

# The SHERPA/RoMEO Application Programmers' Interface (API) Prototype Version 2.4

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## Introduction

The SHERPA/RoMEO Application Programmers' Interface (API) is a machine-to-machine interface that lets programmers access SHERPA/RoMEO data from their applications. For instance, the API could be used to incorporate the automatic look-up of journals or publishers into a repository's deposition process.

## Principles

Applications submit queries to SHERPA/RoMEO as HTTP requests, using the API's URL with appropriate query parameters attached.

e.g. <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?pub=university%20press&qtype=all>

where:

- <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php> is the URL of the API
- **?pub=university%20press** is the first parameter. In this example, 'pub' is the name of the parameter (indicating a search for publisher's name), and 'university%20press' is its value.

Note that the parameters are URL-encoded, so that a space character is represented by the code '%20'. '+' may also be used instead – e.g. **?pub=university+press**.

- **&qtype=all** is the second parameter. 'qtype' is the name of the query type parameter, and in this case, 'all' indicates that all the strings specified in 'pub' must be present in the publisher's name

Note that the first URL parameter is signified by a '?' character. Subsequent parameters start instead with an '&'. The parameters can appear in any order, provided this convention is maintained. Thus '...?qtype=all&pub=university%20press' is also valid.

The HTML requests are sent to the SHERPA server where they are run against the SHERPA/RoMEO database, and the results returned as an XML file.

For test purposes, API requests may be entered into the address bar of a browser such as Internet Explorer or Firefox. Properly structured XML should then be displayed

*Example 1* is a sample of the API's output.

The XML document type definition is in file <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd> - see *Appendix A*

Five types of request can be made:

- Publisher name – Search using keywords and strings
- SHERPA/RoMEO Database Record ID – Search using ID number for the record for a single publisher
- Journal Title - Search using keywords and strings get a list of matching titles
- Journal Follow-up – Follow up a journal title search to get the publisher's information.
- Journal ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) – Search using an ISSN, or a comma-separated list of alternative ISSNs (e.g. a journal's print and electronic ISSNs).

Additionally, it is possible to specify the funder for which data on mandate compliance should be returned.

**Example 1 - XML Output from the SHERPA/RoMEO API**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>jtitle</parametername>
        <parametervalue>journal of geology</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>STARTS</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>1</numhits>
    <apicontrol>journal</apicontrol>
    <outcome>singleJournal</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence.
      For more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:10:55:50</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Journal of geology -chicago-</jtitle>
      <issn>0022-1376</issn>
      <zetocpub>University of Chicago Press</zetocpub>
      <romeopub>University of Chicago Press</romeopub>
    </journal>
  </journals>
  <publishers>
    <publisher id="77">
      <name>University of Chicago Press</name>
      <alias />
      <homeurl>http://www.press.uchicago.edu/</homeurl>
      <preprints>
        <prearchiving>can</prearchiving>
        <prerestrictions />
      </preprints>
      <postprints>
        <postarchiving>restricted</postarchiving>
      </postprints>
    </publisher>
  </publishers>

```

```

<postrestrictions>
  <postrestriction>Some journals impose embargoes varying between
    6 months and 3 years, majority are 12 months</postrestriction>
  <postrestriction>Consult journal home page for
    details</postrestriction>
</postrestrictions>
</postprints>
<conditions>
  <condition>On a non-profit author, institutional or discipline-
    specific pre-print server</condition>
  <condition>Publisher copyright and source must be
    acknowledged</condition>
  <condition>Authors are encouraged to use publisher version (PDF) or
    link to publisher version</condition>
  <condition>Wellcome Trust and MRC authors may post authors own
    version in PubMed Central/ PubMed Central UK 6 month after
    publication</condition>
  <condition>NIH authors may post authors own version in PubMed
    Central 12 months after publication</condition>
</conditions>
<mandates>
  <mandate>
    <funder>
      <fundername>Howard Hughes Medical Institute</fundername>
      <funderacronym>HHMI</funderacronym>
      <julieturl>
        http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php?fPersistentID=24
      </julieturl>
    </funder>
    <publishercomplies>yes</publishercomplies>
    <compliancecetype>Compliant - see conditions</compliancecetype>
    <selectedtitles />
  </mandate>
  :
  :
  :
  <mandate>
    <funder>
      <fundername>National Institutes of Health</fundername>
      <funderacronym>NIH</funderacronym>
      <julieturl>
        http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php?fPersistentID=9
      </julieturl>
    </funder>
    <publishercomplies>yes</publishercomplies>
    <compliancecetype>Compliant - see conditions</compliancecetype>
    <selectedtitles />
  </mandate>
  <mandate>
    <funder>
      <fundername>Wellcome Trust</fundername>
      <funderacronym />
      <julieturl>
        http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php?fPersistentID=12
      </julieturl>
    </funder>
    <publishercomplies>yes</publishercomplies>
    <compliancecetype>Compliant - see conditions</compliancecetype>
    <selectedtitles />
  </mandate>
</mandates>

```

