

# Requesting permission: approaching publishers, lessons learned, and the many successes!

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UKCoRR Members day July 2017



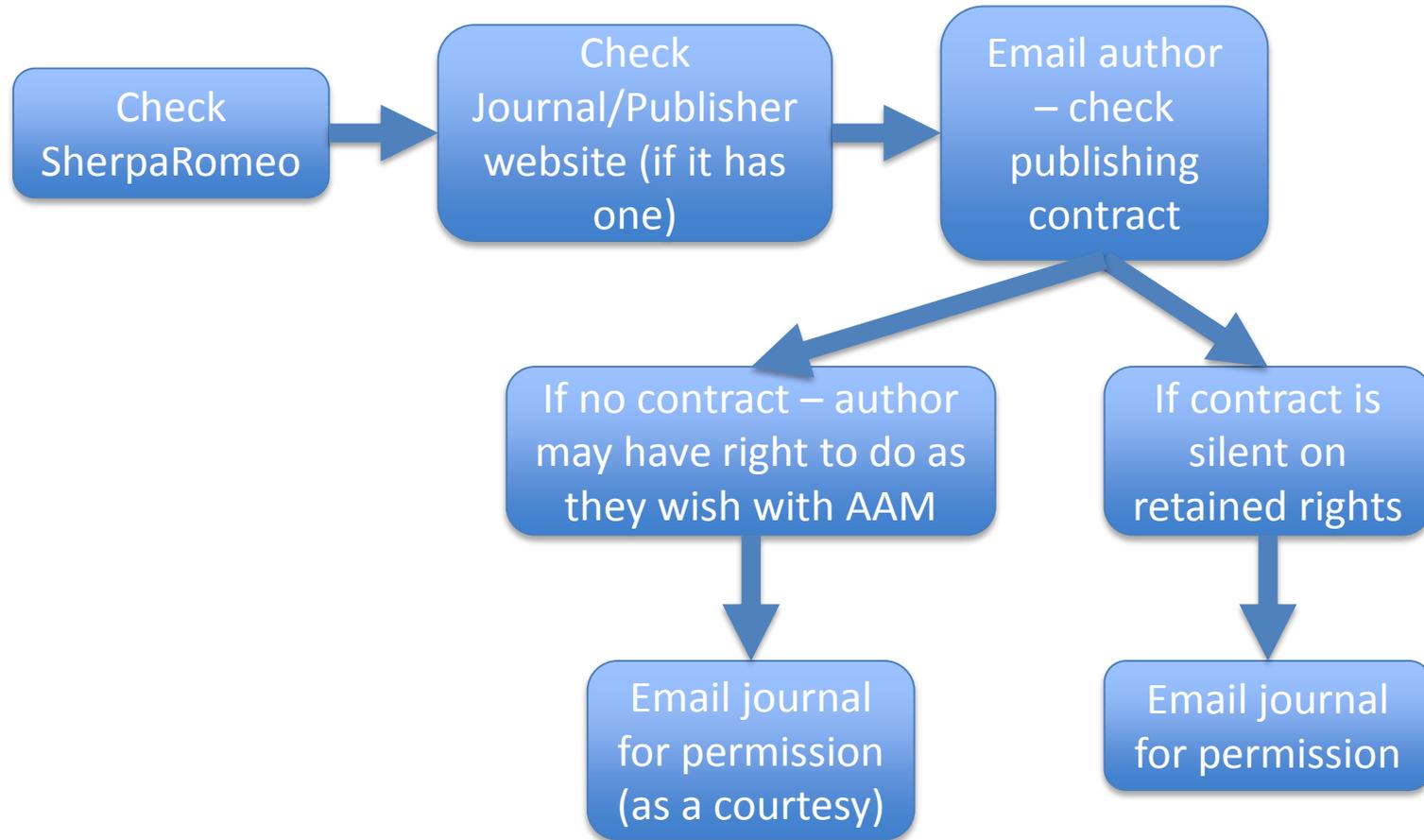
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- Our workflow
- Recording process
- Templates
- What have we learned
- Success stories!
- Some dry statistics
- Some take-aways

**Can we have permission  
please Mr Publisher, sir?**



# Our workflow



# Our process: A Spreadsheet!

We give each request an ID

We record all the output details

Look at all that green!



