Outdated copyright policies and processes make it difficult for researchers to publish OA and retain rights to their work in institutions, funders, publishers, and national OS policymakers.

Europe has seen a significant growth in activity to implement policies which retain research publishing rights for researchers and the institutions themselves over the last decade. However, research institutions, researchers, funders of research and policymakers, as well as publishers, must boost the uptake of rights retention and open licensing policies to enable researchers to share their work openly and in Open Access (OA).

An institutional rights retention policy can be defined as follows: An expressed position setting out the practice of retaining sufficient rights for academic works produced by an institution’s researchers to make the work openly accessible and reusable immediately.

Many publishers continue to ask for a transfer of copyright or an exclusive publishing licence and impose embargoes. This does not comply with many funder and institutional requirements nowadays.

There is a lack of awareness of the disadvantages of signing away publishing rights and why it is important to retain them. It is not always clear what opportunities open licensing brings.

Given that some publishers are willing to allow authors to retain all necessary rights and proactively support the requirements of different rights retention policies, there is reason to believe that further dialogue and open discussion of concerns will lead to greater support and change over time.

Project Retain Report, see the full report here: https://zenodo.org/record/8084051

Website: www.knowledgereights21.org