```
<paidaccess>
  <paidaccessurl />
  <paidaccessname />
  <paidaccessnotes />
</paidaccess>
<copyrightlinks>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>Policy</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/rights.html</copyrightlinkurl>
    </copyrightlink>
  </copyrightlinks>
  <romeocolour>yellow</romeocolour>
</publisher>
</publishers>
</romeoapi>
```

## Explanation of the Main XML Elements

### <parameters>

Each <parameter> consists of a <parametername>-<parametervalue> pair. Errors may occur if either of these is mis-spelled or if the <parametervalue> is empty. The `source` argument indicates if a parameter was specified by the calling application, or set as a default by the API.

### <numhits>

If the query is valid, this returns the number of relevant records found – which may of course be '0'. If the query is invalid, or if an error occurs, <numhits> is returned empty.

### <apicontrol> and <outcome>

These elements are generated by the API while processing the query.

<apicontrol> may have the value: `followup`, `identifier`, `invalid`, `journal`, or `publisher`.

<outcome> may have the value: `failed`, `manyJournals`, `notFound`, `publisherFound`, `singleJournal`, or `uniqueZetoc`

These elements are unlikely to be of use to application developers, except for debugging.

### <message>

This element holds any error and warning messages.

### <licence>, <licenceurl> and <disclaimer>

These elements contain Information about terms and conditions under which the API may be used.

### <journals>

Each <journal> record always consists of four elements

- <jtitle> - Journal title
- <issn> - International Standard Serial Number \*
- <zetocpub> - Publisher's name, as found in ZETOC \*
- <romeopub> - Publisher's name in the RoMEO database \*

Asterisked fields may be empty if either the journal is not found in ZETOC and/or the publisher is not in the SHERPA database.

A non-null <romeopub> element indicates that the publisher is covered by the SHERPA/RoMEO database, and can therefore be used for a follow-up publisher search. The other three elements derive from the ZETOC database. The ZETOC and RoMEO publishers may differ. Publishers' names in RoMEO are standardised and may also cover subsidiaries.

### <preprints>

<prearchiving> indicates whether or not authors may self-archive pre-prints (subject to any conditions given later in the record). It may have one of four values: `can`, `cannot`, `restricted`, or `unclear`. In the manual SHERPA/RoMEO system, these correspond with the symbols: green tick, red cross, dashed grey tick, and question mark, respectively. See *Appendix B* for further detail.

If self-archiving is `restricted`, <prerestrictions> will contain a list of the publisher's <prerestriction> restrictions. Otherwise, this element is left empty.

**<postprints>**

The elements in this section - <postarchiving>, <postrestrictions> and <postrestriction> - work the same way as for pre-prints.

**<conditions>**

These may apply to pre-prints and/or post-prints

**<mandates>**

These elements hold any data that is available on the publisher's compliance with research funding agency open access mandates.

Each <mandate> block comprises the following elements:

- <funder>
  - <fundername> - The funder's full name. If there are multiple names in different languages, only the first is given.
  - <funderacronym> - The funder's acronym. If there are multiple acronyms for different language versions of the name, only the first is given.
  - <julieturl> - URL of the funder's full JULIET record
- <publishercomplies> - Does the publisher comply? May have the values 'yes', 'no', or 'unclear'.
- <compliancecetype> - Set phrase indicating the type of compliance or non-compliance. See list in Appendix C
- <selectedtitles> - 'yes' if the compliance only applies to selected journal titles. Otherwise blank.

**<paidaccess>**

Details of the publisher's paid open access option – if any:

- <paidaccessurl> - URL of a web page describing the paid OA option.
- <paidaccessname> - Name of the option (or '[unnamed Option]').
- <paidaccessnotes> - Any associated notes.

**<copyrightlinks>**

One or more hyperlinks to the publisher's copyright policy statements - if available online.

Each <copyrightlink> consists of a pair of elements:

- <copyrightlinktext> - The text to be displayed for the link.
- <copyrightlinkurl> - The link's URL.

**<romeocolour>**

This field gives the colour-code assigned by RoMEO to the publisher. Possible values are: green, blue, yellow and white. See <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoinfo.html#colours> for an explanation of the RoMEO colours.

## Search by Publisher Name:

### Parameters:

- **pub** – Required: query string(s) for a publisher search
- **qtype** – Optional: permitted values 'all' (default), 'any', or 'exact'
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

### Example requests:

The following examples explain and illustrate the effects of the three possible `qtype` parameters:

- **qtype=all** – All the strings in `pub` must appear in the publisher's name, but they may be in any order or location. This is the default `qtype`.

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?pub=optical%20society&qtype=all>

Finds:

International Society for Optical Engineering  
Optical Society of America

- **qtype=any** – Publishers' names must include one or more of the `pub` strings

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?pub=chemistry%20society&qtype=any>

Results include:

Biophysical Society  
International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry  
Royal Society of Chemistry

- **qtype=exact** – The `pub` string must appear as an intact 'phrase' somewhere in the publisher's name.

e.g.:

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?pub=tute%20of%20physics&qtype=exact>

Only finds:

American Institute of Physics  
Institute of Physics

### Results:

Requests may retrieve zero, one or more results. If a single publisher is found, you should still check that it is the correct one. *Example 2* illustrates the results from the publisher search.

Note that an empty `<journals>` section is always returned with publisher searches.

**Example 2 – Sample output from an API Publisher Name Search**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>pub</parametername>
        <parametervalue>institute of physics</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>ALL</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>2</numhits>
    <apicontrol>publisher</apicontrol>
    <outcome>publisherFound</outcome>
    <message>Searching for publisher: 'institute of physics',
      query type: 'ALL'</message>
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:13:11:52</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals />
  <publishers>
    <publisher id="7">
      <name>American Institute of Physics</name>
      <alias />
      <homeurl>http://www.aip.org/</homeurl>
      <preprints>
        <prearchiving>can</prearchiving>
        <prerestrictions />
      </preprints>
      <postprints>
        <postarchiving>can</postarchiving>
        <postrestrictions />
      </postprints>
      <conditions>
        <condition>Publishers version/PDF may be used on authors personal
          or institutional website</condition>
        <condition>Authors own version of final article on e-print
          servers</condition>
        <condition>Must link to publisher version or journal home
          page</condition>
        <condition>Publisher copyright and source must be
          acknowledged</condition>
      </conditions>
    </publisher>
  </publishers>
</romeoapi>

