

Updating SPARC's Author Rights Resources

The Project

SPARC, the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, maintains several tools and resources to help scholars and librarians promote open access in scholarship. Among those tools is the **Author Addendum**, a one-page document that authors can insert into contractual agreements with scholarly publishers to legally maintain the copyright of their work when they publish an article in an academic journal. By maintaining their rights, authors can ensure their work is open and widely accessible.

The informational literature surrounding the Author Addendum has gone largely unedited over the past decade. In that time, the scholarly publishing landscape has changed dramatically. SPARC's Author Rights website, brochure, and poster needed to be updated and reimagined. References to defunct organizations and outdated technologies needed to be removed, and newer trends needed to be added, including references to requirements from research funders, universities, and government organizations that research be shared openly.

To update these resources:

- A literature review was conducted of the current scholarly communications and open access landscape.
- New developments and updated strategies were included.
- Outdated information and links were removed or corrected.
- New deliverables appropriate for the current information environment were decided upon.

Deliverables



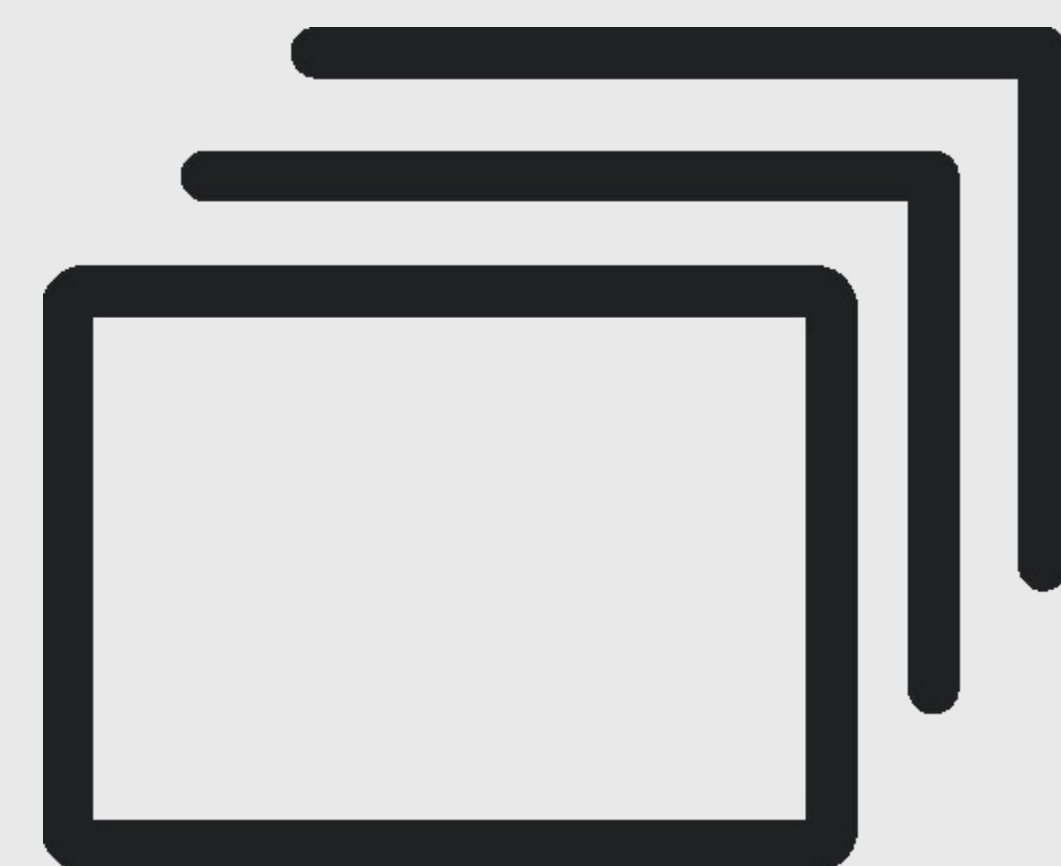
A refreshed web page with updated resources about author rights and information about the Author Addendum



A multi-page PDF with thorough information for authors who want to maintain their copyright and use the Author Addendum



A one-page PDF summary of the fuller document to introduce researchers to the basics of copyright and author rights



A slide deck for easy inclusion in presentations by librarians and open access advocates to point researchers toward SPARC's resources

Recommendations

To ensure these resources remain up-to-date and relevant to researchers, several new tools and procedures should be implemented in the future:

- Create a webform for authors to provide feedback on their experience using the Author Addendum. Collecting authors' experiences could help make the Addendum and associated resources better, and success stories can be shared with others.
- Create a tool authors can use to include the Author Addendum or its elements in copyright transfer agreements that are submitted through online forms.
- Review and revise the author rights resources every year. The scholarly communications landscape changes frequently, but these resources can remain useful if they are maintained and updated.