

# ACADEMIC COMMUNITY ABOUT COPYRIGHT RELATED WITH OPEN ACCESS. CASE STUDY AT TRANSILVANIA UNIVERSITY

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**Abstract:** *The movement for open access to scientific information aims to transform education and research through the provision, free of charge, of the literature in scientific journals, to all researchers, regardless of the country they carry out their activity in or the institution they are affiliated to, while observing the natural award and quotation rules. In order to have his/her article published in a quality scientific journal, the author is almost always requested to transfer the copyrights to the respective journal's editor. The editor thus becomes the only one authorized to decide if and in what way the text is to be published after the initial issue - e.g., through its inclusion in a scientific database. The paper It considers the claims for copyright ownership in research papers by universities, academics, and publishers by drawing on the literature, a survey of academic authors from Transilvania University. There were analysed concerning the professors' opinion on the AUTHOR – UNIVERSITY – EDITOR relationship. The sample was considerate with academic staff from Law, Engineering, Literature and Economic Science Faculties.*

**Key words:** *Universities, Publishing, Academic staff, Copyright, Ownership, Document management, Open Access.*

## 1. Introduction: Open access to information

The information boost has completely changed the classical scientific data posting, access, dissemination and use procedure. Due to the Internet, which is a public data communication and transmission domain, the scientific publications migrated from the traditional form to the digital one. Scientific communication developed extensively in that direction. All conferences schedules,

all research agreements' results are now available online. Researchers have adapted, they use these new technologies in the data research, communication and transmission process. (Repanovici, 2010)

**Open access** is the electronic version of the printed scientific publication that can be read online, distributed without any commercial purposes, free of charge and limitations.

**Rights Metadata for Open archiving - RoMEO** is considered one of the most

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important service for the development of the access to the scientific research in accordance with the observance of the copyright and of the publishers' policies.

RoMEO archiving was founded by Joint Information Systems Committee from United Kingdom for the investigation of the rights concerning the research self-archiving in the academic environment under the Open Access I auspices. A series of marketing quantitative researches extended to world level were conducted referring to the opinions of the academic communities on the open access to information. The policies of the publishers referring to the editing contracts and to the copyright were equally analyzed. As a conclusion of these researches, the following extremely useful services for the humanity, scientific research, visibility and progress were created. Practically, the instrument by which the author agrees with the publisher observing the legislation was created. The publishers collaborate for the scientific research and impose their rights. Thus, a classification of the publishers was made up taking into consideration the conditions in which they accept self-archiving. (RoMEO, 2003)

### **Digital repositories**

This concept appeared when researchers posted the electronic version of scientific articles on their individual websites. Universities expressed their interest in creating digital repositories containing the university's scientific materials. The scientific world started reacting. "Transilvania" University of Braşov implemented the DSpace system, thus creating the first Romanian institutional repository, referred to as ASPECKT (Statistic Analyses and Forecasts of Economic-Social Phenomena and Marketing Research) where researchers can archive their materials individually. This archive for open access to scientific data is a rich source of information and

documentation, <http://aspekt.unitbv.ro/jspui>. (DSpace, 2009)

## **2. Case Study at Transilvania University of Brasov**

In 2000, there was a strong "periodicals crisis". The periodicals prices considerably increased generating a crisis in the scientific research field. The "open access movement" appeared as a reaction to such crisis. The copyright matters were then very seriously considered. The matter under debate was: WHO IS THE COPYRIGHT OWNER? A, P or U? The research considered these elements and monitored the attitude of the three parties involved in copyright ownership.

During March-April 2012 a qualitative marketing research was carried out concerning the opinions of Law, Engineering, Literature and Economic Science Faculties on copyright and open access to information. The research concerned the two positions: those of the academic community member as researcher and author. The A-P-U triangle was considered as the research basis, where: **A** - Authors of scientific articles drafted in the academic environment, **P** - Publishers, **U** - Universities. (Gadd, 2003)

### **2.1 Methodology**

The aims of the academic author survey were:

- To understand academics' current practices with regard to the creation of, and the copyright in, research papers.
- To understand how academics wished to protect their own freely available research papers on the Web with a view to informing the development of some rights metadata elements for this purpose.
- To understand how academics used other people freely available research papers on the Web.

An online questionnaire was designed covering the four areas above. The

questionnaire was divided into three sections:

A – About You.

B – Your research papers.

C – How you use other peoples' research papers (Gadd, 2003)

The surveyed population consisted of the members of the academic community in the field of law, engineering, economics and letters. Members of the surveyed departments responded at a rate of 45.51%.

Four electronic questionnaires were sent which were prepared with the open source software, [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com). Each questionnaire for each specialization was sent by email to all members of the research departments. In the case of engineering, the questionnaire was sent to the Product Design, Mechatronics and Environment Department. Each questionnaire had 10 questions. The data collected have been pooled and interpreted.

