

February 21, 2001

Philip Campbell
Editor
Nature
Porters South
4 Crinan Street
London N1 9XW
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I write concerning the licensing terms the Nature Publishing Group has proposed for access to the online version of your publication. The academic and research programs at our four institutions—Duke University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-- value the important and timely scholarly information that Nature provides its readership. It is a heavily used journal of scholarly significance. We would like to be able to offer to scholars, students, and staffs the ease of access and convenience of use that Nature Online might afford. However, we have been told that some sections of the online product would not be made available as they are published but instead be subject to a delay of up to three months. Such a delay in providing full content is an unacceptable condition of the license. Also problematic is the fact that we would have no perpetual rights to the archive of the journal.

As a consortium of institutions which has as one of its purposes the acquisition of electronic resources on behalf of their libraries, we are further concerned that Nature's monthlies and reviews would have to be licensed individually by our members instead of via the more efficient means of doing so collectively.

The licensing provisions proposed are unacceptable to us and we therefore regrettably must decline the offer. We hope your publishing group reconsiders the terms of its proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Jordan M. Scepanski
Executive Director