

Bibliothek

der Universität Zürich



**Universität
Zürich** ^{UZH}

Self-archiving publications

Legal aspects

Open Science Services



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What is self-archiving?

If researchers wish to make their scientific work publicly available, they can either do so in an open access publication venue (open access journal or open access book publisher) or self-archive their publication. For self-archiving, authors publish their manuscript in a conventional publication venue and at the same time deposit the accepted manuscript or the already published version on a recognized repository. Self-archiving or second publications constitute the so-called green road to Open Access. If researchers want to self-archive their publications, they need the appropriate rights.

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What is copyright?

Researchers as authors always own the copyright on any scientific work they produce. However, they generally grant publishers certain rights of use in their publishing contract so that the publisher can reproduce and process the work. Copyright holders can choose either to grant simple/non-exclusive or exclusive rights of use to the publisher. A simple right of use allows the work to be used in the approved manner, without excluding use by the authors themselves or by third parties. If researchers grant exclusive rights to their work, the publisher can use it to the exclusion of all other people.

Author rights and self-archiving: What you need to know

If authors do not publish directly in Open Access, they often grant the publisher exclusive rights. In most cases publishers allow self-archiving but authors must abide by the terms of the agreement, such as an embargo period or a predefined license. The requirements for self-archiving can be found either in the publisher's contract or on the Sherpa/Romeo database: <https://v2.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>.

Self-archiving publications on the UZH-repository ZORA requires researchers to take into account the conditions by the publisher (and the funding body). If anything is unclear, authors can reach out to the ZORA editorial team.

Retaining essential author rights?

UZH is committed to a transparent research culture based on its Open Science Policy. This also includes at a minimum that researchers ensure that they retain the right to self-archive, even when publishing in conventional publication venues. In practice, there are three ways to retain rights as an author:

Adapt the publishing contract

In consultation with the publisher, adjustments can be made to the contract. For example, the accepted manuscript, which is identical in content to the published version but does not yet have the publisher's layout, can be explicitly excluded from the contract terms. Alternatively, certain expressions requiring the transfer of exclusive rights to the publisher can be deleted.

Attach an Open Access Addendum

Alternatively, authors can add an addendum to the contract that regulates the deposit of the publication in the repository (Open Access Addendum). The addition must be countersigned by the publisher. Such an addendum can be generated online: <https://labs.creativecommons.org/scholars/>.

Apply the rights retention strategy of the Swiss National Science Foundation

Any project proposals submitted after 1 January, 2023 will have to follow the new Open Access regulations of the Swiss National Science Foundation: Authors are now required to publish the accepted manuscript version without an embargo period. The SNSF supports researchers in this with the Rights Retention Strategy. This entails that authors inform the publisher upon submission of their manuscript (e.g. in the footnotes of the manuscript) that they retain the rights to the accepted manuscript version and will publish it under a CC-BY license without an embargo period.

Applying licenses

When authors self-archive their publications in a repository, they usually have to apply a license. By sharing their publication with a license, authors can grant other persons certain rights of use to their work. The Creative Commons licenses are the most well-known licenses in that regard; among other things they can be used for images, presentations, illustrations, data and text documents (but not software).

You can find out which licenses are available and how they can be used on the University Library website (see next page).

More information

Contact

For questions about copyright and publishing contracts, members of the UZH can contact the Open Science Services or the Team Legal Services.

Open Science Services: oa@ub.uzh.ch

Legal Services: www.rud.uzh.ch

University Library Website

The homepage of the University Library informs about the legal aspects of publishing.

Homepage: www.ub.uzh.ch/en/wissenschaftlich-arbeiten/Rechtliche-Aspekte

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Focus author rights

An overview of informative materials, documents and events is available in this blogpost.

Blog: <https://www.uzh.ch/blog/ub/2023/12/08/strengthening-authors-rights-for-the-open-access-transformation/>

Institutional repository

UZH provides to its members the institutional repository ZORA for self-archiving publications.

Homepage: www.zora.uzh.ch

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