



GW4 Joint Statement Rights Retention in Scholarly Works

The GW4 Universities—Bath, Bristol, Cardiff, and Exeter—have long-standing commitments to Open Access, underpinning the positive economic and social impact of our research within an inclusive research culture and environment. To this end, our library teams have worked together to develop a shared position and joint statement on Rights Retention. It is a marker of our collaborative commitment and our broader intention to work together to strengthen the UK research environment.

Rights Retention is intended to provide academics with greater control over the rights in their own scholarly works. It does this by:

- providing routes to open access publishing which are inclusive and contribute to a positive research culture
- strengthening sector positions in negotiations with scholarly publishers
- mitigating the risks of non-compliance with the terms of grant agreements
- minimising workload and bureaucracy for authors.

Our commitment

Our universities need to be able to disseminate research and scholarship as widely as possible to comply with funder mandates whilst enabling researchers to publish in a journal of their choice. GW4 universities will promote and support practices which can facilitate the positive social and economic impact of our research and to create a more inclusive research culture. Specifically, we will **advocate the value and importance of researchers retaining control of their work**. Through the design of policies for Rights Retention, GW4 universities will increase access to and impact of our world-leading research.

We will do this by:

- Advocating for researchers, providing support and training to give them confidence to retain ownership of their work
- Supporting researchers to apply a CC BY licence to accepted journal manuscripts, alongside deposit of the manuscript into an open repository
- Improving workflows and support around Open Access
- Working together to share resources, guidance and experience to deliver a strong, robust and open research environment for GW4 researchers.

We make this commitment as members of the UK Reproducibility Network, and as a university research alliance, with more than ten years of active collaboration, working together to enhance our research environment and enable research at scale. Together we are greater than the sum of our parts.