

Rights Retention Strategy

What is Rights Retention ?

Author rights retention is a means for researchers and universities to regain “academic sovereignty over the publishing process.” (EUA, 2022) To this end, a Rights Retention Strategy (RRS) was developed by **cOAlitionS** to give researchers supported by a cOAlitionS organisation the freedom to submit manuscripts for publication to their journal of choice, including subscription journals, whilst remaining fully compliant with **Plan S** aligned policies. Transferring the original copyright holders’ rights to a publisher usually means that the authors’ rights to use the article are severely limited. Rights retention enables authors to retain sufficient rights to their own article manuscript, and to reuse their content as they see fit, such as within teaching and their own academic networks.

Benefits:

- Compliance with funders’ OA policies
- Allows for the reuse of content by the researcher
 - This may include:
 - Freedom to distribute copies via research networks of their choosing
 - Freedom to use the work, including figures and diagrams they created, within any other work of their own or others as they choose
 - Freedom to use the work for teaching as they choose
 - Freedom to make derivative works without seeking permission from their publisher
 - Freedom to distribute copies, including electronic copies, as they choose
- Enables the author’s affiliated institution to offer access to works created by its staff and to retain and disseminate copies for the long-term

Implementation of funders’ RR policies has prompted some academic institutions to take even stronger steps towards supporting their researchers to retain rights by adopting Institutional Rights Retention Policies (IRRP).

What is an Institutional Rights Retention Policy?

An IRRP typically confirms that members of staff own the copyright to their scholarly works and grant a licence to the University to make the Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) available via their repository under a **Creative Commons (CC BY) licence**. This automatic grant of licence ensures that research findings can be made open access (OA) at the earliest opportunity. The policy typically covers research articles and conference papers but may include other output types. An IRRP typically covers all members of the institution, not just those with research funding awards.

Useful links



[Plan S Rights Retention Strategy | Plan S \(coalition-s.org\)](https://coalition-s.org)



[Rights retention: A Primer from UKRN](#)



[List of UK HE institutions with IRRPs](#)