

Pre-Print, Post-Print or Offprint?

A guide to publication versions, permissions
and the digital repository

WHEN DEPOSITING PUBLICATIONS in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University, we are constrained by publishers' policies. Each publisher has policies regarding copyright and authors' rights that determine whether we are able to deposit a publication in the institutional repository and, if we are, what version of the publication we are able to deposit. This bulletin is designed to help authors understand the different versions of publications and where to find out what version(s), if any, they are allowed to deposit, or self-archive, in the repository.

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There are many factors that influence what rights publishers grant authors to deposit their work in repositories, including the type of publisher (e.g., commercial, societal or academic). As a result, permission to deposit publications in a repository is not a straight yes or no answer. Rather, publishers that allow authors to deposit their publications in a repository will stipulate which version of a publication they are allowed to deposit.

Publication Versions

There are three publication versions that authors should become familiar with when depositing their work in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University: the published version, the post-print and the pre-print. Each version corresponds to

different stages of the peer review and publication process.

Published Version

The published version is the final version of the article produced by the *publisher*. When dealing with hard-copy publications, this is the printed version found in books, proceedings and journals. In the digital environment, the published version is usually a PDF available through the publisher's Web site or through article databases (although for some online publications, the published version may be in HTML or other file formats).

Post-Print

The post-print is the *author's* final manuscript of the publication, which is submitted to the publisher for publication. If published in a peer-reviewed publication, the post-print contains all revisions made during the peer-review process. It does not, however, reflect any layout or copy editing done by the publisher in preparation for publication. As such, proofs and offprints delivered to the author from the publisher are not post-prints. Because the post-print is produced by the author, it is typically a DOC (or other word processing file format) or Tex format.

As the content of a post-print is largely the same as the published version of an article, we highly encourage authors to deposit their post-prints in Digital Repository @ Iowa State University, where permitted.

Pre-Print

The pre-print is the *author's* manuscript version of the publication that has been submitted to a journal for consideration for publication. If published in a peer-reviewed publication, the pre-print does not reflect any revisions made during the peer-review process. It also does not reflect any layout or copy editing done by the publisher in preparation for publication. Because the pre-print is produced by the author, it is typically a DOC (or other word processing file format) or Tex format.

Where can I find my permissions?

The best place to look is in the agreement you signed with the publisher. Whether the agreement is a copyright transfer or a license to publish, these agreements will often outline rights retained or granted to the author.

If you are scouting journals to publish in, or, if you haven't retained your publisher agreements, a great resource is SHERPA/RoMEO (www.sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/), which is a database of publishers' copyright and self-archiving policies.

Another place to check for self-archiving policies is the publisher's Web site. Look to see if they have their publishing agreement online, or, look for information about copyright and/or author's rights.

If all else fails, contact the publication's editor or publisher for their policies or for permission to deposit your work in a repository.

Permissions and Digital Repository @ Iowa State University

Permissions checking is one of the services offered by Digital Repository @ Iowa State University. We do our best to ensure that all work deposited in the repository adheres to United States Copyright Law and publishers' copyright and authors rights policies. As we work to provide access to your scholarship through the repository, we will investigate publishers' policies and, when able to, request permission to deposit your work, on your behalf.

—Harrison W. Inefuku
Digital Repository Coordinator
January 14, 2013

Publisher Terminology

The words publishers use to describe the different publication versions are inconsistent. Here are some examples of terms different publishers use to describe the post-print version of a journal article:

Elsevier

Accepted author manuscripts (AAMs)

Emerald

Your own final version of your article

Nature Publishing Group

Author's version of the accepted paper

Springer

An author-created version of his/her article

Taylor & Francis

Author's Accepted Manuscript

The use of the terms "author" and "your" indicate that the publisher is allowing the author to deposit a manuscript of the article (which, depending on the context, may be either a pre- or post-print) in a repository.

The terms "final" and "accepted" indicate that the publisher is allowing the author to deposit a manuscript of the article that has gone through the peer-review process and is ready to be submitted for publication. These terms do not refer to any proofs, offprints or reprints delivered to the author from the publisher.

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