

Determining Whether You May Post a Document to e-Pubs

To post a document (i.e., digital content of any type) to e-Pubs you must either (1) be the copyright holder of that document or (2) be licensed by the copyright holder to distribute the document through an open access digital archive.

It is a fairly straightforward process to determine whether you have the right to post any given document to e-Pubs. At the time you create a document, you simultaneously become its copyright holder. Unless you transfer the copyright to another person or organization, you remain the copyright holder and may elect to distribute your document through e-Pubs or by any other means. In the course of formally publishing journal articles and other works of scholarship, most academic authors sign a publishing agreement that specifies whether they reserve the right to make that publication available online. In some cases, placing a copy of that work in an open access digital archive is permitted, and in others, such placement is prohibited by the agreement.

In short, then, there is a quick and easy way to determine whether you may post a document to e-Pubs:

Your signed publishing agreement indicates whether you have retained the right to post your document to e-Pubs—the Purdue University Libraries' open access archive, or repository. If your document does not fall under the terms of a formal publishing agreement, then you retain the right as the document's creator to provide access through the Purdue University Libraries' e-Pubs service.

You may contact your publisher for permission to post your article to e-Pubs even if not explicitly permitted by your publishing agreement. [Message templates](#) already exist on the Web to help you with this.

There are two valuable tools available to Purdue University authors to help them determine and retain their rights:

1. The [Sherpa/Romeo](#) service provides a large index of the copyright policies of many of the most common publishers and journals. Although the Sherpa/Romeo service cannot be used to indicate the exact copyright terms for any single document, it is a useful tool when researching publisher positions on author-archiving practice, either before or after selecting a journal in which to publish. If you would like help in understanding the applications and limitations of the Sherpa/Romeo service, please contact either the [subject specialist librarian for your department](#) or [Mark Newton](#), the Digital Collections Librarian.
2. The Committee on Institutional Cooperation (the academic consortium representing the Big Ten schools and the University of Chicago) has drafted a legal contract addendum for use with all academic publishing agreements. In 2008, [the Purdue Faculty Senate approved the use of this addendum](#). The addendum negotiates the right of the author to provide access to a digital copy of his or her research article through e-Pubs six months after the initial publication date. The addendum gives publishers the option of agreeing to these amended terms. The faculty governances of [eleven of the CIC member schools have approved its use](#).⁺ The addendum is available at the following address:

<http://www.cic.net/Libraries/Library/authorsrights.sflb>

If you have additional questions about the Purdue e-Pubs service, please contact [Mark Newton](#), the Digital Collections Librarian. The University Copyright Officer, [Donna Ferullo, JD](#), is likewise available to help with questions about managing your intellectual property and reserving the rights to provide open access to your publications.

* Please review [Purdue University's Intellectual Property Policy](#) for more information

+ Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Michigan, University of Iowa, The Ohio State University, Northwestern University, University of Minnesota, Indiana University, Michigan State University, and The Pennsylvania State University