```

```

<condition>NIH-funded articles are automatically deposited with
  PubMed Central with open access after 12 months</condition>
<condition>Authors may choose the Author Select open access option
  at an additional charge.</condition>
</conditions>
<mandates />
<paidaccess>
  <paidaccessurl>
    http://journals.aip.org/au\_select.html</paidaccessurl>
  <paidaccessname>Author Select</paidaccessname>
  <paidaccessnotes />
</paidaccess>
<copyrightlinks>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>Policy</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.aip.org/pubservs/web\_posting\_guidelines.html
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
</copyrightlinks>
<romeocolour>green</romeocolour>
</publisher>
<publisher id="40">
  <name>Institute of Physics</name>
  <alias />
  <homeurl>http://www.iop.org/</homeurl>
  <preprints>
    <prearchiving>can</prearchiving>
    <prerestrictions />
  </preprints>
  <postprints>
    <postarchiving>can</postarchiving>
    <postrestrictions />
  </postprints>
  <conditions>
    <condition>Published source must be acknowledged</condition>
    <condition>Publisher's version/PDF cannot be used, except for
      New Journal of Physics</condition>
    <condition>On a non-profit server</condition>
    <condition>If funding agency rules apply, authors may post articles
      in PubMed Central 12 months after publication</condition>
  </conditions>
  <mandates />
  <paidaccess>
    <paidaccessurl />
    <paidaccessname />
    <paidaccessnotes />
  </paidaccess>
  <copyrightlinks>
    <copyrightlink>
      <copyrightlinktext>Policy</copyrightlinktext>
      <copyrightlinkurl>
        http://authors.iop.org/atom/help.nsf/0/
          F20EC7D4A1A670AA80256F1C0053EEFF?OpenDocument
      </copyrightlinkurl>
    </copyrightlink>
  </copyrightlinks>
  <romeocolour>green</romeocolour>
</publisher>
</publishers>
</romeoapi>

```

## Search by SHERPA/RoMEO Database Record ID

Parameter:

