

Managing IP Blocks - Curbing Abuse

When certain usage thresholds are crossed, indicating the high probability of abuse of ACS content and/or a breach of our Terms and Conditions, access to the institution's site is suspended until the situation is addressed by representatives from the library. Many times these are the result of compromised credentials, or users being unaware of ACS's copyright/licensing policies.

From Section 6 (Prohibited Use) of our Terms and Conditions:

"...User agrees not to modify, alter, or create derivative works of the materials contained in the ACS Products without prior written permission from the ACS. Individual articles, book chapters, Reagent Chemicals monographs, and other individual items from the ACS Products that include information obtained as a result of access to the ACS Products are not to be systematically downloaded, re-published in any media, print or electronic form. Individual articles, book chapters, Reagent Chemicals monographs, or other individual items from the ACS Products may not be downloaded in aggregate quantities or centrally stored for later retrieval.

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Grantee is required to notify ACS of any infringements of copyrights or unauthorized use of which they become aware. Grantee will cooperate with the ACS in investigating any such unauthorized uses and taking reasonable steps to prevent a reoccurrence. In an effort to assist you with notifying your users that such systematic downloading has occurred and jeopardizes future access to ACS content, we have prepared some quick messages you may use. Please feel free to modify and incorporate the following text at the links below into your own method(s) of notifying your users.

Notification Message

We suggest librarians, libraries, and/or our institutional contacts send a message, similar to the example below, to alert users (in particular those that may have been downloading in violation of our Terms and Conditions):

“Dear Members of the Chemistry Department:

“We have been notified by the American Chemical Society (ACS) of a very serious problem regarding our institution’s access to ACS journals and e-books. This is a serious infringement of our license and if continued, may possibly jeopardize long-term access to this valuable resource.

“A user or users has downloaded excessive amounts of information from the database which is non-compliant and in violation of our licensing agreement with the ACS.

“Excessive downloading is systematic process. It is not related to the printing of articles that would result from searching research topics, authors, publications from a particular institution, or references found in bibliographies or chapters of books. It is usually the result of a user, or users, who are systematically, and/or automatically and intentionally, downloading numerous articles from one or more journals.

“Currently, access to the ACS journals and e-books may be restricted/and or not available for use until the problem is either resolved or after investigation the individual(s) responsible for the systematic downloading have been narrowed to a specific IP address or range.

“Please notify us immediately if you have any information that will help us to resolve this problem so that access may be restored.”

Pop-up Notification

The message below is the user alert that will pop-up and display when a user attempts to download an article and the IP is blocked.

“Access to ACS Publications has been blocked from this IP address due to suspected systematic downloading of content from the ACS Publications website.

“ACS had contacted a System Administrator at your institution, who should respond to ipblock@acs.org to request restoration. This IP address will remain blocked until ACS Publications is contacted and the situation is sufficiently resolved. Please contact your Librarian or institutional contact for more information.