# Open Scholarship eCopyright@UP.
# Rainbow options: negotiating for the proverbial pot of gold

**Elsabé Olivier**
**University of Pretoria**

## Introduction:

There is a worldwide trend towards Open scholarship and in 2005 the University of Pretoria (UP) developed the institutional repository named UPSpace, https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/. Within UPSpace, openUP houses the e-print collection of peer reviewed and published research articles/papers by staff, students and other affiliates of the University of Pretoria. The purpose of this collection is to make the University's research visible and accessible to the entire international research community, in accordance with the philosophy and practice of Open access as well as the copyright policies of the publishers. These research articles correspond with the University's Annual Research Report. University's Annual Research Report. Submission of research articles started in 2005 and the openUP collection https://www.up.ac.za/dspace/handle/2263/121, comprises of 1863 items which have been mapped from the Research articles collections.

## Problem statement:

One of the major concerns associated with a collection such as openUP, is the issue of publisher's copyright. The majority of international publishers allow inclusion of research articles in repositories under very specific conditions. These archiving policies can be found on the SHERPA/RoMEO database of publishers, www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo.php or on the publishers' web sites. Currently very few South African journals (journals in the approved DOE lists) appear on the SHERPA/RoMEO database and most publishers' policies do not make provision for self archiving or depositing in repositories.
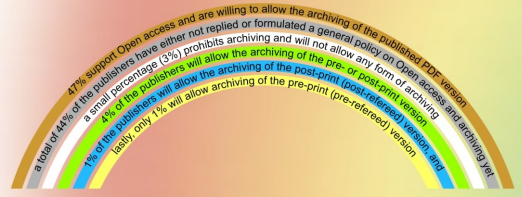
## Method:

The openUP copyright negotiation project consists of email survey/correspondence which is sent to South African publishers. Publishers' copyright and archiving policies are first checked against the SHERPA/RoMEO database of publishers. Whenever journals are not found on this database (usually South African journals), the publishers or editors are contacted via email and they are requested to supply information about their archiving and Open access policies by completing a questionnaire. The questionnaire covers the following questions:
- Which version of the article will be allowed for archiving?
- Which format of the article will be allowed (PDF with branding etc.)
- Should the URL of the journal append the citation as a form of recognition?
- Does the publisher require access restrictions / embargoes?
- Can openUP assume that this granting of permission reflects a policy that could be applied to all articles from University of Pretoria academics who have published in this particular journal?

## Results:

Currently the openUP Office has successfully negotiated archiving policies for 219 journal titles – from mostly South African publishers. The openUP office's feedback from South African publishers indicates that:

47% support Open access and are willing to allow the archiving of the published PDF version

a total of 44% of the publishers have either not replied or formulated a general policy on Open access and archiving yet

a small percentage (3%) prohibits archiving and will not allow any form of archiving

4% of the publishers will allow the archiving of the pre- or post-print version

1% of the publishers will allow archiving of the post-print (post-refereed) version

lastly, only 1% will allow archiving of the pre-print (pre-refereed) version

## Lessons learned and tentative conclusions:

- The copyright situation in Africa and in particular South Africa is unique and differs vastly from Europe and North America due to the fact that both South African authors and publishers are ignorant of the implications of copyright:
  - Authors usually don't retain any rights and don't realize the implications of signing away their copyright;
  - Most South African publishers do not have any copyright policies regarding self-archiving in repositories;
- Many of the South African publishers are very supportive of the main goals of Open access after the concepts and advantages had been explained to them.
- The extensive colour-coded list of South African archiving policies can either contribute to the current SHERPA/RoMEO database or might be utilized as a basis for a (South) African database.

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