- **id** – Required: Identifier of the required SHERPA/RoMEO database record
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

In *Example 2*, you can see that the <publisher> tag includes an id attribute, which is the publisher's internal record number for the SHERPA/RoMEO database. This can be used for a follow-up search to retrieve the single record, as follows:

e.g. <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?id=3>

### Example 3 – Sample Output from an API ID Search

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>id</parametername>
        <parametervalue>3</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>1</numhits>
    <apicontrol>identifier</apicontrol>
    <outcome>publisherFound</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:13:21:13</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals />
  <publishers>
    <publisher id="3">
      <name>American Association for the Advancement of Science</name>
      <alias />
      <homeurl>http://www.aaas.org/</homeurl>
      <preprints>
        <prearchiving>can</prearchiving>
        <prerestrictions />
      </preprints>
      <postprints>
        <postarchiving>can</postarchiving>
        <postrestrictions />
      </postprints>
    </publisher>
  </publishers>
</romeoapi>
```

```

<conditions>
  <condition>Pre-print may be considered prior
    publication</condition>
  <condition>Pre-print on not-for-profit preprint servers where
    allowed, please contact editors for clarification</condition>
  <condition>Cannot archive until publication</condition>
  <condition>On author's personal web site</condition>
  <condition>Author's own version of accepted paper</condition>
  <condition>Must link to publisher version</condition>
  <condition>Published source must be acknowledged</condition>
  <condition>Authors covered by funding agency rules, may post
    authors own version in PubMed Central after a 6 month
    embargo</condition>
  <condition>Authors covered by funding agency rules, must state on
    submission, for article to be released in PubMed Central after 6
    months after publication.</condition>
</conditions>
<mandates />
<paidaccess>
  <paidaccessurl />
  <paidaccessname />
  <paidaccessnotes />
</paidaccess>
<copyrightlinks>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>License to Publish -- Information for
      Authors</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/contribinfo/rep/lic_info.pdf
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>License to Publish Form</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/contribinfo/rep/license.pdf
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>Pmc Policy</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.sciencemag.org/help/authors/pmc.dtl
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>Pre-print Comment</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.sciencemag.org/about/authors/faq/index.dtl
      #prioronline_faq
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
</copyrightlinks>
<romeocolour>green</romeocolour>
</publisher>
</publishers>
</romeoapi>

```

Warning: We do not guarantee that ids will be permanently linked to particular publishers.

## Search by Journal Title:

### Parameters:

- **jttitle** – Required: query string(s) for a journal title search
- **qtype** – Optional: permitted values 'starts' (default), 'contains', or 'exact'
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

### Example requests:

The following examples illustrate the effects of the three possible `qtype` parameters.

N.b. for journals, multiple words in `qtype` are treated as a single string -:

- **qtype=starts** – The `jttitle` string must appear at the start of the journal title. This is the default `qtype`.

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?jttitle=folk&qtype=starts>

Results include:

Folk -Kobenhavn-  
Folklore  
Folk music journal

- **qtype=contains** – The `jttitle` string may appear anywhere in the journal title

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?jttitle=folk&qtype=contains>

Results include:

Folk life  
Norfolk archaeology  
Southern folklore

- **qtype=exact** – Full title (excluding any added place of publication) must equal `jttitle`

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?jttitle=folk&qtype=exact>

Only finds:

Folk -Kobenhavn-

### Results

There are two formats for the results, depending on whether multiple journals or a single journal are found:

*Example 4* shows the output for multiple journals. *Example 1* shows output for a single journal.

Note: `<publishers />` is always empty when multiple journals output are returned.

Warning: Requests may retrieve up to 50 journal titles only. There is no facility to get further matches. If your request retrieves 50 journals, and your title is not among the results, you should re-formulate your query with additional title keywords and/or a different `qtype` so that a smaller set is retrieved:

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?jttitle=modern%20language&qtype=contains>

finds the journal 'Canadian modern language review', but

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?jttitle=modern&qtype=contains> does not, because it does not appear in the first 50 hits.

**Example 4 – Sample Output from the API for Multiple Journals**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>jtitle</parametername>
        <parametervalue>dna</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>STARTS</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>4</numhits>
    <apicontrol>journal</apicontrol>
    <outcome>manyJournals</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:13:29:57</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Dna and Cell Biology</jtitle>
      <issn>1044-5498</issn>
      <zetocpub>Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.</zetocpub>
      <romeopub>Mary Ann Liebert</romeopub>
    </journal>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Dna Repair -Amsterdam-</jtitle>
      <issn>1568-7864</issn>
      <zetocpub>Elsevier Science B.V., Amsterdam.</zetocpub>
      <romeopub>Elsevier</romeopub>
    </journal>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Dna Research</jtitle>
      <issn>1340-2838</issn>
      <zetocpub>Kazusa Dna Research Institute</zetocpub>
      <romeopub />
    </journal>
  </journals>