## 2.2 Research results

The teaching professionals responded to questions immediately, therefore the research has not spread over a long period of time. Regarding seniority in the academic activity, it is obvious that among teaching professionals from the engineering department, 71.4% have the most years of service, over 20 years, followed by those within the economics department at the rate of 42.9%. No answer was received from teaching professionals with less than five years of service. It is thus confirmed that the law faculty is a relatively young faculty, with teaching professionals with an evolving career and 73.3% of respondents have between 5 to 10 years of service. Regarding the letters department answers have been received from teaching professionals with 10-20 seniority of activity in proportion of 60%. (Figure 1)

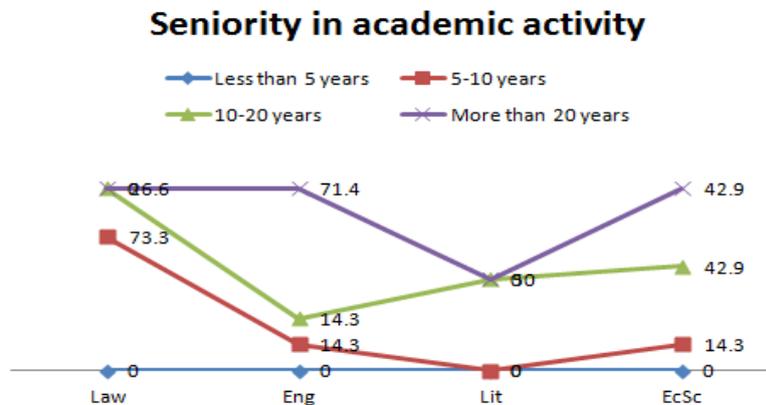


Fig. 1. *Seniority activity*

Most respondents, 64.3% published as single authors 11-20 articles and 60% published in collaboration less than 10 articles. 51.7% of teaching professionals in engineering have published less than 10 articles as first author, 37% of teaching professionals from the letters department published 10 to 20 articles or 30-40 articles,

while with teaching professionals from Economics, 28.6% published 10 to 20 articles as first author; as for the remaining categories, the distribution of the teaching professionals is balanced, i.e. 14.3%. There is no case of respondents who had published more than 100 articles. (Figure 2)

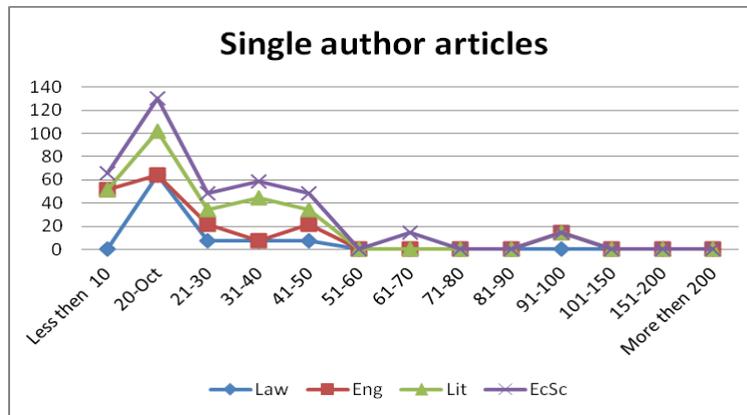


Fig. 2. Number of articles with one author

With respect to the articles jointly written, 60% of the teaching professionals within the law department have co-written less than 10 articles while 28.6% of the teaching professionals in the engineering department have co-written over 150

articles. 87.5% of the teaching professionals within the letters department wrote together less than 10 articles while with the economics department 28.6% have co-written 40-60 articles. (Figure 3)

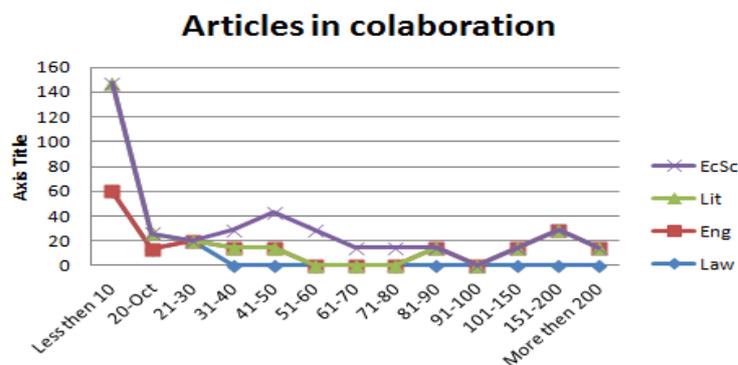


Fig. 3. Number of articles in collaboration

Relating to intellectual property with the law domain, 73.3% of respondents believe that, with the articles where they are authors, authors own the copyright. 20% consider the publisher as the copyright holder. Nobody considers the university as the institution that holds the copyright. As regards the engineering field, 14.3% consider the university as the copyright holder, 42.9% of respondents consider that, as for the articles whose writers they are, the authors and the publisher are the

copyright holders. In the case of the faculty of letters, 87.5% of respondents believe that with the articles written by them, the authors hold the copyright. 12.5% consider the university as copyright holder.

