Association of College & Research Libraries
50 E. Huron St. Chicago, IL 60611
800-545-2433, ext. 2523
acrl@ala.org, http://www.acrl.org

June 18, 2008

Dr. Salvatore Mele
Project Leader, Open Access Section
Interim Project Manager, SCOAP3
CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research
CH1211 Geneva 23
Switzerland
VIA EMAIL Salvatore.Mele@cern.ch

Dear Dr. Mele,

On behalf of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association (ALA) representing over 13,000 academic and research librarians and interested individuals, I am writing to express interest and support for SCOAP3, the Sponsoring Consortium for Open Access Publishing in Particle Physics' effort to facilitate open access publishing in High Energy Physics (HEP). Drawing on its long-standing concerns for the health of scholarly communication and its attention to the positive role academic and research libraries contribute to the evolution of scholarly publishing, ACRL welcomes this experiment in new funding models and recognizes its potential to inform scholarly publishing more globally.

In recommending that ACRL convey its support of the SCOAP3 effort to the organizers and to its own members, ACRL's Scholarly Communication Committee consulted with a range of member groups. ACRL's University Library Section lent support, noting, "We believe that it is imperative that universities lead the way to develop open access initiatives that embrace access and the need for peer review." ACRL's Science and Technology Section (STS), one of the library groups most involved with scientific publishing, commented:

> STS recognizes the importance of encouraging new models that provide greater open access to the journal literature. The HEP community is already very open to new models of publishing, making it a good community to experiment with the SCOAP3 plan. Moreover, HEP is at risk of losing its core, yet low-use journals due to increased cancellations, and this impacts the peer-review process it still depends upon for tenure, funding decisions, etc. SCOAP3 seems to provide an innovative and promising approach to the peer review issue while maintaining access for all. As one library colleague noted, "The SCOAP3 Model (or something like it) is the only way that I see for [my institution] to keep access to the official published copies of the HEP journals." It is important that this

experiment with an alternative business model for scholarly publishing be given a fair trial and have time to develop before judging its success.

ACRL believes that SCOAP3 is a valuable addition to the heterogeneous mix of strategies being undertaken by scholars, publishers, libraries, and others to ensure the future of high-quality journals. SCOAP3 is unique in its explicit goals to unite researchers and libraries and to partner with publishers so that aggregated financial contributions will support HEP publishing, make the results available at no cost to any reader any where, and serve as a potential model to other disciplines.

Therefore ACRL encourages its members to consider joining the SCOAP3 effort when appropriate, e.g. through an institutional or consortial "expression of interest" (as outlined at http://www.scoap3.org/), providing education and outreach about SCOAP3 to their faculty, library staff and administrators, and finding other ways to analyze and support SCOAP3 where possible.

Sincerely,

Julie Todaro
ACRL President, 2007-2008

Cc: Jens Vigen
Head Librarian
CERN European Organization for Nuclear Research
VIA EMAIL Jens.Vigen@cern.ch

Ivy Anderson
U.S. Contact for SCOAP3
Director of Collections
California Digital Library
VIA EMAIL Ivy.Anderson@ucop.edu