```

```
<journal>
  <jtitle>Dna sequence</jtitle>
  <issn>1042-5179</issn>
  <zetocpub>TAYLOR & FRANCIS</zetocpub>
  <romeopub>Taylor & Francis</romeopub>
</journal>
</journals>
<publishers />
</romeoapi>
```

If the `<romeopub>` field for a journal is not empty, the publisher is covered by the SHERPA/RoMEO database, and the data can therefore be used to specify a follow-up search for the publisher (see below).

The output is different if a journal title search finds a single journal. This is the layout shown in *Example 1*, which has a single record in the `<journals>` section, plus a single record in the `<publishers>` section.

Warning: If your request yields a single result, you or your end-user should still check that the journal title correctly matches the one you seek.

## Journal Follow-up Queries:

Provided the <romeopub> field is not empty, the values from a journal record can be used to get the publisher's policy details. This is equivalent to selecting one of the hits from a manual SHERPA/RoMEO journal search.

**Parameters** – which should be copied *literatim* from `jttitle` search results:

- `jttitle` – Required: the relevant journal title
- `zetocpub` – Required: Publisher's name from the ZETOC database
- `romeopub` – Required: Publisher's name from the SHERPA/RoMEO database
- `issn` – Optional: International Standard Serial Number

### **Results:**

The output of a follow-up search is similar to the layout shown in *Example 1* – i.e. a single record in the <journals> section, plus a single record in the <publishers> section.

## Search by Journal ISSN (International Standard Serial Number):

### Parameters:

- **issn** – Required: query string(s) containing a comma-separated list of the required ISSNs. These must be alternatives for a single journal – typically the print ISSN and the corresponding electronic ISSN (or ESSN).  
  
Each ISSN should be an identifier of two sets of four digits separated by a hyphen, although the API will tolerate a missing hyphen.  
  
The ISSNs are searched sequentially from left to right until either a match is found, or there are no more ISSNs left to process.
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

### Example request:

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?issn=1552-3535,0013-1245>

### Results:

Requests may retrieve zero or one result. If the journal is found, the publisher may or may not be known. *Example 5* shows a result where both journal and publisher are found – which is essentially the same as for a Journal Follow-up Query. *Example 6* shows an ISSN result where only the journal is known.

**Example 5 – Sample Successful ISSN Query**

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>issn</parametername>
        <parametervalue>0013-1245</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>ISSN</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>1</numhits>
    <apicontrol>journal</apicontrol>
    <outcome>singleJournal</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:14:47:16</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Education and Urban Society</jtitle>
      <issn>0013-1245</issn>
      <zetocpub>Sage Publications Ltd</zetocpub>
      <romeopub>SAGE Publications</romeopub>
    </journal>
  </journals>
  <publishers>
    <publisher id="65">
      <name>SAGE Publications</name>
      <alias>UK and US</alias>
      <homeurl>http://www.sagepub.co.uk/</homeurl>
      <preprints>
        <prearchiving>can</prearchiving>
        <prerestrictions />
      </preprints>
      <postprints>
        <postarchiving>restricted</postarchiving>
        <postrestrictions>
          <postrestriction>&lt;num&gt;12&lt;/num&gt;
            &lt;period units=&quot;month&quot;&gt;&gt;months&lt;/period&gt;
            embargo</postrestriction>
        </postrestrictions>
      </postprints>
    </publisher>
  </publishers>

```

