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## Copyright and you

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### What is copyright?



Copyright gives the copyright holder exclusive rights over how others use their work.

As an author, this means that which copyright option you choose defines how researchers, scientists, policy makers, journalists, corporations, or anyone else who has an interest in your research can use your work.

Copyright has a time limit (usually life of the author plus 50–70 years for a journal article) and the level and type of protection offered varies between countries. Local and international laws and conventions mean that the copyright is recognized and protected, to varying degrees, in almost every country in the world.

In a digital world, how others want to read and reuse content is evolving rapidly. Understanding what your copyright options are is becoming ever more important, especially with the growth of open access publishing.

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## **What does it mean for you?**

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## Useful definitions

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This does not include any 'early release' article that has not yet been 'fixed' by processes that are still to be applied, such as copy-editing, proof corrections, layout, and typesetting."

*(Defined by [National Information Standards Organization](#), in partnership with the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers.)*

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