



Welcome to SCOIR (Secondary rights, Copyright, Open access, Institutional policies, and Rights retention)! "Scoir" is the Irish word for "unharness", and this project aims to unharness the power of open research.

Fáilte chuig SCOIR (Cearta tánaisteacha, Cóipcheart, Rochtain Oscailte, Beartais institiúideacha, agus Cearta choinneálta)! Sé aidhm an tionscadal seo scoir a bhaint as cumhacht taighde oscailte.

May 2024

Newsletter

Open Access seems to have taken a gradual approach globally. One of the main reasons for this is, there's no 'one size fits all' as different countries have different Copyright and Contract laws. While some may follow a broadly common law principles, others have stricter interpretation with civil law woven into their foundations. Even within the EU, such contrast approaches exists and, the variety brings different samples of implementation. Following suit to such examples, Ireland is not far behind.

Breaking Barriers: Embracing Open Access in Ireland

A National Action Plan Open Research, as established by National Open Research Forum (NORF) was put in place in 2022 to initiate and effectively implement what we can understand as an uptake of open research practices in Ireland.

One such project, SCOIR, as funded by NORF was launched in October 2023.

SCOIR has set out to create legislative and policy shifts to ease open access at both Institutional and author level. To create this impact SCOIR is working on a projected draft for such legislative changes. For these internationally recognised experts, other drafts such as LIBER Draft law and contributions by Knowledge Rights 21, SPARC Europe, Publish OA etc are referred to.

For instance, Spain sets a high standard for Open Access Policy by providing a short period of 4 years of implementation. While the term used in the Spanish document 'mainly' creates ambiguity, and its impacts will only be tested after due implementation has been followed over the course of 4 years. Similarly, Netherlands also has terms 'in part' in their document when it comes to Secondary Publishing Rights or SPRs which lacks clarity on the amount of funds .

Even though Netherlands focuses on a harmonised approach to be implemented by 2030 using a multi-route option inclusive of gold, diamond and green Open Access models, that the same can be achieved 100% seems a bit unrealistic. One of the progressive aspects of this model is the 'opt-out' approach, partly because the demand for such a mandate of the SPR came from the bottom, the Research Organisations.

Whether publishers have been involved from the very early stage of introducing and negotiating SPRs such as in the case of Belgium, it may lead to a longer approval process or sometimes even failure of successful motion in the Parliament as in the case of Italy. Several factors including the complexity of the proposed legislation are responsible such as in the case of Poland.

Further complications include a stronger contract law in certain countries like Austria, Germany, Spain and Italy which provides for any kind agreement to be drafted under Copyright regime and possible 'opting-out' of SPRs which affects the growth of Open Research made so far in the EU.

Resonating with the LIBER Draft model law, Bulgaria's efforts to secure the rights of the researchers from a possible contractual exploitation by the publishers must be applauded. In its attempt to secure the same, the law provides more power to the funded researchers wholly or partially by public institutions. However, whether such mode will be chosen by the researchers still depends on the awareness, campaigns and perceived notions on open research.

Subsequently, a draft policy framework would be designed for proper implementation of the required legislative changes. For this SCOIR has identified the multitude of nomenclature used for these Open access policies. From Research Policies, to IP policies, etc, these open access policies are not uniform regarding their outputs, the subjects and embargo applications. Additionally, the language on licences and repository mandates are specifics that need attention to systematise open access umbrella policy across Ireland.

Project Spotlight

Shaping the Future: Your Insights Matter

Contribute to SCOIR, where we unravel the complexities of **rights retention** and **research policies** shaping knowledge accessibility.

Join us in exploring Irish academia and the global research community. Your insights are pivotal in shaping our collective understanding. [Click here to contribute to SCOIR.](#)

In the Future

In the next quarter we hope to deepdive further into the critical issues of Open Access implementation in Irish Academia. As seen, the bottom-up approach is more democratic and robust in its implementation. SCOIR looks forward to collaboration with Ireland based researchers and academics.

We would like to express our gratitude to all our Funders NORF, Partner Institutions and Advisory Board members, for the generosity and dedication to keep our project running smoothly and effectively.

More information on the project can be found at our website <https://scoir.moodlecloud.com>

NORF

FÓRUM NAISÍÚNTA NA hÉIREANN
UM THAISÍÚNÓIR OIDEACHAS
NATIONAL OPEN RESEARCH FORUM

HEA

AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Partners & Affiliates



Collaborative Spotlight: Martin Bradley

In our ongoing commitment to enhance research accessibility and legislative frameworks, we have had the privilege of working closely with Martin Bradley this quarter. As the Knowledge Rights 21 Ireland National Coordinator, Martin has been instrumental in advancing the legislative aspects of our project in collaboration with SCOIR.

Martin's background as a practicing barrister, specializing in Art & Cultural Heritage Law, GDPR, IP, and Copyright Laws, brings a depth of knowledge and precision to our efforts. His dual expertise as a qualified archivist and his extensive 25 years of experience, coupled with his role as director of Archives Ireland, enrich our understanding and approach to Secondary Rights knowledge

