

Remote Access at Springer Nature

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Product Manager, Identity

09th April, 2020



Agenda

1. What is 'remote access' to Springer Nature websites and why it's an urgent topic right now?

1. What remote access options to our websites does Springer Nature offer?
 - a. How does each option work?
 - b. What are the pros and cons of each option?
 - c. How do you enable each option?

1. What have Springer Nature developed recently to ease remote access in the current circumstances?
 - a. Persisted authentication
 - b. Google Scholar Universal CASA

1. What are we planning to do next to further ease remote access?

Remote access

1.0

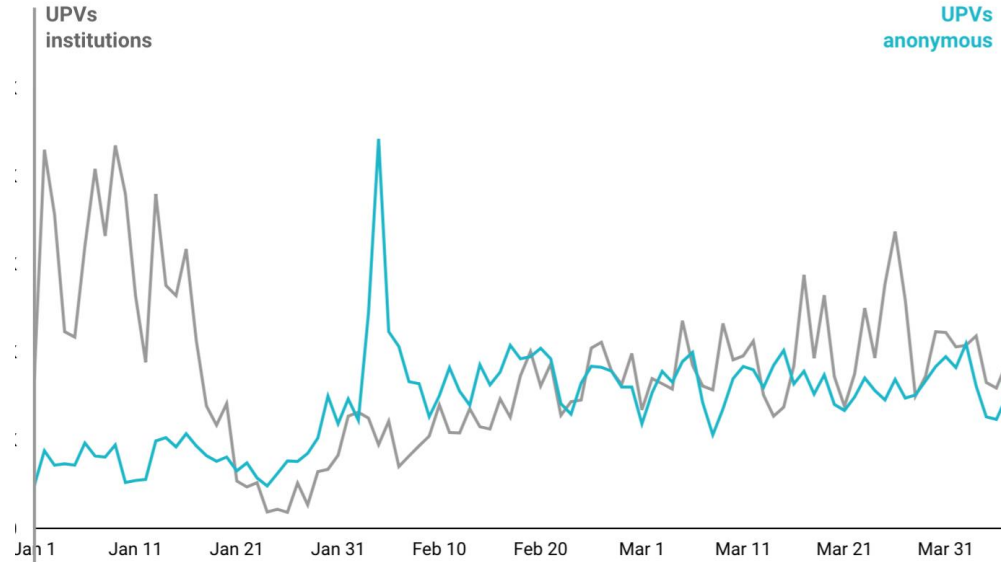
Remote access

How a research or student working off-campus or out-of-office, from home for example, authenticates to a Springer Nature website as an active member of an institution to access institutional subscriptions

Not a new problem

An urgent topic now because many researchers and students working from home now due to Covid-19 campus and office closures

What we're seeing on our websites



- Traffic is up, but that's due to freely available Covid-19 content
- Fewer users are institutionally authenticating
- Anonymous denials are steady
- For countries ahead on the social isolation curve institutional authentication and anonymous denials steadily climb back up together

Remote access options

2.0

Brief context

- Remote access options to some of our most popular Research websites
 - Nature
 - SpringerLink
 - SpringerMaterials
 - ADISInsight
 - Nano
 - Scientific American
- None of these options are mutually exclusive
- Authentication via any of these methods will produce COUNTER usage
- Springer Nature does not charge anything for setting up any of these authentication methods, although you may incur costs setting up and maintaining them
- Some publishers will have similar options available
- Some of you will have one or many of these options already enabled

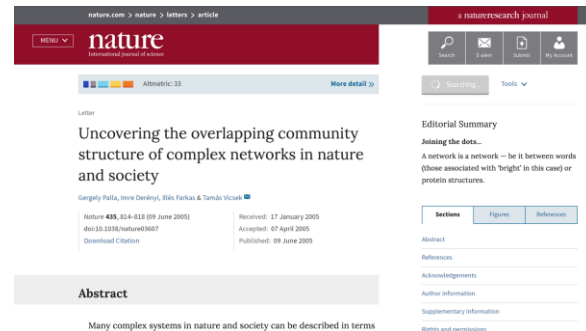
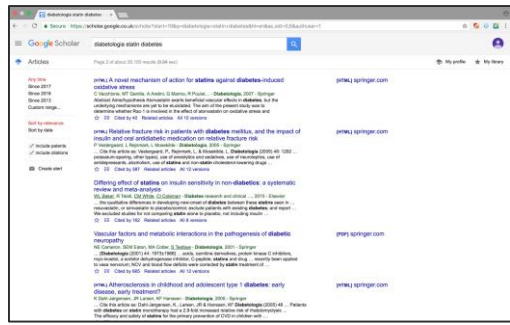
The options

