from SCONUL<sup>1</sup>. It goes against the recommendations from the consortia represented here which emphasize the need for suppliers to support the sustainability of further and higher education<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sconul.ac.uk/News/View?g=5de9e48c-7233-4fb2-8bd2-576d24b4b243&t=>

<sup>2</sup> [Navigating financial challenges: A call to suppliers to support the sustainability of further and higher education - Jisc](#)

We urge Clarivate to call an immediate halt to its plans in this regard while it takes account of the voices of its customers in the UK and worldwide. These proposals have been introduced at very short notice creating very significant problems for institutions at operational level, including with workflows and staffing. The new model does not take into account the realities of course design and the need to guarantee availability of content which is central to our courses or modules. Nor does it account for the very limited book budgets available to UK institutions where we must continue to focus on those titles which are most needed.

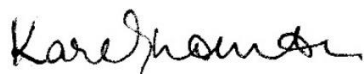
Clarivate and ProQuest have been key suppliers and partners for the sector, however this 'initiative' represents a surprising retrograde step for a company which prides itself on its customer focus and innovation. The company should now engage in meaningful consultation with libraries and dialogue with the international academic community to explore alternative models that balance financial viability with the enduring needs of educational institutions.

We call on all stakeholders, including Clarivate, to prioritise the long-term accessibility and affordability of ensuring that our institutions can continue to fulfil their vital role in advancing knowledge and education.

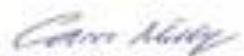
Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Rossiter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ann Rossiter, Executive Director, SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karel Thomas". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Karel Thomas, Executive Director, BUFDG (British Universities Finance Directors Group)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caren Milloy". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized.

Caren Milloy, Director of Licensing, Jisc

*Rachel Schulkins*

Rachel Schulkins, Chair, National Acquisitions Group

*David C. Prosser*

David Prosser, Executive Director, RLUK (Research Libraries UK)

*Gemma Payne*

Gemma Payne, Head of Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

*Deborah Green*

Deborah Green, Chief Executive Officer, UCISA,