

Weber-Mandrin Monique

Von: Weber-Mandrin Monique
Gesendet: Monday, October 03, 2011 11:17 AM
An: [REDACTED]
Betreff: advisory opinion

Dear Sir,

The ETH Domain is evaluating the issue of the subscription agreements between its libraries and the major publishers, especially Elsevier. In this context we are looking for three offers for an **advisory opinion**. On behalf of the President of the ETH Board, we would like to ask you if you could be interested in writing such an advisory opinion for the ETH Board. The topic is **"How to get better conditions in the subscription agreements between the publishers (Elsevier) and the libraries of the ETH Domain"**.

The main aim of this advisory opinion is to analyse the agreement with Elsevier and to answer questions such as these:

- Compared to the international competition (agreements in other countries and consortia), are the conditions of the agreement with Elsevier reasonable?
- Is there any possibility of optimising the price-performance ratio or of obtaining better conditions?
- Is there any other possibility to use synergies within the ETH Domain?

As a matter of fact, the costs for acquiring books and licenses have increased considerably in the last few years and big publishers like Elsevier occupy a monopoly position on the Swiss market. This is why the institutions of the ETH Domain decided to become members of the "Consortium of Swiss Academic Libraries".

For your better understanding, we would like to present the ETH Domain briefly:

The ETH Domain comprises the two Federal Institutes of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and Lausanne (EPFL), as well as the four research institutes: the Paul Scherrer Institute, (PSI), the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (WSL), the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), and the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag). In addition, the ETH Board (a strategic management body) and the Internal Appeals Commission of the ETH (an independent appeals body) also belong to the ETH Domain.

You will find the following libraries within the ETH Domain: The ETH Bibliothek in Zurich (<http://www.library.ethz.ch/>) and the EPFL Library in Lausanne (<http://library.epfl.ch>) are two of the leading technical and scientific documentation centres in Europe. Millions of media reflect a large proportion of the available knowledge. Tens of thousands of users appreciate the services offered by the two libraries, which are also open to the public. The ETH Bibliothek in the main building of the ETH Zurich was established in 1855 and is the largest academic library in Switzerland. Together with the EPFL Library in the new Rolex Learning Center, it is considered to be one of the best libraries in Europe for technical and scientific subjects. Both institutions also have a reputation as drivers of innovation and are pioneers in areas such as digital data handling and new services. The collections held by the libraries at ETH and EPFL cover areas including architecture, construction science, engineering, the natural sciences and mathematics, system-oriented sciences, management and the social sciences. On 1 January 2011 the libraries of the four research institutes of the ETH-Domain merged into Lib4RI — Library for the Research Institutes

within the ETH Domain: Eawag, Empa, PSI & WSL (<http://www.lib4ri.ch/>). This library is considerably smaller than the libraries of both Federal Institutes of Technology, in terms of users, provides high level scientific information to an average 2.000 cutting edge scientists and researchers, specialized in natural and physical sciences.

Please let us know if you are interested in accepting this mandate. If so, please also mention your conditions for your advisory opinion (time required for your evaluation, hourly rate, expected cap on costs)?

For any further questions, please contact Ms Monique Weber, if possible by email (monique.weber@ethrat.ch). Further information and documents (questionnaire, agreement with Elsevier) will be delivered as soon as an agreement is concluded.

Thank you for treating this matter as confidential.

We are looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Monique Weber

P.S. Please note that I am out of the office from October 10 until October 15, 2011. Thank you.

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