

AAP } ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS

July 25, 2016

Roman Kochan
Dean of Library Services
University Library
California State University
1250 Bellflower Boulevard
Long Beach, California 90840-1901

Dear Dean Kochan,

I am disappointed to learn that a librarian from California State University, Long Beach, Gabriel Gardner, recently praised the notorious pirate site Sci-Hub and recommended that attendees at a session use the site. Mr. Gardner was a panelist at the American Library Association's session "Resource Sharing in Tomorrowland – a Panel Discussion About the Future of Interlibrary Loan" at the association's annual conference in Orlando. On the panel he said, essentially, "Try it, you'll like it."

Sci-Hub has been enjoined from further operation as an unlawful enterprise that has committed mass theft of copyrighted material. Sci-Hub should not be equated with any legitimate interlibrary loan or open access publishing practices.

Sci-Hub's methods are not benign; they include illegally accessing the secure computer networks of a large number of major universities by, among other methods, hijacking "proxy" credentials used to facilitate off-campus remote access to university computer systems and databases. The techniques employed by it to defeat security standards are similar to those employed by other cyber intrusions. These intrusions compromise the security of colleges, universities, hospitals, database owners and individuals' personal computers, because Sci-Hub could not only access scientific databases but potentially gain access to proprietary and confidential information of researchers, staff and students at compromised universities.

As a member of the California State University system it is surprising that a CSU Long Beach librarian would promote the activities of an adjudicated thief who has compromised university computer systems and databases worldwide.

Unfortunately, Sci-Hub supporters invoke academic freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of scientific inquiry, and encouraging universal access to the results of scientific research to justify the theft of intellectual property. Such rationalizations do not in my opinion justify providing public encouragement for unquestionably illegal activity to institutions and the scholarly communication system. I believe such public encouragement from one of your librarians is inconsistent with the university library's mission and its leadership in support of scientific research.

Sincerely,



THOMAS H. ALLEN PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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