



Copyright

Depositing publications

Arrow@DIT aspires to host and preserve all the full text publications of researchers in DIT. Full text means the entire article, book, book chapter, theses etc. Making such work publicly available increases access to the information contained within it and may serve to grow the author's citation rate. It would be reasonable to think that all that is required to do this is the permission of the individual author. With regards to most formats this is the case. However, this is not the situation with regard to Journal Articles. In the vast majority of cases where an author contracts with a journal publisher to produce their article in a specific journal, they hand over all their rights to the publisher

What does this mean?

In particular for articles published in academic journals it means that the author has no rights over the published article also known as the Publisher's PDF. Publishers are engaged in a commercial activity. They acquire the article, peer review it, enhance it by editorial control, format it, link it to related material and then charge a subscription for others to read it. In most cases subscriptions to academic journals are expensive. The publisher is therefore obliged to protect his/her commercial interest and will refuse to permit any public link to the published version online. This includes databases such as Arrow@DIT but will equally apply to the author's website or departmental listing.

Authors have difficulty in accepting this but the following analogy may help to clarify matters. When you sell your car to another party, you transfer the property right and the car becomes the property of the other person. Which means that you can no longer drive it unless they give you permission to do so. When you sign a contract with a publisher to publish your article, you transfer your copyright (which is a property right like any other) to the publisher and you cannot use that published version for any purpose unless the publisher gives you explicit permission. Because publishers demand high subscriptions most will not give you permission to deposit your published article in Arrow@DIT. This means that you cannot submit the details of your article and then link to the published version as it appears on the publisher's website.

What can you do?

Publishers while protecting their commercial interests are not unreasonable and will allow you to use what is known as the Author's Final Version. This is the version you receive back from the publishers after it has been through the peer review process incorporating any amendments arising from that but without the publisher's editorial changes and branding. Nine out of ten publishers will allow you to use this as long as you indicate where the

article appeared and provide the relevant citation. In many cases the publisher will insist that Arrow@DIT links to their version but in order to read their version you will have to subscribe to the journal. This is referred to as the Publisher's Policy.

When you submit an item to Arrow@DIT, the submission is held in a holding area until the Library can ascertain what the publisher's policy is. There are two ways to do this.

- 1) The Library checks the Sherpa/Romeo database. This is a database of publishers policies. Here you can enter the name of the journal or publisher and obtain details of the policy. However this listing is not comprehensive.
- 2) When the policy is not listed on the Sherpa/Romeo database, the Library will check their website and if necessary, will write to the publisher seeking to clarify their policy. If a response has not been received after a 6 week period, permission is inferred and the item is made available on Arrow@DIT.

(Access the Sherpa/Romeo database by clicking on the Publishers Policies link on the right under Links on the Arrow@DIT homepage <http://arrow.dit.ie/> or by accessing the Sherpa/Romeo database <http://www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/>.)

Protect your own interests!

- 1) Always keep the Authors Final Version and preserve it by depositing it in Arrow@DIT. The publisher is under no obligation to preserve your material for the long term.
- 2) Do not heedlessly give away your copyright
- 3) Negotiate with the publishers and protect your right to post an author's copy to Arrow@DIT. This can be as simple as inserting an addendum to the contract which gives you this right.

Publishers are operating on a model that was appropriate to the print world when there was only one place you could publish. But the world has changed and technology means that you can make your publication available on a wide range of sources such as Arrow@DIT, your own website, your departmental listing or subject based resources.

Many formats such as conference proceedings, presentations, book chapters can be made freely available with the permission of the author. Journal articles are different and will bring the Publisher's Policy into play. However, it must be emphasised that the vast majority of publishers will permit you to make available your Author's Final Version and this is the one you need to keep and deposit in Arrow@DIT.

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Protect it as you would any other property you possess!***