# Copyright Reference Guide

Authors who publish their works can share their research in several ways. Here are some quick guidelines to reference when posting to SSRN, which vary depending on the article version you wish to share and which organization the article is published by.

Generally speaking, most publishers are more likely to be okay with authors posting the pre-publication or accepted manuscript version of their articles versus other manuscript versions. However, a vast majority of publishers do grant permission for Final Versions or Versions of Record. Referencing the publishers copyright policies or the authors agreement will help you to determine what version of your article you can post, as well as where and when you can post it. Our recommendation would be to contact your publisher if you are unsure.

### Third party content

Where content in the document is identified as belonging to a third party (anyone other than the author), it is the obligation of the author to ensure that any use complies with the copyright policies of the owner. Content that states copyright is held by anyone other than the author requires that permission be requested as the third-party is the rightsholder.

For some content, it may not be obvious that rights clearance obligations apply. In most cases, the publisher typically has the exclusive rights to the content. It is always best to refer to the publisher's policies.

Examples of third-party copyright or restricted use include:

- Copyright held by anyone other than the author
- "Permission required" with instructions about a third party to contact
- Restrictive license text that restricts usage
- Text stating 'Personal, Educational or Classroom Use Only'
- Watermark or stamp may show name, IP address of downloader, etc. (a method used by publishers to discourage sharing)

# Policies for sharing published journal articles differ for subscription and gold open access articles.

## **Subscription Based Articles:**

Subscription based articles typically require readers to pay for the content that they read. Copyrights for the published content are usually transferred to the journal which is why publishers require expressed permission be obtained to re-use the work.

# Open Access Articles:

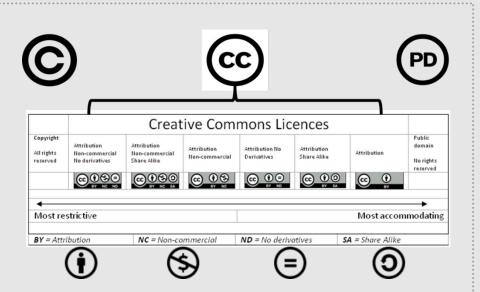
Open Access refers to when publications are freely available online to all at no cost and with limited restrictions with regards to reuse. With open access articles authors generally retain copyright. However, there are some differences.

Green Open Access: While an article can be viewed and downloaded freely from the publisher's website, this same right is not granted to third parties automatically. This means that the version of the article that can be deposited/posted to SSRN is dependent on the publisher. The author usually is limited to posting the pre-publication version or the accepted manuscript, but not the final version.

Gold Open Access: Has the key advantage of making publications freely accessible right from the moment they are first published, which means the article can be used immediately. Gold open access articles are articles licensed under Creative Commons licenses (CC licenses). Although this option is the best in terms of re-use, the version of the article that can be deposited/posted is dependent on the publisher.

#### **Creative Commons NC Licensed Content:**

SSRN is a strong supporter of open access and would like to allow all authors to share their "NC"-licensed work on SSRN. To this end, SSRN has reached out to many publishers to obtain permission to host "NC" licensed content on SSRN. Luckily many publishers (e.g. Elsevier, Wiley-Blackwell, Oxford University Press) have given permission to do so. However, some publishers have informed us that such permission is not granted. It could also be that authors have published with a publisher that we have not reached out to yet or has not responded to our request. In this case, we would be more than happy to contact your publisher to obtain permission, if needed.



It is not always easy to determine if the author owns full copyright to the work. There can be many different variations of copyright notices listed on a PDF such as watermarks, restrictive statements, licenses etc. By interpreting these statements and notices, we can identify whether the author does or does not have to obtain permission to post their content to SSRN.

#### How can I share it tool:

The following webpage can be used to find specific information regarding posting certain versions of an author's work to SSRN: https://www.howcanishareit.com/



Questions or Concerns? For assistance, please contact:

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