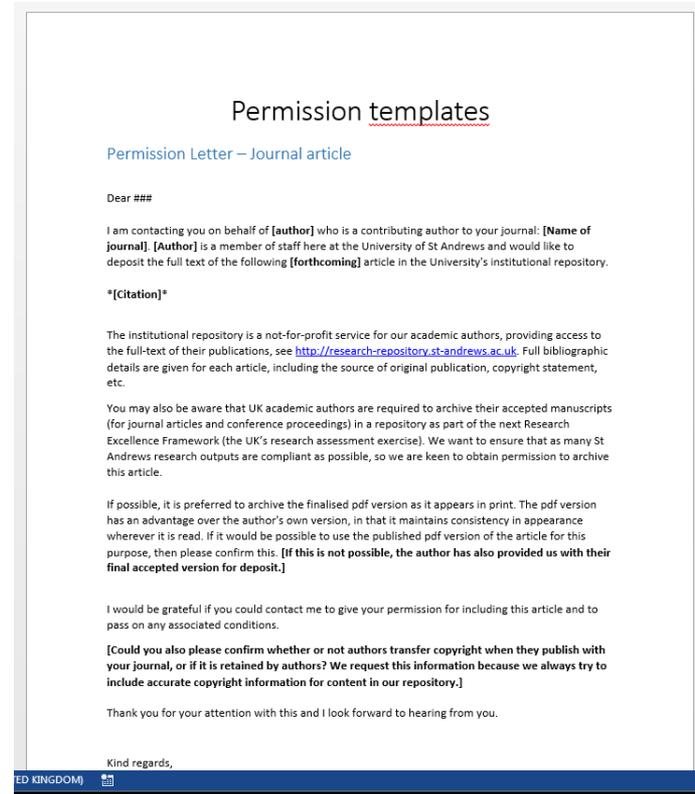
Request ID	Date	Author	Publisher	Publication	Title	Output type	Version	Progress/Notes	Completion
33	PR30	07/04/2016	Ausonlus Editions			Book chapter	AAM	Email sent 07/04/2016. no reply.	Permission granted
34	PR31	10/05/2016	The American Benedictine			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Email sent to author 10/05/2016.	Permission granted
35	PR32	11/05/2016	Centro Storico Benedettino			Book chapter	VoR	Email sent to author 25/03/2016.	No reply - record validated and set to
36	PR33	21/01/2016	Society of Christian Ethics			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Email sent to publisher 21/01/2016.	No reply - record validated and set to
37	PR34	24/05/2016	University of Malta, Institu			Journal article	VoR	Email sent to author 24/05/2016.	Permission granted
38	PR35	24/05/2016	Helsinki Collegium for Adv.			Journal article	VoR	Email sent to journal to clarify Oj	Record validated Low risk as journal
39	PR36	15/06/2016	Getty Publications			Book chapter	VoR or AAM	Emailled Publisher 15/06/2016, r	Permission granted
40	PR37	16/06/2016	Libraweb			Journal article	AAM	Emailled 08/06/2016, replied 16/	Permission granted
41	PR38	05/07/2016	The George Washington Un			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled 05/07/2016, replied gra	Permission granted
42	PR39	05/07/2016	Sheffield Hallam University			Journal article	AAM	Emailled 05/07/2016, followup se	Permission granted
43	PR40	07/07/2016	Edinburgh University Press			Book chapter	VoR	EUP have Green book chapter po	Permission granted
44	PR41	27/07/2016	The Genetics Society of An			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled for permission 27/07/2016.	Publisher does not allow self arch
45	PR42	05/08/2016	be.bra verlag			Book chapter	VoR	Emailled for permission 05/08/20	Permission granted
46	PR43	05/08/2016	V&R Unipress			Journal article	VoR	Emailled for permission 05/08/20	Permission granted
47	PR44	08/08/2016	World Scientific Publishing			Book chapter	AAM	First emailed 12/11/2015. Publis	Permission granted
48	PR45	08/08/2016	Klartext verlag			Journal article	VoR	Emailled 08/08/2016	
49	PR46	08/08/2016	LWL-Institut für westfälisc			Journal article	VoR	Emailled 08/08/2016	
