

# Research Support and Intellectual Property; Partners in Copyright

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## Copyright guidance for postgraduate researchers (PGRs); the quest to boost copyright knowledge



Training sessions now provided for all PGRs specifically tackling the use of third-party content in theses.

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First major collaboration between Research Support and the Content, Licensing and Intellectual Property team, culminating in extensive copyright guidance for PGRs and a YouTube video.

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Recognition that copyright guidance needs to be demystified and made easier to understand.

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The move to electronic submission of research degrees.

# COVID CHRONICLES PROJECT

- Content to be used in an externally funded project
- Verbal permission acceptable?
- Copyright guidance on obtaining and recording permission
- Checking substantial third-party content

## Research degree digitisation project

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Digitisation on demand through EThOS British Library service since 2009.

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Electronic thesis deposit to Open Research Online (ORO) mandated from Oct-2016.

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Thesis Digitisation Project 2019-2020 with ProQuest- aim to digitise remaining print theses in holdings.

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Substantial third-party or embargoed copies rejected.

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1,600 digitised and copyright checked!

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**Total 6,131 theses in ORO and counting!**



## PhD Thesis – Being sold without permission

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Postgraduate Student's thesis published via Open Access on ORO

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Thesis put up for sale by a Third-Party Amazon Seller

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Who was the copyright owner?

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Added complexity of the student publishing a book based on this thesis – Commercial publisher

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What does this mean for Open Licenses?



# Copyright guidance for student research; What, why, and how

## Open Research Online - ORO

Over 50,000 publications from the broad range of OU research

[Home](#) [Search](#) [Browse](#) [User Area](#) [Help](#)

[Manage records](#) [Review](#) [RDO Review](#) [Admin](#) [Reports](#)

## Browse Student Research by Module

Please select a value to browse from the list below.

[A329 The making of Welsh history](#) | 71

[A826 MA History part 2](#) | 55

[E822 MA Education, childhood and youth](#) | 9

[H818 The Networked Practitioner](#) | 167

[S390 Environmental Science and  
Management Project Module](#) | 2

[S390 Geoscience Project Module](#) | 2

[S390 Health Sciences Project Module](#) | 2

[S390 Chemistry Project Module](#) | 1

[S390 Physics Project Module](#) | 1

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Undergraduate and postgraduate student research accessed via Open Research Online (ORO).

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Identified need for copyright guidance.

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Engaging students with copyright issues.

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Ongoing support from the Research Support team.

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Positive feedback and active engagement!



# FUTURE ASPIRATIONS



Developing a  
copyright literacy  
framework



Further opportunity to  
collaborate between  
the teams to have a  
wider reach to  
research teams and  
students



## Useful links

**Copyright and your thesis** <https://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/copyright-and-your-thesis>

**Library Research Support** <https://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/>

**Open Research Online (ORO)** <https://oro.open.ac.uk/>

**Open University Library** <https://www.open.ac.uk/library/>

**ORO Browse by thesis** <https://oro.open.ac.uk/view/thesis/>

**ORO Browse by student research** <https://oro.open.ac.uk/view/dissertation/>

**Student research copyright guidance** <https://www.open.ac.uk/library-research-support/open-access-publishing/student-research>

**The Orb blog post 'Copyright and your thesis: new guidance for conquering copyright confusion** [http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/the\\_orb/?p=3025](http://www.open.ac.uk/blogs/the_orb/?p=3025)



# THANK YOU



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The Open  
University