

STATEMENT ON THE NEW US COPYRIGHT LAW FOR EDITORS, AUTHORS AND CONTRIBUTORS

The new US Copyright Law which became effective in 1978 necessitates some changes regarding the assignment of copyright of articles submitted to journals published by Pergamon Press. Although the author, editor or Publisher may not be in the USA a substantial proportion of the subscribers operate under US law. To provide protection and lawfully to permit traditional information distribution it is therefore desirable that authors from all countries should transfer copyright to the Publisher.

Amongst the principal changes brought about by the new law are the following:

1. Before the enactment of the new law, transfer of copyright was assumed to be implicit in the process of submitting a manuscript and its acceptance for publication.
The new law vests statutory copyright in each article with the authors (or their employers) and the copyright can only be transferred in a formal written manner.
2. A copyright notice printed in the journal was taken to apply to the journal issue as a whole and to the articles individually.
The new law requires a copyright notice to be published on the first page of each article for which copyright is claimed.
3. The new law contains a much more rigorous definition of the conditions under which libraries and others may make photographic copies. Individuals and non-profit libraries will still be free to make copies of articles for research and teaching but severe restrictions have been placed on copying by commercial libraries and microfilm services who will have to obtain authorization from the copyright holder.

Traditionally the Publisher has been able to provide services in addition to the printed version of the journal, for example, offprints of separate articles, reprints of complete issues, microform editions etc. He has also been able to authorize reproductions, reprinting and copying, make arrangements with indexing and abstracting services, and negotiate translation rights.

Under the new law such activities are controlled by the need to obtain written permission from the copyright holder for every individual article involved.

It is therefore clearly in the interests of the maximum diffusion of knowledge for the Publisher to be in a position to continue these activities. We are therefore asking authors to transfer the copyright to us by signing the Transfer of Copyright form reproduced overleaf and sending it to the Editor. Should the manuscript not be accepted, the form will be returned together with your paper.

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(See Statement Overleaf)

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