



Open Access: An analysis of European publisher copyright and licensing policies today



15th Munin Conference
19th November 2020
Ignasi Labastida
Universitat de Barcelona



Agenda

- * Aims of the work
- * Execution of the work
- * The sample analysed
- * Findings of the analysis
- * A set of recommendations for everyone

Aims of the work

- ✱ Identify the copyright and licensing policies of academic publishers
- ✱ Analyse how policies are presented to academic authors
- ✱ Explore how ready publishers are to meet the Plan S requirements
- ✱ Provide a series of recommendations for several stakeholders to enable immediate OA

Aims of the work

- * Some of the current requirements of Plan S
 - Authors or their institutions retain copyright to their publications
 - Licenses to publish that are granted to a publisher must allow authors to make either the VoR, the AAM, or both versions available under an open license in a repository, immediately upon publication.
 - Authors may publish in an OA journal/platform under CC BY (by default) or publish in a repository without embargo.

Execution of the work

- * Work commissioned to Jane Secker and Chris Morrison in Spring 2020, based on a research design by Brigitte Vezina
- * Data verified by large legacy publishers
- * Reviewed by Ignasi Labastida and Vanessa Proudman, Bianca Kramer and Sally Rumsey
- * Publication of the report: September 2020



Available at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4046623>

Over 2500 downloads

Questions at copyright@sparceurope.org

Dataset available at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4047000>

The sample analysed

- * Regarding copyright and self-archiving:
 - 10 key publishers in Europe: Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor & Francis, Wiley, Sage Publications, De Gruyter, Inderscience Publishers, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Emerald

- * Regarding copyright, licenses and Gold OA:
 - 10 key publishers
 - European publishers in DOAJ

Findings of the analysis

- * Regarding copyright transfer in non-OA titles:
 - Authors can retain copyright in 1 publisher out of the 10 analysed
 - 4 publishers have some journals where authors retain copyright, while the other 5 ask for a full transfer of copyright
- In general, authors are asked to sign an exclusive publishing agreement when they retain copyright

Findings of the analysis

- * Regarding self-archiving policies in non-OA titles:
 - All publishers allow self-archiving, but in most cases only the AAM rather than the VoR.
 - 2 publishers have mainly no embargo periods
 - 1 publisher has no embargo period for Social Sciences and Humanities titles
 - The remainder publishers have embargo periods in the range of 6 to 36 months. However some journals have no embargo.
 - 4 publishers allow the use of CC licences but not CC BY

Findings of the analysis

* Regarding copyright and in OA titles (10 main publishers):

- All publishers mention that authors retain copyright when publishing in OA titles.

However in practice with publishing right retention

- 5 publishers do not mention anything about this right
- 1 publishers state that authors retain that right
- 4 publishers state that authors do not retain that right