- IP authentication via Virtual Private Network or Secure Proxy Server
- Federated access (also-known-as Shibboleth and OpenAthens)
- Referrer access
- Associated user - SpringerLink and the Database products ONLY
- Token URL access - Nature and Scientific American ONLY
- Google Scholar CASA (Campus Activated Subscriber Access) - SpringerLink and Nature ONLY

IP authentication via VPN or Proxy from home



Connect to institutional network VPN or Proxy server IPs



IP authentication via VPN or Proxy from home - Pros and Cons

PROS

- Can be easy and low cost to set up
- Can provide information about how users within an institution are authenticating and accessing resources
- Many discovery services support proxy URLs
- Widely supported by publishers

CONS

- User experience can sometimes be painful
- Some concerns about VPNs or proxies being able to handle the traffic load
- Some concern about the viability of using VPNs or proxies in certain areas
- Can be a vector for abuse

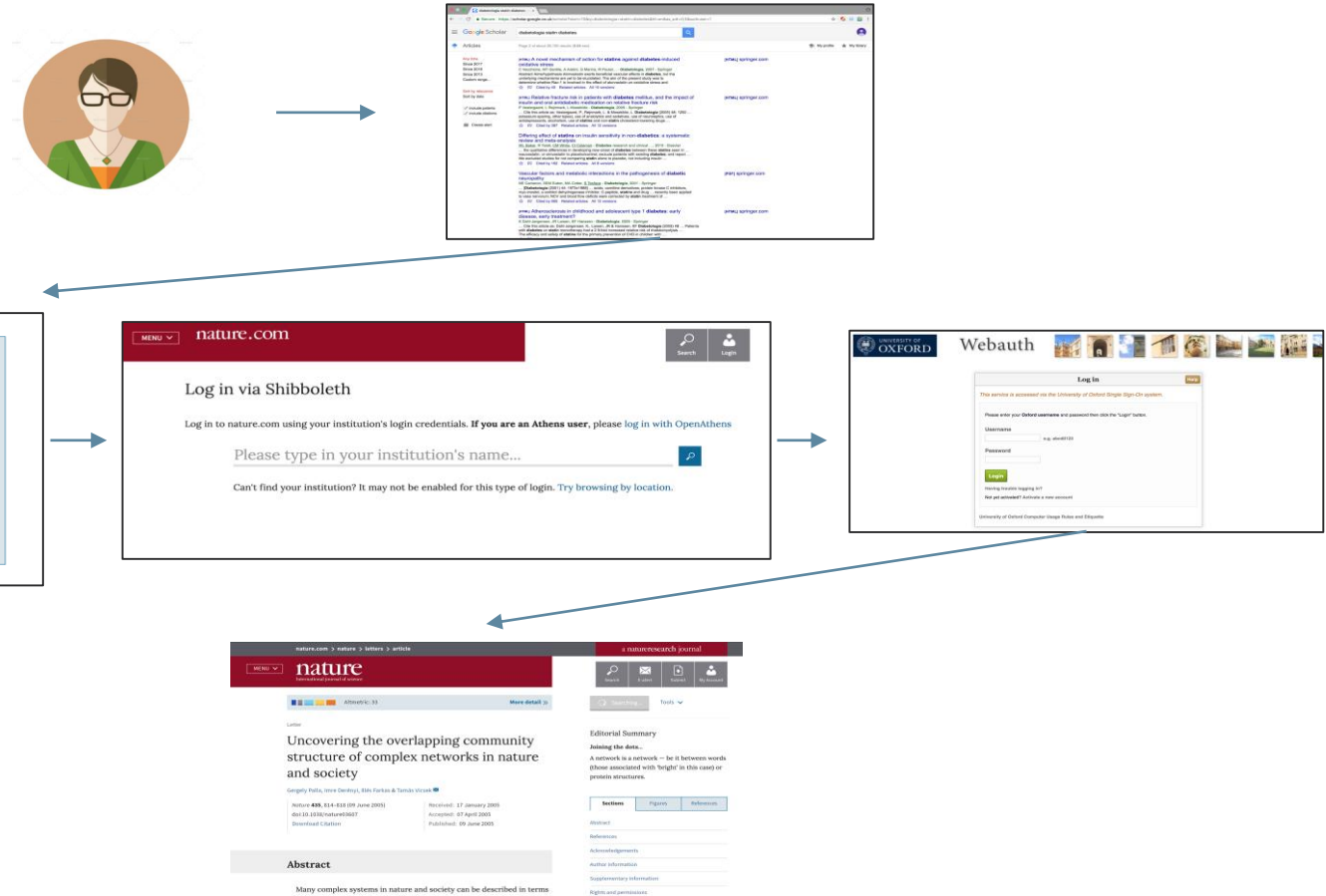
IP authentication via VPN or Proxy from home - How to set it up

