

YALE FAS/SEAS Author Rights Policy

Adopted by the FAS-SEAS Senate on
February 20, 2025

Yale University Mission Statement

Yale is committed to improving the world today and for future generations through outstanding research and scholarship, education, preservation, and practice. Yale educates aspiring leaders worldwide who serve all sectors of society. We carry out this mission through the free exchange of ideas in an ethical, interdependent, and diverse community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

Developing an Author Rights Policy for Yale FAS/SEAS

To better align with Yale's mission of disseminating knowledge through the free exchange of ideas, this proposed policy is intended to set forth a pathway to publishing that enables the broadest reusability and access as possible while maintaining the rights of Yale faculty authors.

The policy would apply to all scholarly articles and book chapters authored by faculty in the Faculty of the Arts and Sciences (FAS) and School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) at Yale University, excepting any work completed before the adoption of this policy on _____, and any work for which a faculty member entered into an incompatible licensing or assignment agreement before the adoption of this policy. The Office of _____ will waive application of this policy for any Faculty member upon request.

The proposed policy relates to the self-archiving of scholarly work and does not dictate where authors can choose to publish. The policy automatically grants a nonexclusive license to distribute scholarly articles and book chapters written by Yale Faculty. Authors are encouraged to take the additional step of depositing a copy of their work to the EliScholar digital publishing platform or an appropriate open access subject repository, to ensure the work is indeed freely available to scholars, students, and other readers worldwide.

How this benefits Yale faculty authors:

- Broader availability of scholarship maximizes impact and may lead to higher citations.
- Preserves authors' rights to use their works as authors, not publishers, see fit.
- Creates an open alternative to expensive article processing charge-(APC) based publishing models (in which authors pay a fee to a publisher to release their article).
- Supports global collaboration by removing cost barriers to research access.
- Preserves the scholarly record by housing copies of faculty scholarship in repositories.

- Empowers authors to exert more control over their work, enabling broad and free scholarly exchange as well as the global use of scholarship for teaching and learning
- Values individual author freedom to opt in or out of the author rights policy.

Anticipated Questions

- Why do we need this policy?
 - o An open access policy at Yale aligns with the University mission of improving the world through the free exchange of ideas. A policy would also ensure Yale remains competitive with peer institutions that have already implemented these policies and allow Yale authors to maintain the same rights to their scholarship as peers.
- What does it mean to retain author's rights?
 - o When an author produces a piece of work, they are entitled to the copyrights of that work. They can control how the work gets reproduced, how to distribute it, and how to display it. In addition, they have the right to prepare derivatives, perform the work publicly, or create audio recordings of the work. However, when entering into agreements, the publisher may ask the author to transfer all their rights over to the publisher—which is advantageous only to the publisher. Transferring copyright means that the author no longer owns their own work and cannot control how it appears or is shared, and their work may be reused and sold without their knowledge or permission.
- Who is subject to the Author Rights Policy?
 - o This policy would apply to faculty in Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS) and School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS). Faculty in other departments may need to pass their own policies.
- Are students covered under this policy?
 - o It does not apply to undergraduate or graduate students. Work co-authored work by faculty and graduate students would be covered by the faculty author's rights policy.
- How do I communicate with my publisher about this OA policy?
 - o Make sure you are in communication with your publishers about expectations. If they request you sign away all rights to your work, please refer to an author addendum. Otherwise keep them informed about Yale's Author Rights Policy FAS/SEAS Faculty Authors. Yale's office of _____ can help advise you in these matters.
- What is an Author Addendum?
 - o An Author Addendum is a document that the author fills out to modify a copyright agreement. It determines what rights the author is retaining and what rights they are giving up.
- Does this policy require me to give a nonexclusive license to Yale?

- No. Faculty may opt out of the policy for any individual article or book chapter, or they may opt out annually.

Proposed FAS/SEAS Author Rights Policy

Each Faculty member grants Yale University nonexclusive permission to make available scholarly articles and book chapters authored by the Faculty member and to exercise the copyright in such work. In legal terms, the permission granted by each Faculty member is a nonexclusive, irrevocable, paid-up, worldwide license to exercise any and all rights under copyright relating to each scholarly article or book chapter—in any medium—and to authorize others, including faculty members, to do the same. Yale University grants back to the Faculty member the nonexclusive right to exercise copyright in their scholarly work at any time. This policy does not transfer copyright ownership, which remains with Faculty authors under the existing [Yale University Copyright Policy](#).

Review and Adjudication

In consultation with the Faculty Senate and other Yale University stakeholders, _____ will be responsible for interpreting this policy, resolving disputes concerning its interpretation and application, and recommending changes to the Faculty from time to time.