

Copyright Support at the EPFL

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About the Service

- Set up in 2006
- Evolution of publishing habits anticipated
- Credibility of the Document Repository *Infoscience*

<http://Infoscience.epfl.ch>

Inform and reassure individuals about publishing choices in an increasingly complex context

Infoscience

The screenshot shows the Infoscience website header with the EPFL logo and the text 'INFOSCIENCE LE PORTAIL D'INFORMATION SCIENTIFIQUE'. Below the header, there are navigation links for 'français | english' and 'EPFL > Infoscience', along with an 'Aide' link. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'ACTIONS POSSIBLES' (Identify yourself), 'Recherche Infoscience' (Search for 79863 documents), 'Focaliser votre recherche sur' (Focus your search on), and 'Nouvelles' (News). The search section includes a search bar with a dropdown menu set to 'tous les champs' and a 'Chercher' button. The 'Focaliser votre recherche sur' section lists 'Production scientifique et compétences (31538)' and 'Ressources documentaires (47042)'. The footer contains copyright information: '©2004-2006 EPFL, 1015 Lausanne, tél. ++41 +21 693 11 11, mailto:infoscience@epfl.ch powered by CDSware, Dernière mise à jour: 05 Mar 2007 13:47:16 CET'.

*A successful repository developed with
CDSInvenio of the CERN*

32'000 documents 148 laboratories


Institutions Involved

Institution	Know-how	Service to users	Role
PPUR	X		Advice, FAQs
UNIL	X		Database
InfoScience (EPFL Central Library)		X	Technical support and repository hosting

PPUR = *Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes*

UNIL = *Univeristé de Lausanne*

A look inside...



ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

INFOSCIENCE

LE PORTAIL D'INFORMATION SCIENTIFIQUE

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Conseil en droit d'auteur

Infoscience vous propose un service de conseil en droit d'auteur, avec le but de mieux informer et de sensibiliser la communauté des chercheurs et des étudiants de l'École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne sur leurs droits et obligations liés à toute activité de rédaction (rapport, thèse, articles, livres) et de publication. Il doit notamment permettre de leur faire connaître les règles en vigueur et de les rendre attentifs à leurs droits et devoirs et aux précautions à prendre.

Ce service aura donc la mission de (1) proposer une *permanence* sur toutes questions liées à la notion de copyright; (2) de diffuser des informations et des ressources concernant le droit d'auteur et ses implications.

copyright@epfl.ch

Si vous avez une question qui touche au sujet du droit d'auteur (législation, demandes d'autorisation de reproduction, obtention de permissions, engagements contractuels, etc), et en particulier aux aspects liés à la préparation des thèses et d'autres ouvrages, n'hésitez pas à envoyer un e-mail à l'adresse ci-dessous :

copyright@epfl.ch

Le message sera reçu par Fred Fenter, éditeur aux Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes (PPUR), qui vous répondra rapidement. Nous anticipons que la majeure partie des questions seront traitées par un simple retour de courrier électronique; pour les sujets qui nécessitent une recherche plus approfondie ou qui présentent une certaine complexité, une réunion avec M. Fenter est envisageable.

Foire aux Questions

La traduction française est en cours d'élaboration.

- **What is copyright**
- **Is copyright the same as the French droit d'auteur?**
- **Copyright — what's the point?**
- **Who owns my article?**
- **The publisher requires a signed copyright release form, what should I do?**

An example

From: [REDACTED]
Subject: **Copyright protection**
Date: 10 janvier 2007 12:16:20 GMT+01:00
To: Fenter Frederick

Cher Monsieur,

nous aimerions publier sur Wikipedia un glossaire de certains termes utilisés en thermodynamique industrielle y compris des diagrammes et graphiques utilisés dans mes cours.

D'un autre côté, il existe le projet de rédiger plus tard un monographe sur la biothermodynamique, dans lequel on pourrait être amené à reprendre les mêmes diagrammes.

Pensez-vous qu'il soit judiciable de protéger ces graphiques en leur ajoutant un copyright tag? Ou peut-on leur attribuer simplement le statut "Public Domain" sans gêner une publication ultérieure?

Je vous saurais gré si vous pouviez me donner votre avis en la matière.

Meilleures salutations, et Bonne Année

[REDACTED]

A look inside (2)

Can I publish an improved version of my article on my website?

The two issues here are (1) how you will handle the access to the original file; and (2) how you are going to avoid confusing your colleagues with two versions of the same document.

