Negotiating Your Contract

Author Owns the Copyright

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Protect Your Rights

Before you sign the publication agreement, read it carefully! Understand your options, and know what rights you are transferring to the publisher and what rights you are retaining.

Some publishers are open to negotiations that might allow you to retain specific rights to use your work in the future.

Rights you might negotiate for when publishing an article include: distributing it to your students; uploading the published final version to your personal website or an institutional repository; republishing the work in a later work of your own; and granting permission to others to use your work.

Rights you might negotiate for when publishing a book include: ensuring that rights revert to you if the book goes out of print; eliminating clauses limiting subject areas or publishers for your future works (noncompetes); requiring that the copyright be registered in your name and not the publisher's; and limiting the copyright transfer to specific geographical territories and/or languages.

Save your publication agreement so if questions arise in the future, you will have written documentation of your agreement with the publisher.

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Types of Publication Contracts

Traditional – Author Transfers Full Copyright

This is the least author-friendly model since you transfer your full copyright to the publisher and

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