



Legal aspects of content mining: true or false

- Question 1:** In the UK it is legal to mine content for non-commercial research without asking for permission.
- Answer 1:** True: generally you do not have to ask for permission now.
- Question 2:** PLOSONe articles are universally CC-BY.
- Answer 2:** True: PLOSONe are a true open access journal.
- Question 3:** CC-BY is the most liberal CC licence.
- Answer 3:** False: CC0 is the most liberal.
- Question 4:** If a publisher has their own API for text and data mining, researchers must use this to do mining.
- Answer 4:** False: UK law says that such terms are unenforceable.
- Question 5:** In the UK, a publisher cannot enforce a contractual term stating a maximum number of records to be mined in a 24 hour period.
- Answer 5:** True: due to the new Hargreaves legislation.
- Question 6:** If you have legal access to an article, you may mine it for the purpose of developing a commercial service without asking permission.
- Answer 6:** False: the text and data mining exception only applies to non-commercial purposes.
- Question 7:** Most academic research is considered to be commercial according to the law, since research grants are awarded based on previous work.
- Answer 7:** False: however we are getting close to grey areas.
- Question 8:** Non-commercial text-mining is legal throughout the EU.
- Answer 8:** False: the exception for non-commercial mining is specific to the UK.
- Question 9:** Commercial products can be made legally from mining copyrighted material in the UK as long as the original purpose of the research was non-commercial.
- Answer 9:** True: although it must be clear that the commercial product was not the original purpose of the work. This is a grey area, partly due to lack of case studies, and also due to the ambiguity of the phrase “non-commercial purposes”.