With economic sciences, 71.4% of respondents believe that the articles whose authors they are, the authors hold the copyright. 14.3% think that the copyright holder is the publisher and 14.3 do not know. (Figure 4)

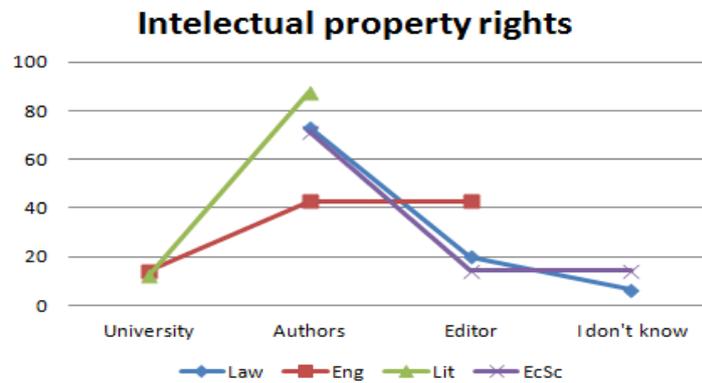


Fig. 4. *Intellectual property rights*

73.3% of respondents are interested in property rights while 26.7% are interested in property rights for respondents from the law faculty. 71% of respondents are interested in property rights while 28% are interested in property rights for respondents from engineering faculty.

100% of respondents are interested in property rights.

71.4% of respondents are interested in property rights while 28% are interested in property rights in the case of respondents from Economics. (Figure 5)

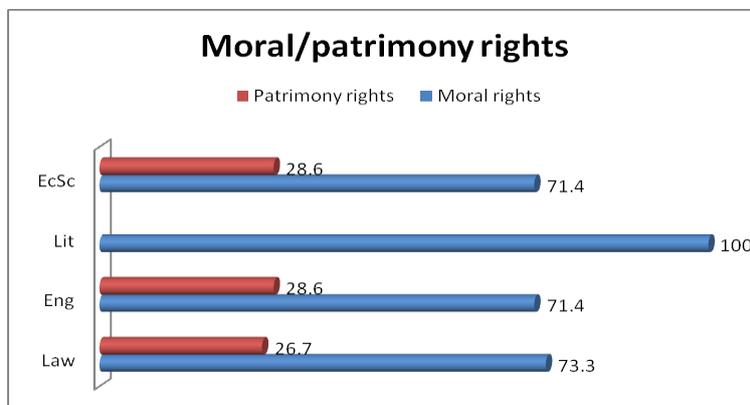


Fig. 5. *Property rights*

With the law domain, 21.4% consider that publishers require copyright assignment while 78.6% have not signed such contracts. With engineering, 71.4% believe that publishers require copyright assignment while 28.6% have not signed such contracts. Within the faculty of

letters, 42.9% consider that publishers require copyright assignment while 42.9% have not signed such contracts. 42.3 disagree with it. With Economics, 71.4% believe that publishers require copyright assignment while 28.6% have not signed such contracts. (Figure 6)

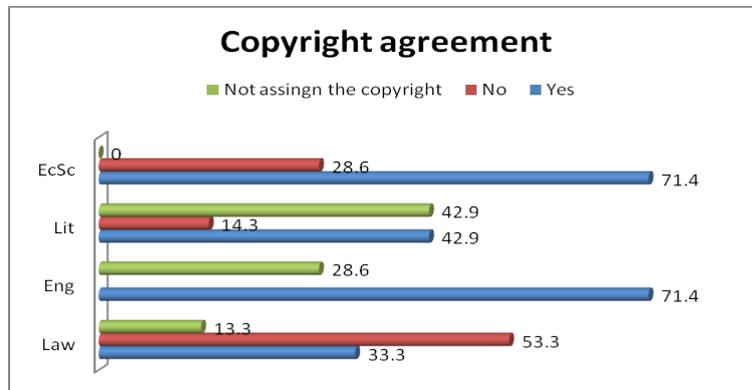


Fig. 6. *Copyright agreement situation*

With respect to publishers' conditioning to sign publishing contracts before publication, 21.4% of respondents from law consider it as a publishing condition while 78.6% have never signed such a contract. In the case of engineering, 71.4% consider it to be a publishing condition and 28.6% have not signed such a contract.

