



RoMEO provides a searchable database of publishers' copyright transfer agreements as they relate to OA archiving and is aimed at authors and repository administrators.

RoMEO categorises the agreements according to the permissions given by the publishers for authors to self-archive material in OA repositories. By using different colours to highlight publishers' archiving policies, users can differentiate between the four categories of archiving rights.

RoMEO continues to extend the dataset upon which it is based through updates and appropriate suggestions from the user community. Suggestions are received through individual user contributions and formal agreements between RoMEO and interested partners.

Project

At Open Repositories 2008, SHERPA announced planned redevelopments to the RoMEO service. These focused on increasing the information held within and the facilities provided by RoMEO. In order to carry out this work, we first needed to look the existing database and the terms and phrases used.

Pre-print and Post-print Terminology

Over the last year or so, several studies have suggested more descriptive terms to use instead of pre-print and post-print. Use of these terms have become embedded in the community and have become varied in their meanings. After discussion on the merits of various recommendations, RoMEO has decided to adopt the recommendations of the Versions Identification Framework (VIF), regarding this matter.

VIF Recommendations <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/vif/>

Standardisation of phrases used in RoMEO

To facilitate the internationalisation and simplification of RoMEO, SHERPA is standardising the phrases used in its entries. Over the years many similar phrases have arisen, that can be better described with a single term. We have also re-analysed publishers' contracts to compare any similar terms that they use.

Once we have completed this standardisation, we hope that this breakdown of the phrase structure will help us to translate RoMEO into other languages at some point in the future.

Helping Repository Managers Now...

To enable institutional repository staff to take advantage of the permissions already displayed, SHERPA analysed RoMEO, and published the following supplementary lists:

- Publishers Allowing use of their PDFs in Repositories
- Publishers with Paid Options for Open Access

These lists enable repository staff to deposit a large volume of work directly into repositories, even if the author has not retained their own final draft, whether this is by the use of the Publishers PDF or through payment of an Open Access fee.

Journal Level Policies

Building upon the standardisation of phrases, we plan to completely re-design the database to accommodate the recording of policies at the journal level. This will enable repository staff to deposit more items, particularly where a journal does not follow the standard policy of the publisher.

Journal Coverage

SHERPA is already in talks with colleagues from around the world, regarding possible additional journal lists to use alongside Zetoc to increase the journal coverage of RoMEO.

The Future

Application Programmers Interface (API)

We plan to formally develop the RoMEO API, which is currently only a prototype. This will enable us to support existing plans for integrating RoMEO into individual repository ingest mechanisms. It will allow seamless checking of publisher permissions, drawn from journal titles, on-the-fly during the deposit process, without needing to consult the RoMEO site itself.

Multilingual Interface

Expanding upon the standardising of phrases, we plan to use these phrases to facilitate the translation of content and integration into languages other than English. Working alongside existing online translations of RoMEO, which make use of our API.