```

</postprints>
<conditions>
  <condition>On author or institutional server and PubMed
    Central</condition>
  <condition>On author's personal web site</condition>
  <condition>Publisher copyright and source must be
    acknowledged</condition>
  <condition>Publisher's version/PDF cannot be used</condition>
  <condition>Post-print version with changes from referees comments
    can be used</condition>
  <condition>&quot;as published&quot; final version with layout and
    copy-editing changes cannot be archived but can be used on secure
    institutional intranet</condition>
  <condition>If funding agency rules apply, authors may use SAGE open
    to comply</condition>
</conditions>
<mandates />
<paidaccess>
  <paidaccessurl>http://www.sagepub.co.uk/sageopen.sp</paidaccessurl>
  <paidaccessname>SAGE open</paidaccessname>
  <paidaccessnotes />
</paidaccess>
<copyrightlinks>
  <copyrightlink>
    <copyrightlinktext>Policy</copyrightlinktext>
    <copyrightlinkurl>
      http://www.uk.sagepub.com/authors/journal/permissions.sp
    </copyrightlinkurl>
  </copyrightlink>
</copyrightlinks>
<romeocolour>yellow</romeocolour>
</publisher>
</publishers>
</romeoapi>>

```

**Example 6 – Sample ISSN Search where only the Journal is Retrieved**

In cases such as this, the journal is present in the Zetoc database, but the publisher has not yet been indexed by RoMEO.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>issn</parametername>
        <parametervalue>0004-9158</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>ISSN</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>1</numhits>
    <apicontrol>journal</apicontrol>
    <outcome>uniqueZetoc</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:14:55:44</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals>
    <journal>
      <jtitle>Australian Forestry</jtitle>
      <issn>0004-9158</issn>
      <zetocpub>The Institute of Foresters of Australia Inc.</zetocpub>
    </journal>
  </journals>
  <publishers />
</romeoapi>
```

## Find All Publishers:

### *Parameters:*

- **all** – Permitted value 'yes' or any non-null value - there is no default value.
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

### *Example request:*

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?all=yes>

### *Results:*

This special API request retrieves all the publishers in the database in alphabetical name order. Note that an empty <journals> section is always returned.

## Search by RoMEO Colour:

### *Parameters:*

- **colour** – Permitted values 'green', 'blue', 'yellow', or 'white'.
- **showfunder** – Permitted values 'none' (default), 'all', or a funder's full name, acronym or persistent ID from the JULIET database (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>).

### *Example request:*

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?colour=green>

### *Results:*

This API request retrieves all the publishers in the database graded with the specified RoMEO colour. They are listed in alphabetical name order. Note that an empty <journals> section is always returned.

## Using showfunder to get Mandate Compliance Data:

The `showfunder` parameter can be added to any API request in order to return information on the publisher's compliance with a particular research funding agency's open access mandate, or for all funders, or no funders.

### Parameter:

- **showfunder** – Optional: Funder(s) for which data is to be displayed. Permitted values:
  - `none` (default) – Suppress all funder information
  - `all` – Show all available information on funder mandate compliance
  - Funder's *full* name from the JULIET list (<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/>). Case insensitive. Keywords or partial names cannot be used.  
E.g. "Wellcome Trust".
  - Funder's acronym from the JULIET database. Case insensitive.  
Beware: acronyms may not be unique – e.g. ARC = Arthritis Research Campaign *or* Australian Research Council.
  - Funder's persistent ID from the JULIET database. These can be obtained from the funder's JULIET URL, either from JULIET itself or from RoMEO API output (see example result below).

### Example request:

e.g.: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api24.php?pub=cell%20press&showfunder=NIH>

### Results:

If compliance information is available for the specified funder(s) in RoMEO, blocks of XML such as the following are included in the API output.

```
<mandates>
  <mandate>
    <funder>
      <fundername>National Institutes of Health</fundername>
      <funderacronym>NIH</funderacronym>
      <julieturl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/juliet/index.php
        ?fPersistentID=9</julieturl>
    </funder>
    <publishercomplies>yes</publishercomplies>
    <compliance>Compliant - see conditions</compliance>
    <selectedtitles />
  </mandate>
</mandates>
```

Please note that if there are multiple names and/or acronyms for different languages, the API only returns the first, as listed in JULIET.

The `<compliance>` field indicates the way in which the publisher does or does not comply with the funder's mandate using set phrases. Further explanation of these phrases is given in *Appendix C*.

## Unsuccessful Requests

If the required journal title or publisher is not present in the database, output similar to *Example 7* will be returned