- Set up VPN or Proxy
- Provide VPN or Proxy IPs to Springer Nature Online Services or your Licencing Manager
- Inform you patrons about the user experience

Federated access - a few definitions

- **Single Sign On** - A broad term for using a single credential to log in to multiple systems and websites.
- **Federated access** - A form of single sign-on that allows users to use a single credential to authenticate across multiple enterprises' systems and websites (e.g. using your university credential to log in to SpringerLink, ScienceDirect, Wiley Online, etc.).
- **Shibboleth and OpenAthens** - Software solutions that facilitate the federated access method. Institutions normally use one software or another and some publishers will prompt users down one path or another. OpenAthens also acts as a non-country federation.
- **SAML-based authentication** - A technical term for federated access. The message we send from the Springer Nature Service Provider to the institution's Identity Provider are in Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML).
- **Federations** - Country-level organisations that institutions and publishers can join to facilitate the exchange of metadata between the two that underlies the federated access method. There is a global federation called EduGAIN that country-level federations are members of and which facilitates the exchange at a global level for those who opt-in.

Federated access



Federated access - Pros and Cons

PROS

- Widely supported by publishers
- User experience is improving

CONS

- User experience can sometimes be painful, although can be better than VPN or proxy
- Set-up can be technical and painful, may involve your IT department
- Can also be a vector for abuse
- User privacy concerns

RA21 and SeamlessAccess

- **RA21 (Resource Access in the 21st Century)** - An industry group that issued a recommendation to implement an improved experience of federated access across publishers' sites. This new user experience of federated access introduced a consistent call-to-action to initiate the access method across sites and once a user has done so once, their institutional selection would be persisted in their browser. This provides the user with a shorter and easier experience as they bounced between publisher's sites.
- **SeamlessAccess** - The group implementing the services that enable the RA21 recommendations. Only Springer Nature on nature.com and the American Chemical Society have rolled out the SeamlessAccess experience of federated access so far. SeamlessAccess does NOT replace federated access, it's a new user experience of federated access.

SeamlessAccess - Clear and Consistent Call-to-action

MENU ▾

nature

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Login

Article | Published: 06 November 2019

An interbacterial toxin inhibits target cell growth by synthesizing (p)ppApp

Shehryar Ahmad, Boyuan Wang, Matthew D. Walker, Hiu-Ki R. Tran, Peter J. Stogios, Alexei Savchenko, Robert A. Grant, Andrew G. McArthur, Michael T. Laub & John C. Whitney

Nature (2019) | [Cite this article](#)

3360 Accesses | **305** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)


Associated Content

Nature | News & Views


Toxin discovery reveals fresh ammunition for bacterial warfare

Brent W. Anderson & Jue D. Wang

SeamlessAccess - Persisted institutional selection

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Abstract

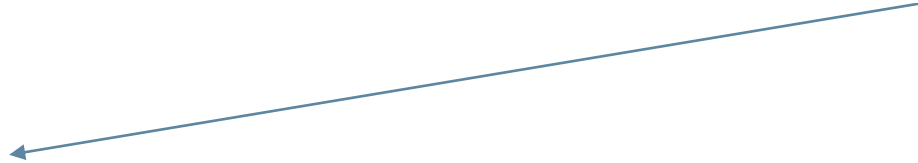
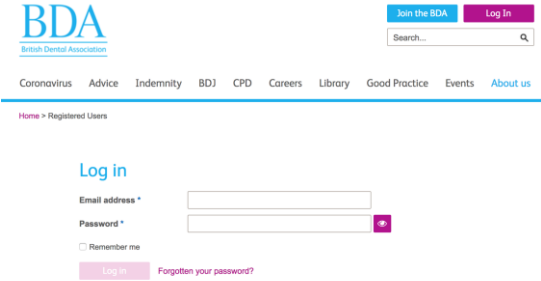
Federated access - How to set it up

