

Introducing author rights

[The following text is the script for the author rights video available at <http://blip.tv/file/743274>].

You've just learned your article has been accepted for publication in a journal. Your article is the culmination of years of study, research, and hard work. The more your article is read and cited, the greater the value of your research.

The publisher's only request is that you sign their standard publishing agreement. Unfortunately, most standard publication agreements ask you to give away control of your copyright, limiting the future use of your article.

In the past, a journal article was the primary way to gain exposure for your work. Today, there are more ways than ever to distribute knowledge. Scholars worldwide have powerful tools for searching and viewing articles, creating unparalleled opportunities to increase the exposure of your work.

Will you be able to take advantage of these opportunities?

- Are you able to upload your article into a digital archive?
- Are you able to email copies to your students and colleagues?
- Will you be able to include sections of your article in future work?

Publishers only require your permission to publish an article, not a wholesale transfer of rights. However, publishing agreements are written by publishers and often capture more of your rights than necessary.

You are the copyright holder unless you explicitly transfer the rights to someone else in a signed agreement. You have options when it comes to protecting your intellectual property. By adding an amendment to the standard publisher's agreement, you can retain key rights to your work.

Remember:

- Scrutinize the publication agreement
- Negotiate with the publisher
- Retain the rights you need

Value your intellectual property.

You can start by asking your librarian for an author's amendment that modifies the standard publishing agreement or visit SPARC's author rights initiative.

By maintaining control of your copyright, you will maintain control of the future uses of your work.

