

HOW DOES RIGHTS RETENTION WORK?

The N8 Research Partnership – the strategic alliance of the North’s eight research intensive universities – has made a landmark intervention on the rights held by academics over their research.

We have released a statement outlining our new stance on the importance of researchers being able to retain their original rights when their work is published in a journal.



In April 2022, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) made it mandatory for all research published in journals to be made immediately available via Open Access or transformative Gold journals’ APC charges or through journals released on a transitional Read & Publish deal without APC charges.

Open access can also be achieved via depositing the author accepted manuscript and making it available without embargo.

However, in order to achieve this third route to open access researchers need to be able to apply a CC BY license and place their accepted manuscript in an institutional or other preferred repository.

This license allows anyone to make commercial use of the work under the condition of attributing the research in the manner specified by the author or licensor.

This must now be done without embargo granted to any publisher.



Some publishers, however, are no longer compliant, with several not accepting that a researcher’s original rights should be retained by them.

This means that publishers may not accept manuscripts where an application has been made for a CC BY license and the researcher has clearly stated that they own their research.

We believe in the importance of researchers retaining their rights.

Each N8 university will have its own position which may supersede the publisher’s requirements, but ultimately if a researcher is able to publish via an APC to a Gold journal or in a journal covered by a Read & Publish deal then researchers do not need to assert their rights.



Our statement strongly recommends that researchers do not by default transfer intellectual property rights to publishers and instead use a **Rights Retention statement** as standard practice.