The situation is different in the field of letters where 62.5% have signed such contracts while 37.7% considered it as a publishing condition. With economics, 50% have signed such contracts and 50% consider signing a publishing condition. (Figure 7)

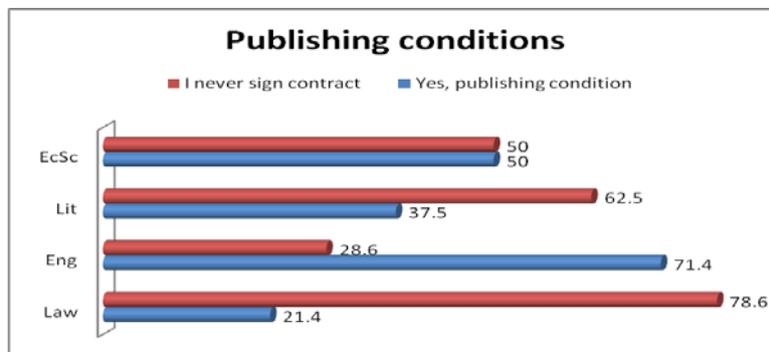


Fig. 7. *Publishing conditions*

73.3% of teaching professionals from the law faculty would agree to publish their articles in open access while 26% disagree. The results from engineering are the following: 85.7% of teaching professionals would agree to publish their articles in open access while 14.3% disagree.

37.5% of teaching professionals at the faculty of letters would agree to publish their articles in open access while 62.5% disagree.

100% of teaching professionals at the faculty of economics would agree to publish their articles in open access.

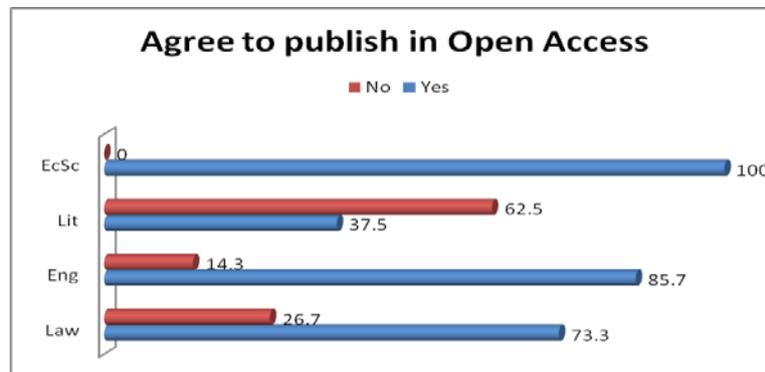


Fig. 8. *Who agree to publish in Open Access*

73.3% of the teaching professionals of the law faculty use articles available freely on the internet while 26.7% do not use them. With the Engineering Faculty 85.7% use open access articles but 14.3% do not.

With the faculty of letters, 85.5% use such articles, 12.5% do not. 100% of respondents from the Faculty of Economics use articles available in open access. (Figure 9).

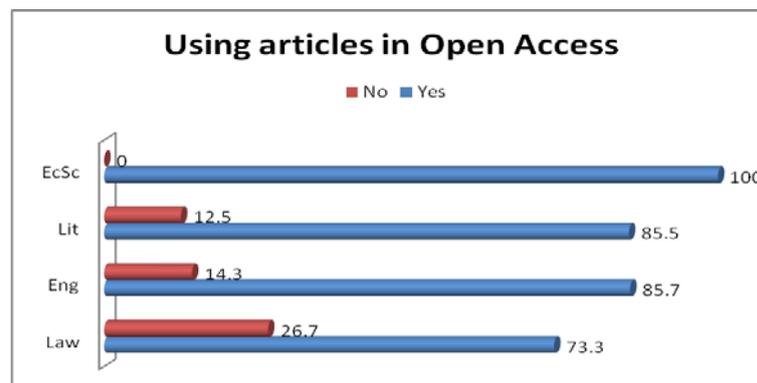


Fig. 9. *Using of articles in Open Access*

### 3. Conclusions of the research related to the authors' attitude

The purposes of the research for the analysis of the authors' attitude were:

- To understand current practices on the creation of and copyright over scientific articles;
- To understand the desires of academic community members for the protection of scientific articles available online for free and to inform them on the rights they hold;

- To understand the opinion of academic community members on the free use of other articles available online for free;

To conclude, the academic community is concerned by the intellectual component of intellectual ownership. Authors are interested in the moral rights over their work rather than in patrimony rights. Most of them see their work as an intellectual extension, not as an extension of the portfolio in economic terms. This is understandable since authors are remunerated for an article very rarely.

The situation is slightly different for different areas of specialization, those with works whose actuality last less - engineering, economics - seek to publish in open access in much greater proportion than those from law and letters. As compared with other international studies, such as RoMEO (RoMEO, 2012) or SOAP3, (Kuchma, 2011) the results are similar.

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