The first issue is very much related to the posting of copyrighted material in general (See question “Who owns my article?”). Your publisher may permit the publication of a non-typeset preprint of your article. In this case, you can make available an addendum, add supplementary data, provide a more extensive discussion of the results, etc., all the while making reference to the original file in the form that corresponds to the official published version. If the publisher does not allow publication of pre-prints, you can keep the additional material available and offer a link to the publisher’s website. Access to the published document might be available to those within your intranet.

On the other hand, it would be confusing to the scientific community to offer a re-edited and improved version of a published article. An obvious problem arises in the citation of your results—which version is definitive, in particular if the changes can lead to even a slightly different interpretation? For the sake of proper documentation of your result, it is best to consider published articles as a finished, untouchable entity and to offer only additional material and commentary.

Can I copy an accepted article directly into my thesis as a chapter?

Traditionally, it has been very common for graduate students to use their publications as the basis of thesis chapters, often using the preprint version without much or any modification. This was tolerated by Publishers because theses were often printed in very small numbers and then hidden on the dusty basement shelves of the Institute; the material was really only accessible via the indexed and highly available scientific literature. The arrival of electronic theses has led to a certain evolution of attitude.

The best solution is of course to act early in the process. When you submit your article to the publisher, explain that you would like a signed release for the publication of the same in your thesis, including in its electronic version. If the publisher agrees, then you

Open Access

Initial Expectations

Database of theses

Parallel channel for scientific communication

Strong interest in open access

Observations

Big success for theses (673 / 3800)

Institutional ties can be rather weak

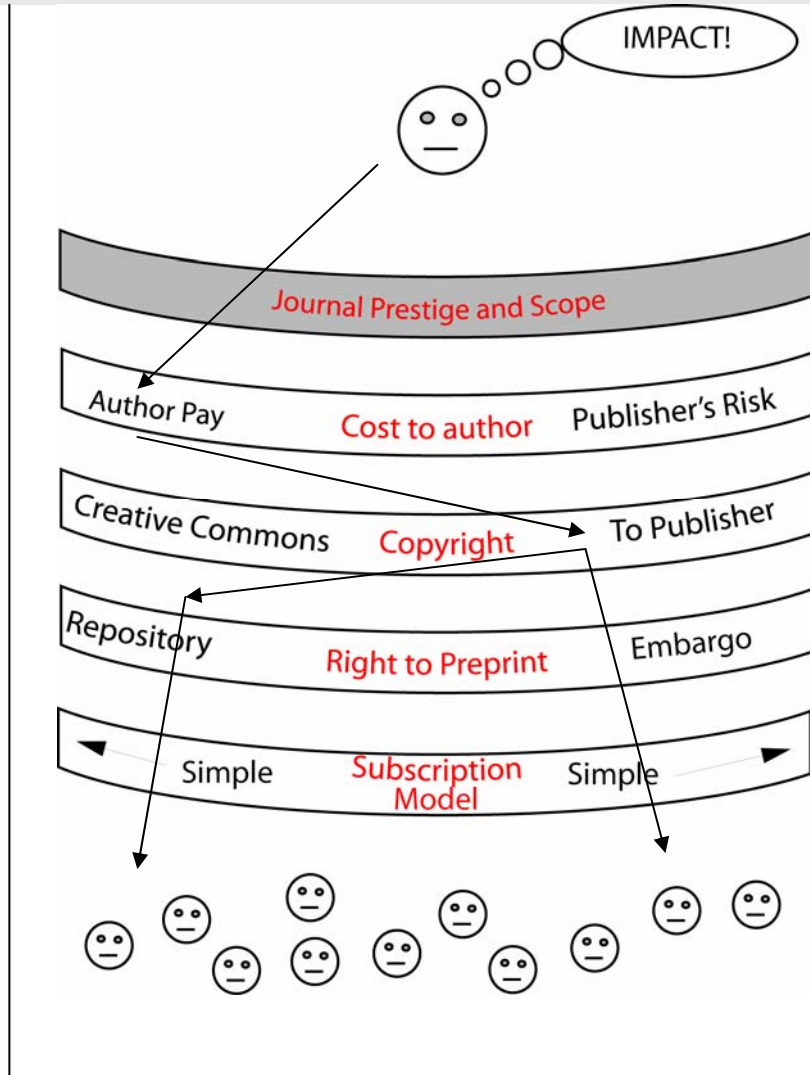
Most questions revolved around “traditional” copyright issues

Can I put a PDF version of my article on a hidden website?

Should I sign this contract?

