



Scholarly Networks Security Initiative

Working together to combat the threat of cybercrime

Cybercrime is a threat to the scholarly ecosystem

Protecting higher education institutions from cyber-attacks is essential given the threat to data and privacy



Librarians are increasingly on the frontline of network breaches. CISOs may have the responsibility, but not necessarily day-to-day interactions with stakeholders across the wider campus network. As part of its efforts to bring together key players in the fight against cybercrime, the Scholarly Networks Security Initiative (SNSI), has been exploring the views of these two important groups.

Working with an independent market research company SNSI surveyed librarians and CISOs to find out their thoughts and concerns about cybercrime, the extent to which they're aware of the threats network breaches pose to data security and related issues, who they would contact in the event of a breach, and where they would seek ongoing information.



LIBRARIANS

Main findings (from quantitative survey)



65% reported that the theft of personal data was a concern.



Almost unanimity as to who they would go to in the event of a breach. **96%** would contact IT.



Less than half - 43% - were concerned that illegal sites like Sci-Hub may have access to their institution's network.



56% were concerned about the theft of university log in details.



85% would report it to the security team.



Only **45% thought** using illegal pirate sites was wrong.

Understanding and awareness of cybercrime and data security issues varied with institutional size



INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICERS

Main findings (from qualitative survey)



Cybersecurity viewed as a serious concern.



Primary concern in protecting the network was to prevent business disruption and protect personal data.



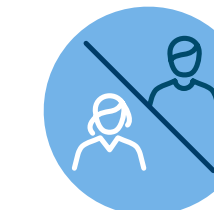
Misperception that the format of scholarly articles aren't associated with malware meant sites like Sci-Hub were viewed as lower risk.



Human error and lack of awareness of cybersecurity main causes of data security breaches.



Sci-hub's encouragement of credential sharing was cited as a concern.



Lack of collaboration and disconnect between different departments identified as potential weak link in the fight against cyber attacks.

How SNSI, CISOs and librarians can work together



Join forces

to promote good cyber hygiene practices. CISOs considered basic cyber-hygiene tools, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), to be a key line of defense in preventing cybercriminals from accessing university networks.



Share information,

check lists, intelligence, training and opportunities for collaboration to increase librarians' awareness of cyber security issues, the threats posed by pirate sites such as Sci-Hub and the risk they pose to data security.



Continue to raise awareness

of the very real threats of cyberattack to academic institutions, and to the integrity of their staff and students' personal data.



About SNSI

The Scholarly Networks Security Initiative (SNSI) was set up to address the growing problem of cybercrime in higher education by bringing together publishers, academic institutions and others to address cyber-challenges threatening the integrity of the scientific record, scholarly systems and the safety of personal data.

www.snsi.info