### Example 7 – Sample Output from the API for an Unsuccessful Request

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>jtitle</parametername>
        <parametervalue>recycling journal</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>STARTS</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits>0</numhits>
    <apicontrol>journal</apicontrol>
    <outcome>notFound</outcome>
    <message />
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice. SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data, or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:15:03:48</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals />
  <publishers />
</romeoapi>
```

The key things to note for unsuccessful requests are:

- <numhits> is set to zero
- <outcome> is set to notFound.
- Both the <journals> and <publishers> sections are empty.

## Invalid Requests

When a request is made to the API, the parameters are checked for certain simple errors. If an error is detected, the query is not run and the output returns diagnostic information, as in *Examples 8 & 9*. The important things to note are:

- `<numhits>` is empty – whereas a valid unsuccessful query would return zero.
- `<apicontrol>` is set to `invalid`
- `<outcome>` is set to `failed`
- `<message>` describes the error that has been detected.
- The `<journals>` and `<publishers>` sections are empty.

### Example 8 – Sample Output from the API for an Invalid Request – No Parameters

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits />
    <apicontrol>invalid</apicontrol>
    <outcome>failed</outcome>
    <message>Failed. No query parameters provided. Nothing entered,
      nothing gained.</message>
    <licence>SHERPA/RoMEO data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/RoMEO home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/RoMEO information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of RoMEO data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:15:05:59</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals />
  <publishers />
</romeoapi>
```

**Example 9 – Sample Output from the API for an Invalid Request – Wrong Parameter**

```
<<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1" ?>
<!DOCTYPE romeoapi SYSTEM "http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/romeoapi24.dtd">
<romeoapi version="2.4">
  <header>
    <parameters>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>jtitle</parametername>
        <parametervalue>zoos zoology</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="specified">
        <parametername>qtype</parametername>
        <parametervalue>any</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
      <parameter source="default">
        <parametername>showfunder</parametername>
        <parametervalue>none</parametervalue>
      </parameter>
    </parameters>
    <numhits />
    <apicontrol>invalid</apicontrol>
    <outcome>failed</outcome>
    <message>Query type 'ANY' unrecognised for journal title
      searches</message>
    <licence>SHERPA/ROMEo data is available for re-use under a Creative
      Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.5 licence. For
      more details, please see the 'conditions for re-use' at the
      &lt;licenceurl /&gt;, and linked-to from the SHERPA/ROMEo home
      page.</licence>
    <licenceurl>http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeoreuse.html</licenceurl>
    <disclaimer>All SHERPA/ROMEo information is correct to the best of
      our knowledge but should not be relied upon for legal advice.
      SHERPA cannot be held responsible for the re-use of ROMEo data,
      or for alternative interpretations which are derived from this
      information.</disclaimer>
    <timestamp>03-Jun-2009:15:08:32</timestamp>
  </header>
  <journals />
  <publishers />
</romeoapi>>
```

We do not claim the error checks to be comprehensive. You may also get unexpected results if you fail to give a value for a parameter.

## Conditions of Use

The information that we provide through the SHERPA/RoMEO API is given freely to interested parties for their re-use, although the following conditions apply:

- The information provided by the SHERPA/RoMEO service is not for commercial re-use.
- It would be appreciated if the following logo could be incorporated somewhere on a relevant public page which uses SHERPA/RoMEO information and made an active link to the following page: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php>



There are several different sizes of logo available: wherever possible, please include the logo on the page where the information is presented.

- The SHERPA/RoMEO logo is available in various sizes, and can be downloaded from: <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/images/romeologos.html>

Wherever possible, please include the logo on the page where the information is presented.

- If the SHERPA/RoMEO information is re-interpreted or modified, then we ask for the following text to be used in addition to the logo in an appropriate place:

"This information is derived from the SHERPA/RoMEO database and has been modified for use here."

### Technical Constraints and Future Versions

Version 2.4 of the API is a prototype suffers the same constraints as the manual SHERPA/RoMEO – notably the 50-title Limit for Journal Searches, and the inability to process electronic ISSNs (also called ESSNs). We may be able to remove these constraints and/or add further features in a future release of the API.

This is the final prototype API, because RoMEO is about to be redeveloped. This is expected to introduce new functionality, and use a radically different data model, with corresponding changes in the API and its output. Planned improvements include:

- Change to the terminology to recommended by the VIF project (similar to NISO recommendations). This 'preprint' and 'postprint' would be replaced by 'submitted version' and 'accepted version' respectively.
- Addition of data for a third version type – 'published version' (i.e. usually the publisher's PDF – equivalent to NISO's 'version of record').
- Increased standardisation of RoMEO phrases. This will facilitate the generation of non-English language versions of RoMEO.
- Addition of further journal-publisher look-up databases – supplementing Zetoc
- Handling of abbreviated journal titles, through use of databases such as the NCBI's *Entrez* database.
- Handling of ESSN queries, through the use of suitable look-up databases

### Feedback

We seek opinions and feedback on this prototype. We would also be grateful if developers could test it in their own environments and report the results to us. Please send feedback to Peter Millington ([romeo@sherpa.ac.uk](mailto:romeo@sherpa.ac.uk)), tel. +44 (0) 115 846 8481.