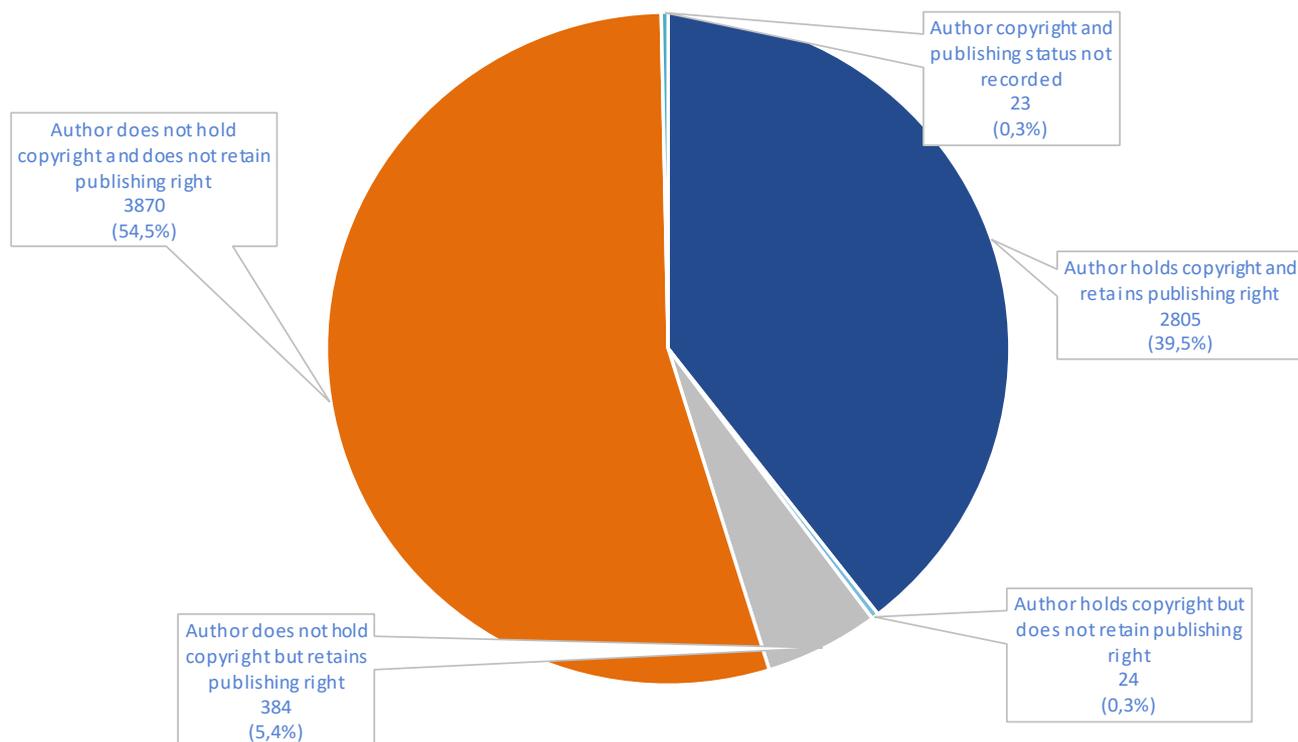
Findings of the analysis

- ✳ Regarding the use of licences in OA titles (10 main publishers):

Publisher name	CC BY	CC BY-ND	CC BY-NC	CC BY-SA	CC BY-NC-ND	CC BY-NC-SA
Springer Nature (including Nature Journals, Palgrave Macmillan, BMC and Springer Verlag)	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
Elsevier	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Taylor & Francis	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Wiley	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Sage	Y	N	Y	N	N	N
De Gruyter	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Inderscience Publishers	Y	N	N	N	Y	N
Cambridge University Press	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Oxford University Press	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N
Emerald	Y	N	N	N	N	N

