

Rick Bowes
Association of Publishers – Higher Education
Alternate Format Solutions Initiative

Bio

Rick has held senior management positions in the publishing industry over the past 25 years including publisher of the *New England Journal of Medicine* and president of Macmillan New Media. He led successful print, new media and internet publishing businesses before establishing a full-time consultancy to help organizations with their electronic publishing initiatives.

For the past several years Rick has focused his efforts on finding viable ways to leverage emerging technologies to address the need of students with disabilities, both K-12 and post-secondary, for timely access to their curricular materials in formats they can work with. Through his consulting practice, Digital Versions, LLC, Rick has worked with both publishers and national disability/accessibility groups to research problems and devise solutions to help individual organizations address the challenges from their particular perspectives.

Rick was recently retained by the AAP's (Association of American Publishers) Higher Education members to lead its Alternate Formats Solutions Initiative, a national effort to identify ways to provide print-disabled postsecondary students with specially formatted course materials on a timely basis. His charge is to research all aspects of this complex problem eliciting contributions from publishers, disability groups, those serving students with disabilities, and other organizations, and then recommend potential practical solutions. The work will draw on Rick's expertise in the technology, operational, marketplace, copyright and policy areas each of which must be adequately addressed to insure the success of any set of solutions.

A graduate of Dartmouth College with an MBA from Columbia University, Rick has served as president of the Society for Scholarly Publishing, held memberships on several publishing-related advisory boards and working groups, and given numerous speeches and presentations. He is the author of the chapter on accessibility in the highly regarded *Columbia Guide to Digital Publishing* (2003).