What am I allowed to do as an author?

As an author, you are entitled to exercise your moral rights, which are recognized by law. Moral rights include the right to be identified as the author of a work, the right to have the work presented in a particular way, and the right to prevent unauthorized changes to the work.

Economic rights, on the other hand, are the rights to exploit a work commercially. These include the right to reproduce the work in any manner, the right to distribute copies of the work, and the right to make public performances or reproductions of the work.

These rights are usually divided into two categories: the right to use (or reproduce) the work and the right to distribute the work.

How do I exercise my rights?

Once a publishing contract is signed between the publisher and the author, the author is entitled to receive compensation for their participation in the publication process. The amount of compensation varies depending on the publisher and the type of publication.

What if I don’t agree with the publisher’s decisions?

If you don’t agree with the publisher’s decisions, you can raise your concerns with the publisher and seek resolution through legal means. If the issue cannot be resolved, you can take legal action against the publisher.

What are my obligations as an author?

As an author, you are required to comply with the terms of the publishing contract and to release any rights you hold in the work to the publisher.

What if I want to publish my work in a different format?

If you want to publish your work in a different format, you can negotiate with the publisher to obtain the necessary rights. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work online?

If you want to publish your work online, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work in a different country?

If you want to publish your work in a different country, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work in a different language?

If you want to publish your work in a different language, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as an electronic book?

If you want to publish your work as an electronic book, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as an audio book?

If you want to publish your work as an audio book, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a film or television program?

If you want to publish your work as a film or television program, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a comic book or graphic novel?

If you want to publish your work as a comic book or graphic novel, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a computer game?

If you want to publish your work as a computer game, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a theatrical production or performance?

If you want to publish your work as a theatrical production or performance, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a public performance or exhibition?

If you want to publish your work as a public performance or exhibition, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.

What if I want to publish my work as a derivative work?

If you want to publish your work as a derivative work, you must obtain the necessary rights from the publisher. You may also seek permission from the publisher to use the work in other publications.
Does posting my article in an open archive amount to publishing?

Definitely, deposits in open archives are acts of publication.

May I post the full text of my articles on my web page or in an open archive?

You must check if the contract with the publisher allows it by making a search about their publishing policy in Romeo... [4]. Note that the consent of joint authors is required to be allowed to deposit an article in an Open Archive.

How can I notify the rights in my works I am willing to share?

Subject to the rights you have already assigned, you can manage the rights to your works through one of the six options... [4]. Even if the deposit of a work in an Open Archive is allowed, you may manage the rights to your works through the Open Archival Rights System of your institution.

When I write a software programme or a part of it, what are my rights as an author?

You hold the moral rights (L112-2) [1], but the economic rights are your employer's property (excluding provisions may be set out in special contracts).

When I deposit teaching materials on my web page or in an open archive, am I allowed to use them as I wish?

You are the author, so you can use them provided you comply with provisions of the contract you may have signed with the provider. If you use photographs coming from such sites, you must comply with Conditions of use (e.g. CC license [5]).

What are the legal rules I must comply with when I organise an exhibition?

You must comply with copyright by securing authorisations from the authors of the exhibited works. You can obtain guidance locally in your Region by consulting the relevant entities like the communication, partnership or valorisation departments.

Am I entitled to use photographs taken by visitors who came to report about my work (journalists, in-house photographers, associations, students)?

These photographs or films were made by third parties, that is, other persons than you. So they are the authors and you need their permission to use them. In addition, you need their permission to use them in your own work. If you use photographs coming from such sites, you must respect the conditions of use (e.g. CC license [5]).

What is the educational exception?

Pursuant to article L122-5 of the Code of Intellectual Property [1], you may use works exclusively for illustration purposes as part of a course of research or a course of teaching, in the framework of an educational institution.

Are all parts of an article subject to copyright?

Yes, a work is copyrighted in its whole, including figures and tables.

May I reuse published figures and pictures?

Yes, under specific provisions set out in your contract with your publisher if you were the author. It is essential to always cite the publication. Otherwise, you have to ask permission to do so to the publisher who holds the rights.

Is the publisher authorised to reuse my figures in another context?

As far as you have assigned your economic rights to the publisher, he is entitled to reuse a part of your article in another context if such reuse is provided for in the contract. The provisions of the contract are determining!

Is the poster I presented at a conference subject to the same rights?

It is also a “work of the mind” created to present data. If your poster refers to the content of an article, it should be cited.

May I use excerpts of a presentation from a conference I attended to?

Only if you obtained consent from each of the authors.