

**University Library Committee**  
**Questions for Faculty Concerning Authors' Rights**  
**February 2, 2007**

The University Library Committee is engaging in a campus wide discussion on authors' rights. Before recommending any specific steps to ensure authors have legal and adequate rights to their own material, ULC members are interested in knowing more about faculty members experience with publishers. As background, authors initially have exclusive copyright to their scholarship. These rights are transferable, and most publishers expect authors to sign agreements which transfer all rights to the publisher. When rights are fully transferred, our legal ability to use our own work even in educational settings may be significantly curtailed.

Questions for faculty:

- Do you post your own previously-published work to your website or Blackboard course?
- Have you posted your own previously-published work to Scholars Bank?
- Have you attempted to amend a publishers' copyright statement to retain all or some rights you have as the author?
  - If yes, have you ever encountered resistance to any proposed amendments by the publisher?
- What, if any problems have you encountered with publishers' agreements?
- What, if any, problems have you encountered in using your own material for classroom purposes?
- Is there an open-access digital repository or archive in for your field (e.g. arXive.org for high energy physics)? How does it work for your field? Do your colleagues use it? How does it figure into tenure and promotion?