



WESTFÄLISCHE
WILHELMS-UNIVERSITÄT
MÜNSTER
CENTRAL MEDICAL LIBRARY

Zweigbibliothek Medizin · Domagkstr. 9 · D-48149 Münster

**To
The American Academy of Pediatrics
141 Northwest Point Boulevard
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098
USA**

847/434-8000 (Fax)

Dr. Oliver Obst
Ex-Vice-President
German Medical Library Association

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Domagkstr. 9

Telefon: (0251) 83-58550

Telefax: (0251) 83-52583

E-Mail: obsto@uni-muenster.de

Homepage: <http://zbmed.uni-muenster.de/>

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

we have been subscribing to your journal „Pediatrics“ since the very first issue in 1948. As one of the biggest German clinics we always had to, because our clinicians loved this journal literally. But since some years the enthusiasm is fainting away. Major concerns about Pediatrics started back in 2002, when you asked for more than \$2000 for a site license as compared to \$351 for the printed journal. Our medical clientele urged us to do without online access. They would have to leave their patients and walk to the library for reading Pediatrics (there is no other subscription), but \$2000 or more was simple not affordable – imagine every publisher would act like this!

Most recently you introduced a new pricing scheme which increases the license fee for Pediatrics for about 260%. Every tier3 library which likes to offer the same service as before to its customers has to pay 260% more. Your price schedule made the reading of research articles in Pediatrics more complicated if not prohibitive. Based on our studies no pediatricians will come to the library to read or copy a paper on one of our three library PCs permitted to offer the online version, let alone our printed volumes. So the very result of your exaggerated demands is that our pediatricians will have to decide if they use their precious time maximizing care for children or running after printed volumes. Therefore: As long as you keep to this pricing scheme, you are no longer “dedicated to the health of all children”. Point.

I will not finish without letting you know about the overall rumors in German medical libraries and pediatric departments about the price increase and the abuse of your monopolistic position (read for instance <http://medinfo.netbib.de/?p=1429>). A recent survey indicated that each fifth German medical library will cancel or has cancelled Pediatrics, a further 20% will go on without a site license. Only a minority of four libraries switch to the expensive site licenses.

To digitize backfiles or make some content Open Access is your own decision and you should look how to sell these. But it would be a silly and very unusual way to make a profit by literally forcing the subscribers to pay \$1000 more till eternity. The reputation of the AAP and her flagship Pediatrics is seriously on decline, because your policy is obviously driven by profit generating purposes, not by the advancement of science. Who will ever continue to publish in a journal which prohibits him reading his own paper because it's too expensive for his library? As long as you stick to this very policy we will advise our doctors not to publish in Pediatrics any more.

Sincerely yours

Dr. Oliver Obst (Head Central Medical Library)