



Declaration of Researcher Rights in Negotiating the Future of Scholarly Communication

As researchers, we fully support the efforts to transform academic publishing and scholarly communication from a system that limits essential academic activities to an open ecosystem that promotes free and unrestricted access to and sharing of all research outputs.

We intend to bring about this change with the best interests of researchers in mind. To give full voice to our researchers and to advocate effectively for our core academic needs, we present a list of fundamental rights and principles that are endorsed by our research community.

We believe that agreements with publishers and other entities should adhere to the following articles to ensure an open future for scholarly communication:

Article I. Researchers have the right to access all scholarly works including all supplemental content and data immediately, freely, and openly.

Article II. Our right to access scholarly work includes the right to discover and use content and metadata without special licenses or restrictions, immediately, freely, and openly. This requires ensuring the machine-readability of both content and metadata.

Article III. Our right to access and use scholarly work extends to previously published content, which requires the ability of researchers to regain copyrights of their prior work(s).

Article IV. Future generations have the right to access published scholarly work including all supplemental content and data. This requires long-term preservation of scholarly content in libraries and/or other independent repositories and infrastructure entities to preserve all content freely and independently.

Article V. Researchers have the right to use an open license by default (e.g., CC-BY or CC0) so that they can present, post, and share all of their scholarly work. This requires all publishers to offer open licensing at time of submission with no caveats, exemptions, or added expense.

Article VI. Researchers have the right to deposit any version of their scholarly works into public or institutional repositories without legal or technical barriers. This right should apply at time of submission with no caveats, exemptions, or added expense.



The Future of Research Communications and e-Scholarship

Article VII. Researchers have the right to freely and openly access metrics and other metadata that are essential to interpreting the impact and context of scholarly works. This requires that all citations, usage, and other content interaction metrics with content are made immediately, freely, and openly available.

Article VIII. Contracts with publishers and other service providers should be fully transparent, free of any non-disclosure agreements, and posted in public so that they can be independently assessed by researchers and the general public.

Article IX. Researchers have the right to disseminate their work without financial barriers (article processing charges and other publishing fees) through established, and preferred dissemination channels for their community.

Article X. Researchers, institutions, and libraries have the right to prioritize relationships with academic publishers and other service providers that align with their mission and support basic researcher rights.

(Published August 1, 2021, [10.5281/zenodo.5013929](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5013929))