50	PR47	15/08/2016	Arkat-USA, Inc			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled journal 15/08/2016, repl	Permission granted
51	PR48	17/08/2016	University Press Copublish			Book chapter	AAM or VoR	Emailled 17/08/2016. Followup et	Permission granted
52	PR49	17/08/2016	Nomos Verlag			Book chapter	AAM	Emailled 17/08/2016, replied 18/	Permission granted
53	PR50	29/08/2016	Princeton University Press			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled 29/08/2016. Replied - g	Permission granted
54	PR51	29/08/2016	Tirant Lo Blanch			Book chapter	AAM or VoR	Emailled 29/08/2016	
55	PR52	30/08/2016	US Army War College			Journal article	VoR	Emailled 30/08/2016. replied 31/	Permission granted
56	PR53	19/09/2016	Mathesis Publications (for			Journal article	VoR	Emailled 19/09/2016 - added note on request from BBC	
57	PR54	29/09/2016	Cambridge University Press			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled 16/9/2016 - as article pr	Permission granted
58	PR55	22/09/2016	Peeters Publishers			Conference contribution	VoR	Emailled 22/09/2016	Permission granted
59	PR56	14/10/2016	University of Toronto Press			Journal article	AAM	Emailled 14/10/2016, Replied 14/	Permission granted
60	PR57	17/10/2016	Springer			Book chapter		Emailled 17/10/2016	
61	PR58	21/10/2016	Journal of Academic Persp			Journal article		Emailled 21/10/2016	
62	PR59	26/10/2016	Felix Meiner Verlag GmbH			Book chapter	AAM	Emailled 26/10/2016, replied 14/	Permission granted
63	PR60	01/11/2016	Marsilio			Book chapter		Emailled 01/11/2016. Author has	Permission denied
64	PR61	01/11/2016	Unicopli			Book chapter		Emailled 01/11/2016. Author has	Permission granted
65	PR62	04/11/2016	Indiana University Press			Journal article	AAM or VoR	Emailled 04/11/2016. Replied gra	Permission granted
66	PR63	08/11/2016	Franz Steiner Verlag			Book chapter		Emailled 08/11/2016. Replied 28/	Permission granted
67						Book chapter		Emailled 08/11/2016. Replied 28/	Permission granted
68	PR64	08/11/2016	SCM Press			Book chapter	VoR	Emailled 08/11/2016, Replied 08/	Permission granted
69	PR65	08/11/2016	Edinburgh University Press			Book chapter	Proof	Emailled 08/11/2016, permission	Permission granted
70	PR66	09/11/2016	The University of Missour			Journal article		Emailled 09/11/2016. Emailled to	Permission granted