- Check that you have an Identity Provider that supports SAML-based authentication - most do
- Contact Springer Nature Online Services or your Licensing Manager to request enablement; if you can provide the entity ID or OpenAthens ID please
- If you're a member of a federation, your Identity Provider may already have our metadata and our Service Provider may already have yours and it's simply a data configuration on our side; If not then we may need to exchange metadata

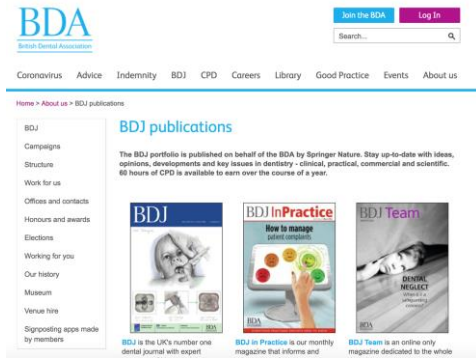
Referrer access



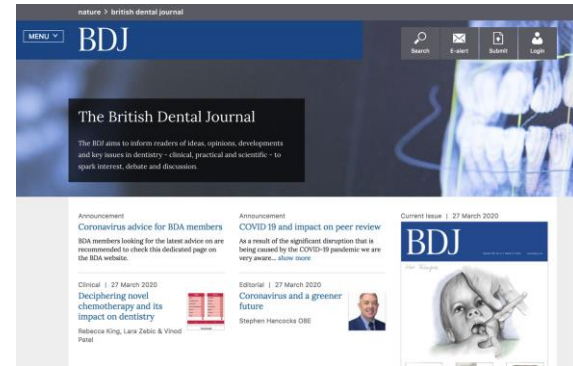
Organisation website



Members Only webpage



Referrer URL



Referrer access - Pros and Cons

PROS

CONS

- Doesn't fit well into normal discovery and access journey
- Set-up can be painful
- Doesn't scale very well to multiple publishers
- Can also be a vector for abuse

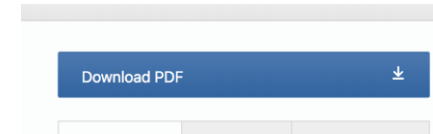
Referrer access - How to set it up

- Build a website with individual authentication for patrons and a 'members only' area with a link to our website
- Provide URL of the members only page to Springer Nature Online Services or your Licencing Manager with a request to enable

Associated user - SpringerLink and the Database Products



By auto-association
when on IP or by
invitation

A screenshot of the Springer login page. At the top left is the Springer logo. The main heading is "Welcome back. Please log in." Below this is a login form with two input fields: "Email" containing "leirbaran@hotmail.com" and "Password" with masked characters. A "Log in" button is positioned below the email field, and a "Forgotten password?" link is to the right of the password field. Below the form are three links: "Log in using a corporate account", "Log in via Shibboleth or Athens", and "Problems logging in?". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Don't have an account?" with a sub-heading "Creating an account is easy, and helps us give you a more personalised experience." and a paragraph: "Your Springer account is shared across many Springer sites including SpringerLink, Springer Materials, Adis Insight, and Springer.com."

Associated user - Pros and Cons

PROS

- Works well if you have a small, infrequently changing user base and don't subscribe to too many publishers

CONS

- Can create significant administration to manage associations; 10-year duration
- Doesn't scale very well to multiple publishers
- Not widely offered by publishers

Associated user - How to set it up

- Go to the Springer Nature Librarian Administration Portal and switch on auto-enablement or invite users to associate

Token URL Access - Nature and Scientific American



Unique URL

MENU ▾ nature.com

MagicWord Login

Enter MagicWord to access all NPG publications to which your institution has site licences.

MagicWord

Login



Concurrency
Limit



Token URL Access - Pros and Cons

PROS

- Simple to set up

CONS

- Doesn't fit well into the normal discovery and access journey
- Can also be a vector for abuse

Token URL access - How to set it up

- Send a request to Online Services or your Licencing Manager with your 'Magic Word' and a proposed concurrency limit based on your number of patrons

Google Scholar CASA - Nature and SpringerLink ONLY

SPRINGER NATURE

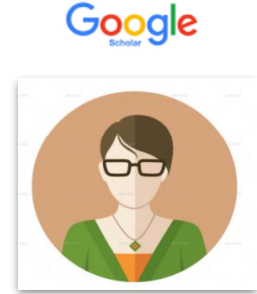
IP 1.2.3.4 = Institution X = Nature Subscription



