Introduction:

There is a worldwide trend towards Open scholarship and in 2005 the University of Pretoria (UP) developed the institutional repository named UPspace. Within UPspace, openUP houses a 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 research output of the UP community visible and easily accessible both by the world and by the University of Pretoria. OpenUP is also concerned 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. Submission of research articles started in 2005 and the openUP collection (http://www.up.ac.za/openspace/web/2005/1/) comprise of 1903 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 publisher's web sites. Currently very few South African publishers (journals in the approved DOE list) appear on the SHERPA/RoMEO database and most publishers' policies do not make provision for self-archiving or depositing in repositories.

Method:

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?
- Will the article be subject to a waiting period for archiving?
- Will the publisher prohibit additional 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 previously published in the 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:

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 rights.
- 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 online-endorsed 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.