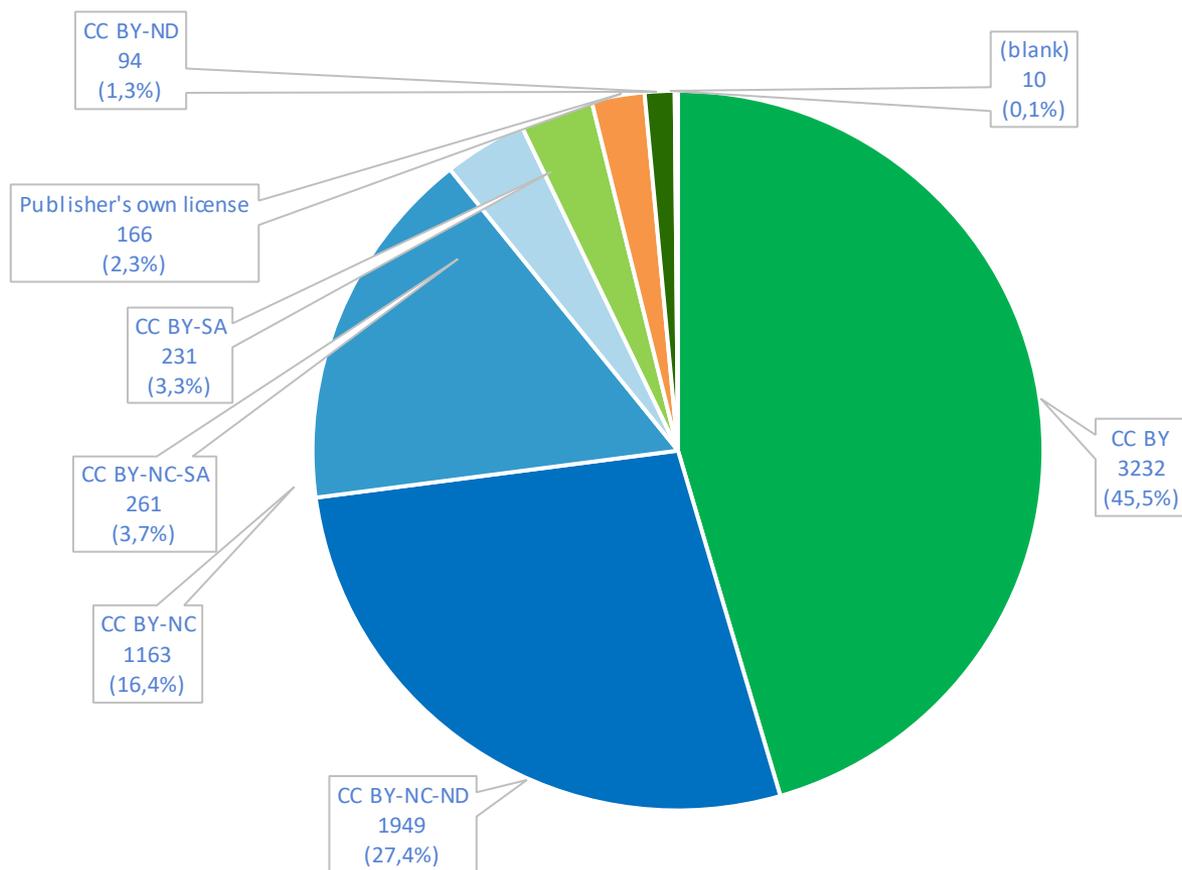
Findings of the analysis

* Regarding publishing rights in European DOAJ Journals:



Findings of the analysis

European DOAJ Journal Publishers:
Distribution of Creative Commons Licence Type



Datasets available

- * DOAJ dataset extracted 10 May 2020 (CC BY-SA)
- * Academic Publishers Copyright Policies and Practices Table created by Chris Morrison and Jane Secker (CC0)

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4047000>

A set of recommendations

- * Publishers
- * Funders
- * Research institutions and Libraries
- * Academic authors

Work with each other to promote and adopt a standardised language

Recommendations for publishers

- ✱ Provide more succinct information
- ✱ Consistently provide machine-readable and up-to-date policy data to support policy compliance workflows
- ✱ Replace exclusive licence assignments to publish to enable authors further publishing rights.
- ✱ Use existing licensing frameworks such as Creative Commons rather than new licensing schemes

Recommendations for funders

- * Communicate and discuss your policy regarding rights retention and open licensing with all stakeholders
- * Seek policy alignment with allies who support OA copyright policies
- * Plan for research grant conditions to require for all peer-reviewed publications supported in whole or in part by the funding they receive, the retention of copyright and the publishing rights, the use of an open licence, and make them publicly available in open repositories, preferably the VoR, or else the AAM version

Recommendations for institutions

- ✱ Seek institutional Open Access, intellectual property or publishing policy alignment with allies to support rights retention and open licensing
- ✱ Review guidance provided to academic colleagues on copyright and licensing to ensure this is consistent with standardised terms

Recommendations for authors

- ✱ Understand the importance of retaining copyright and sufficient rights to publish openly.
- ✱ Ask publishers to explain their policies on copyright ownership and end-user licensing in terms that authors understand.
- ✱ Request the copyright and licensing conditions specified by the funder when publishing
- ✱ As a journal editor, discuss current journal copyright policies with your publisher

Further investigation

- * Existence of differences in policy positions according to subject discipline
- * Why, and in which instances, publishers use certain CC licences
- * Existence of discrepancies between the information in the DOAJ dataset and the information provided on publisher websites and author contracts
- * Publisher copyright policy changes over time
- * Which Transformative Agreements address Open licensing, i.e. which licences are used, and which are the default?

Happy to take questions and
comments

ilabastida@ub.edu

More information at: www.sparceurope.org