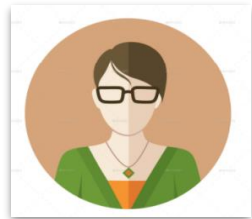
User ABC



IP 1.2.3.4



User ABC = Institution X



User ABC = Institution X
(Valid for 60 days)



IP = 6.7.8.9



Links created for Nature for Institution X



Authenticated as Institution X

Google Scholar CASA - Pros and Cons

PROS

- Fits into a common discovery and access journey
- Just works for researchers who use Google Scholar
- Works cross-device
- Can be disabled by researcher in their Google account settings

CONS

- Dependent on the user being a Google Scholar user and being on their institutional network IP to work

Google Scholar CASA - How to set it up

- Nothing to do. Auto-enabled for institutional customers.

Recent changes

3.0

Recent changes

- Persisted access
- Piloting Google Scholar Universal CASA
- Encouraging federated access enablement

Persisted access



Institutionally
authenticates



Same browser
and device



Institutional identifier stored against
persistent cookie in the user's browser,
currently for 90-days

nature.com > nature > letters > article

nature
International journal of science

Altruistic 33 More detail

Letter

Uncovering the overlapping community structure of complex networks in nature and society

Gergely Palla, Imre Derényi, Eilás Farkas & Tamás Vicsek

Nature 435, 814–818 (9 June 2005) Received: 17 January 2005
doi:10.1038/nature04367 accepted: 07 April 2005
Download Citation Published: 09 June 2005

Abstract

Many complex systems in nature and society can be described in terms

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Abstract

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nature.com > nature > letters > article

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Abstract

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Persisted
identifier used if
not authenticated
in another way

Persisted access

- Implemented on 18th March for Nature and the Database Products
- Implemented on 27th March for SpringerLink

- Works for all institutional authentication methods on Nature
- Works for IP (including VPN and proxy) and federated access on SpringerLink and the Database Products

- Implemented for all institutional customers; Nothing special for librarians or researchers to do

- Only works if user has cookies enabled and in the same browser on the same device

- Planned to be a temporary measure for the crisis, reviewed weekly; 90-day duration can be changed and can be turned off

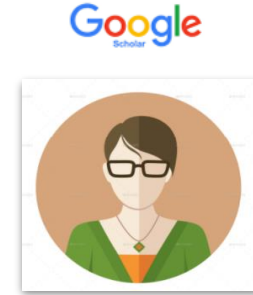
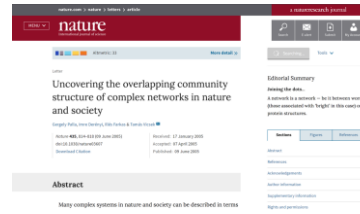
Google Scholar Universal CASA - Nature and SpringerLink ONLY



User ABC



IP 1.2.3.4



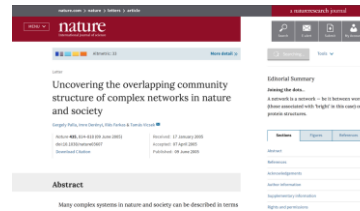
User ABC = Institution X



User ABC = Institution X
(Valid for 60 days)



IP = 6.7.8.9



Article | Published: 25 March 2020

Parental-to-embryo switch of chromosome organization in early embryogenesis

Samuel Collombet, Noémie Ranisavljevic, Takashi Nagano, Csilla Varnai, Tarak Shisode, Wing Leung, Tristan Piolot, Rafael Galupa, Maud Borensztein, Nicolas Servant, Peter Fraser , Katia Ancelin  & Edith Heard 

Nature (2020) | [Cite this article](#)

4377 Accesses | 94 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Abstract

Paternal and maternal epigenomes undergo marked changes after fertilization¹. Recent epigenomic studies have revealed the unusual chromatin landscapes that are present in oocytes, sperm and early preimplantation embryos, including atypical patterns of histone modifications^{2,3,4} and differences in chromosome organization and accessibility, both in gametes^{5,6,7,8} and after fertilization^{5,8,9,10}. However, these studies have led to very different conclusions: the global absence of