## Our Process, cont...

- The responses to permission requests (emails) are copied to a folder and renamed according to the ID in the spreadsheet
- So, we can quickly find a permission email if needed, say if a take-down request was received
- But is this the best way?
  - It is future proof?
- We think it's important to keep the emails in their original form for authenticity
- But is an email admissible as proof in this context?

# Templates help

- Permissions are time-consuming!
- Templates help (a lot)
- In many cases the standard template doesn't quite fit and requires a little tweaking, e.g.
  - If you've contacted them before
  - If the book isn't yet released
  - If the journal is sort of 'open access'



# Lessons Learned

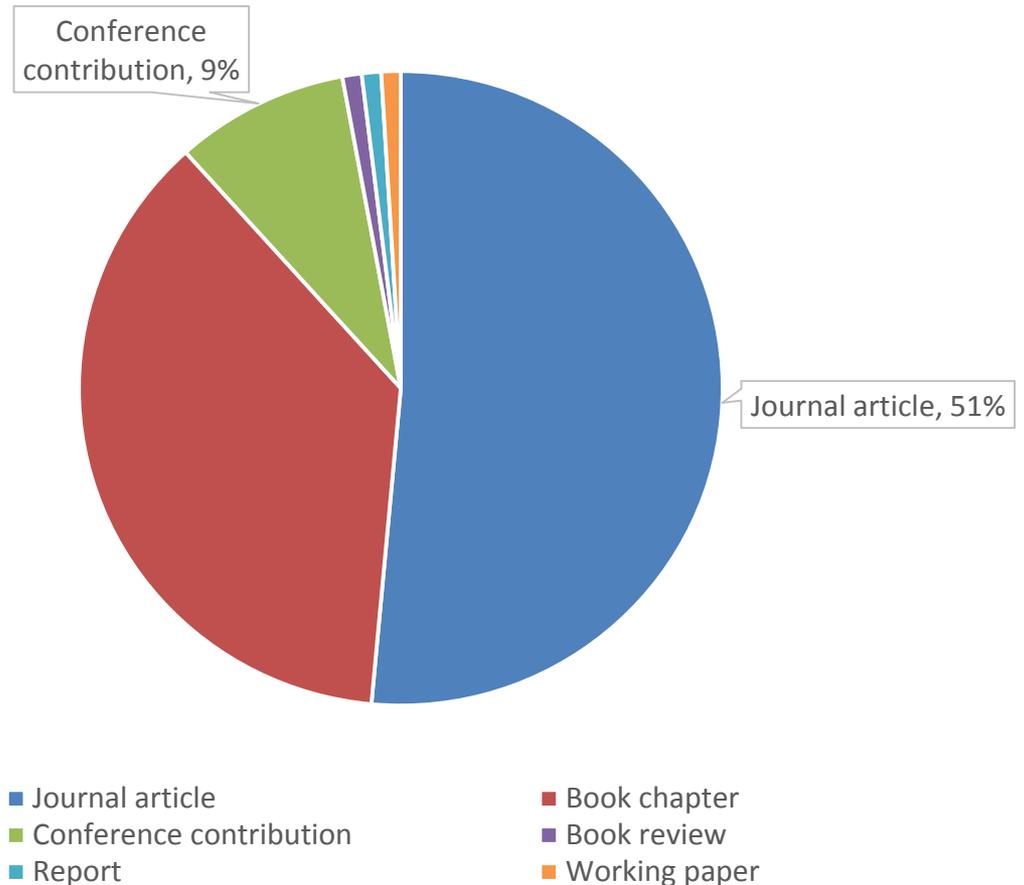
- This is more often the norm for humanities
- Small publishers often have a closer relationship with their authors – so we try to keep this in mind
- We never push for OA, and if they decline we see their point of view and thank them (no matter how rude they may be)
- Most small publishers are delighted to have their stuff hosted elsewhere
- A lot of small publishers are pro-OA without even realising it
- Contacting lone-wolf journals and small publishers is great advocacy practice, and making new contacts across the world is very satisfying!
- A bit of flattery never hurts
- And...sadly you can't win 'em all

# Some success stories

- Small society publisher – colleague emailed because DOI didn't resolve, so she ended up walking them through the process of registering DOIs with CrossRef.
- US university Press. I helped their rights manager understand UK OA landscape – this fed into their OA policy
- University of Helsinki Library – ended up discussing OA in Finland – I hadn't realised that they were early pioneers! And learned that one of their colleagues had visited us in St Andrews many years ago.
- German copyright law
- Medieval studies journal asked if they may tweet a link to our repository
- Most recently the Austrian Embassy in Poland granted permission – and sent a copy of the final version for deposit!
- ...

# Some statistics

The 100 most recent permission requests:	
Journal article	53
Book chapter	38
Conference contribution	9
Book review	1
Report	1
Working paper	1



- 60% of permission requests potentially in scope for REF OA policy
- Potential reduction of REF exception 39c - *The publication concerned actively disallows open-access deposit in a repository, and was the most appropriate publication for the output.*

# Food for thought

- What do you do when a publisher or journal doesn't reply
  - Risk management
  - Is no news good news?
  - Rely on take-down policy?
- How long do you wait before chasing
  - Often 4-6 weeks
  - But should it be shorter?
- What if it's in scope for REF, do you make a firmer case?
- Foreign language journals, do you translate your request?
  - Google translate?
  - Do you take advantage of a multilingual colleague?
- We just take a simple 'yes' as good enough, as long as it's from the journal/publisher. But should we need something a bit more authoritative? Should we check the person's credentials? Are we always sure they even understood the question?
- Should we do more to protect our collections?

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