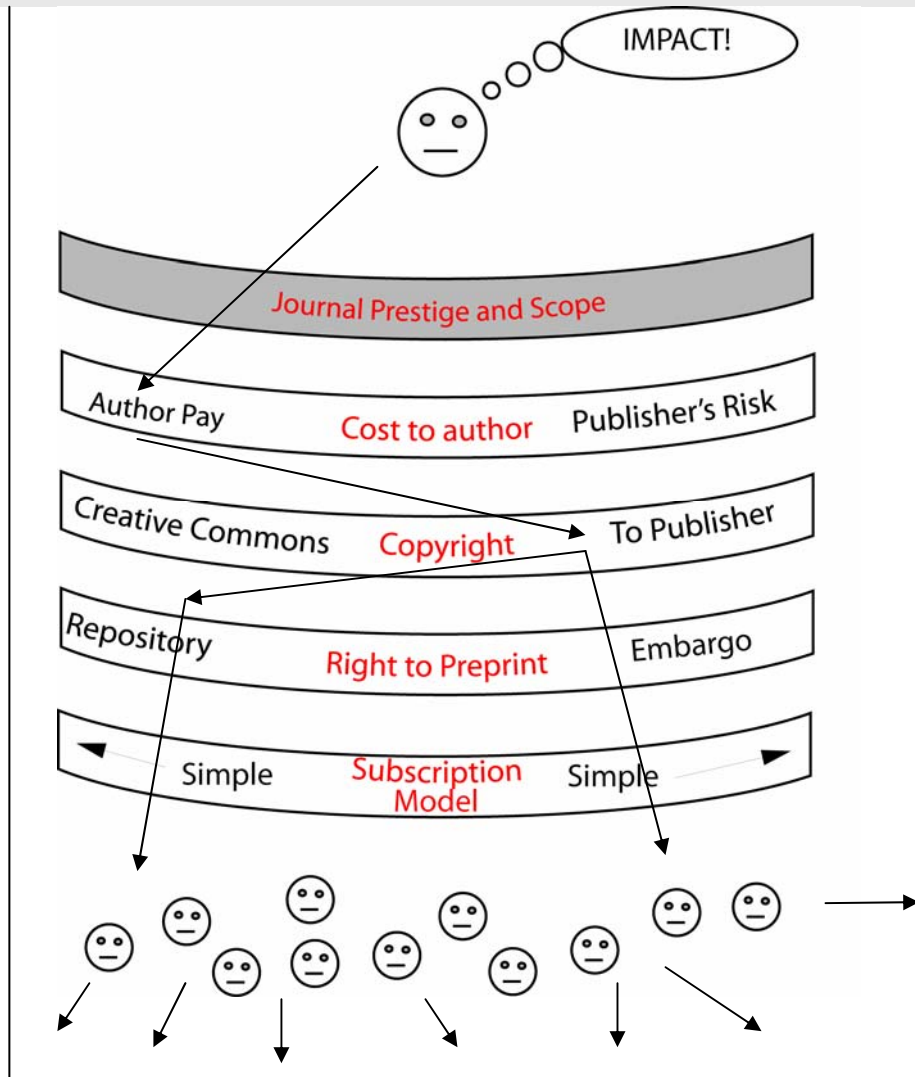
Can I reuse this published material in my thesis?

Context of growing complexity



- Commercial Publishers
- Society Journals
- Hybrid models (author pay)
- PLoS-like open access
- Reposition of pre-print

Central issue of copyright overlooked



Factors in the decision:

Conservatism

Career evaluation

Network strength

Institutional rules and ties

Grant authority regulations

Cost to project

Etc...

Impact = Citations

Golden Rules

- (1) Learn the basics;
- (2) Prepare a plan as early in the process as possible;
- (3) If in doubt, ask.

Important information:

If you have already published the whole or part of your thesis or contacted a publisher, you may be required to obtain the authorization of your publisher before publishing your work on the Internet. If in doubt, it is recommended that you ask his permission: this is generally a mere formality.

Please also note that if, thereafter, you go to a publisher, the latter may consider the publication on the Internet as a first publication.

Extract from: *Authorization for the electronic publication of a doctoral thesis*

Conclusions / Future ideas

- (1) The replies are based as much on good sense as on legal interpretation;
- (2) Service little used but highly appreciated;
- (3) Very few questions posed in the spirit of open access;
- (4) The service is well hidden inside Infoscience, and a more pro-active approach is required;
- (5) As publishing channels develop and evolve, copyright awareness should improve;
- (6) As much as possible, the relevant information should be “built into” the InfoScience framework.