 Access through your institution

Sections

Figures

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Abstract

Data availability

Code availability

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Additional information

Extended data figures and tables

Supplementary information

Source data

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About this article

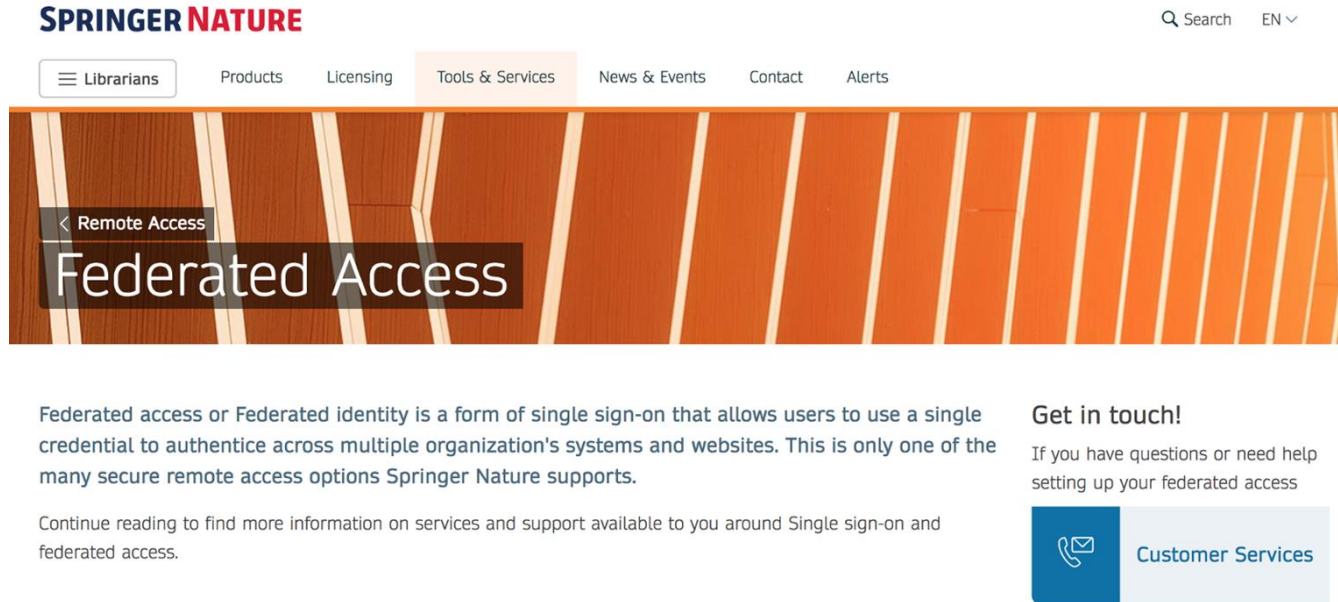
PDF

Help

Google Scholar Universal CASA

- Implemented on 24th March for Nature and SpringerLink
- Enabled for all institutional customers; Nothing for librarians or researchers to do
- Works cross-browser and device
- Monitoring effect

Encouraging federated access enablement



The screenshot shows the Springer Nature website header with the logo on the left and search and language options on the right. A navigation menu below the header includes 'Librarians', 'Products', 'Licensing', 'Tools & Services' (highlighted), 'News & Events', 'Contact', and 'Alerts'. The main content area features a large orange banner with the text 'Remote Access' and 'Federated Access'. Below the banner, there is a paragraph explaining federated access, a 'Get in touch!' section with a 'Customer Services' button, and a search prompt.

SPRINGER NATURE Search EN


Librarians Products Licensing **Tools & Services** News & Events Contact Alerts

< Remote Access
Federated Access

Federated access or Federated identity is a form of single sign-on that allows users to use a single credential to authentic across multiple organization's systems and websites. This is only one of the many secure remote access options Springer Nature supports.

Continue reading to find more information on services and support available to you around Single sign-on and federated access.

Get in touch!
If you have questions or need help setting up your federated access

 **Customer Services**

Search for: "Springer Nature Federated Access"

<https://www.springernature.com/gp/librarians/tools-services/implement/federated-access>

What's next?

4.0

What's next?

- Communicate out the options and the work we've been doing to ease remote access during the crisis
- Exploring looking back through stored historical authentications to 'backfill' persisted access to an earlier date
- Exploring enabling federated access by default for federation members

Thank you

Laird Barrett

identity@springernature.com

Search for: 'Springer Nature Remote Access'

The story behind the image



Credit: Northampton University

Following the progress of Dolly's clones

When Dolly, the cloned sheep, had to be put down halfway through her expected lifespan there was concern that the cloning process might create animals that aged prematurely. Twenty years on a team from the University of Nottingham have led a study on a small flock of Dolly clones that show that they are ageing no differently to naturally conceived sheep and were not suffering from any particular health problems when compared to a control group of non cloned animals.

SPRINGER NATURE