

What does the community of scientists “own”?

- What do authors own?
- What does the scholarly community own?

The vast majority of publishers require transfer of author rights



RoMEO Studies 4: An analysis of Journal Publishers' Copyright Agreements
<http://www.lboro.ac.uk/departments/lis/disresearch/romeo/RoMEO%20Studies%204.pdf>

Many publishers have licensing terms that constrain or impede:

- ▶ right to circulate articles among peers
- ▶ right to use items for e-reserve beyond one semester
- ▶ right to share items obtained through interlibrary loan

- ▶ Much as during the Prohibition era, there is likely a discrepancy between the law and how people actually behave.



Two developments are worth noting in this respect:

- ▶ Creative Commons licensing
- ▶ “Green” rights



Creative Commons

Example of adopter:

▶ BioMed Central



▶ Will Creative Commons help mitigate restrictions in the long term?

See Richard Poynder's piece on "The role of digital rights management in Open Access" at <http://poynder.blogspot.com/2005/04/role-of-digital-rights-management-in.html>

Green rights

Many publishers now allow author self-archiving of pre-prints and post-prints of articles

SHERPA

- ▶ Aggregate stats on publisher self-archiving policies, with links to publisher policies.



Key Perspectives

▶ Self-Archiving Statistics

Alma Swan and Sheridan Brown. Open access self-archiving: An author study (May 2005).
<http://www.keyperspectives.co.uk/openaccessarchive/reports.html>



Positives of Green

- ▶ Probably played role in spurring development of “institutional repositories”
- ▶ Increased immediate access to journal literature



Positives of Green

- ▶ OA may enhance impact of research

See: "The effect of open access and downloads ('hits') on citation impact: a bibliography of studies"
<http://opcit.eprints.org/oacitation-biblio.html>

- ▶ Created awareness of alternative publishing models

Variant publisher policies



ROME Green publishers

- ▶ **American Physical Society:** “publisher’s version/PDF can be used on author’s or employers web site, but not on ‘e- print servers’”.
- ▶ **American Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:** “publisher’s version/pdf cannot be used”
- ▶ **Springer Verlag (Germany)** “author’s own final version can be archived” “on author’s website or institutional repository” “publisher’s version/PDF cannot be used”.
- ▶ **Association for Computing Machinery** “on author’s or employer’s web site only” “eprint server is not-for-profit”

Nature Publishing Group (ROME Yellow): “author can archive pre-print (ie pre-refereeing)”; “author can archive post-print (ie final draft post-refereeing)” but with “6 month embargo”; “publisher’s version/PDF cannot be used”; “on author or institutional server only”.

info. Above from SHERPA:

<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php?colour=green;>

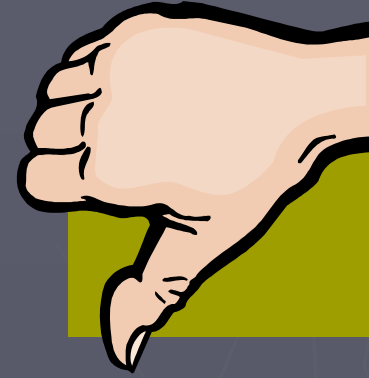
<http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php?colour=yellow>

Post-print and pre-print user rights

▶ "Probably" public readers have right to print or save copy, for "personal use"

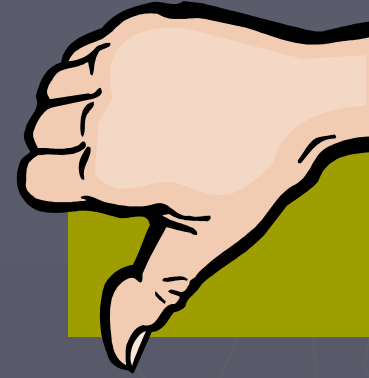
▶ "May the reader print out 50 copies and circulate them at a conference on the theory that each attendee could have printed out an individual copy?" "Hard to say":

▶ "May an institutional repository repost a copy found on an author's personal web site?" "Unclear"



Negatives of Green

- ▶ Canonical copy not necessarily clear
- ▶ Apparent restriction by some publishers of self-archiving to institutional or personal webpages—but not centralized subject repositories



Negatives of Green

- ▶ Can we expect 100 per cent of authors to self-archive? If not, a portion of the literature will not be accessible this way
- ▶ Green archiving is a removable right conferred by publishers

- ▶ Is the green approach in the best interest of researchers in the long run and should librarians promote the green approach?

Questions for Discussion

- ▶ Is the green approach in the best interest of researchers in the long run and should librarians promote the green approach?
- ▶ Are library cooperatives the future hosts for archives of scientific literature?
- ▶ Will libraries be involved as publishers of scientific journals?

Acknowledgments

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