## Appendix A – romeoapi24.dtd





```

<!ELEMENT romeoapi      (header,journals,publishers)>
<!ATTLIST romeoapi version CDATA #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT header
(parameters*,numhits,apicontrol,outcome,message*,timestamp)>
<!ELEMENT parameters    (parameter*)>
<!ELEMENT parameter     (parametername?,value?)>
<!ELEMENT parametername (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT value         (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT numhits      (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT apicontrol   (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT outcome      (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT message      (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT timestamp    (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT journals     (journal*)>
<!ELEMENT journal      (jtitle,issn?,zetocpub?,romeopub?)>
<!ELEMENT jtitle       (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT issn         (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT zetocpub     (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT romeopub    (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT publishers   (publisher*)>
<!ELEMENT publisher    (name,alias?,homeurl,preprints,postprints,
conditions*,copyright,romeocolour)>
<!ATTLIST publisher id    CDATA #REQUIRED>
<!ELEMENT name           (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT alias         (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT homeurl       (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT preprints     (prearchiving,prerestrictions*)>
<!ELEMENT prearchiving  (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT prerestrictions (prerestriction*)>
<!ELEMENT prerestriction (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT postprints    (postarchiving,postrestrictions*)>
<!ELEMENT postarchiving (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT postrestrictions (postrestriction*)>
<!ELEMENT postrestriction (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT conditions    (condition*)>
<!ELEMENT condition     (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT copyright     (#PCDATA)>
<!ELEMENT romeocolour   (#PCDATA)>





```

## Appendix B – <prearchiving> & <postarchiving> values

### <prearchiving> - Preprints

<i>Value</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>SHERPA/RoMEO Text</i>
can		author <b>can</b> archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
cannot		author <b>cannot</b> archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
restricted		<b>subject to Restrictions below</b> , author <b>can</b> archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)
unclear		archiving status unclear

### <postarchiving> - Postprints

<i>Value</i>	<i>Symbol</i>	<i>SHERPA/RoMEO Text</i>
can refereeing)		author <b>can</b> archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)
cannot		author <b>cannot</b> archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)
restricted		<b>subject to Restrictions below</b> , author <b>can</b> archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)
Unclear		archiving status unclear

## Appendix C – Mandate Compliance Phrases

### Compliant

#### **Compliant – Free Open Access**

Compliant Fully compliant with the mandate at no cost

Compliant - see conditions Conditionally compliant with the mandate at no cost

Is open access This is a publisher of open access journals

#### **Compliant – Paid Open Access**

Paid OA option Compliant only if the publisher's paid open access option is used. The <selectedtitles> field shows if this is for selected titles only.

### Non-compliant

Non-compliant Non-compliant with the mandate

Unacceptable embargo Non-compliant because the publisher's embargo period is longer than the maximum specified in the mandate

### Publisher's position unclear

Under discussion The funder is negotiating compliance with the publisher

Uncertain Publisher's policies insufficiently clear to tell if they comply with the funder's mandate

Not applicable

Not stated

## Appendix D – Change History

This appendix lists the main changes to the RoMEO API since Version 1.1. Versions 1.2, 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 were never officially announced, although some

- V.1.2 – Added:
  - Journal search by ISSN (print only).
  - Returned data on paid open access options - `<paidaccess>`.
- V.2.0 – This version introduced a completely new program, querying database tables directly, rather than running and screen-scraping normal RoMEO queries, which is what the earlier versions had done.
  - URL format changed – `http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/api20.php`
  - Faster performance and longer timeout.
  - Returned data on compliance with research funding agencies open access mandates - `<mandates>`.
  - `<copyright>` block renamed to `<copyrightlinks>` and its content restructured.
- V.2.1 – Explicit Creative Commons licence and disclaimer added to the `<header>` block of the returned XML.
- V.2.2 – `&showfunder=` argument added to suppress mandate compliance information, or restrict it to a specific funding agency (default: all funders).
- V.2.3 – Amended:
  - `&showfunder` defaults to “none” for `&colour=` and `&all=` requests
  - Parameters in the `<parameters>` block appropriately flagged as “specified” or “default”.
  - `'Content-type: text/plain'` changed to `'Content-type: text/xml'`.
- V.2.4 – Amended:
  - ISSN requests accept a comma-separated list of ISSNs *for one journal* – typically print & electronic ISSNs – processed sequentially until a match is found.
  - Default `&showfunder=` changed to “none” for all query types.