
Python Papers Statement on Open Access

Tennessee Leeuwenburg, Editor-In-Chief, *The Python Papers*

The Python Papers has received a number of inquiries relating to the republishing of articles from the journal, especially in the context of open-access repositories. Each issue of *The Python Papers* is released under a Creative Commons 2.5 license, subject to Attribution, Non-commercial and Share-Alike clauses. This, in short, provides a *carte blanche* on republishing articles, so long as the source of the article is fully attributed, the article is not used for commercial purposes and that the article is republished under this same license.

Creative commons permits both republishing in full and also the incorporation of portions of *The Python Papers* in other works. A portion may be an article, quotation or image. This means (a) that content may be freely re-used and (b) that other works using *Python Papers* content must be available under the same Creative Commons license.

The remainder of this article will address some of the details that might be of interest to anyone who wishes to include issues or articles in a database, website, hard copy collection or any other alternative access mechanism.

The full legal code of the license may be found at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-ncsa/2.1/au/>

Archiving Articles in Open-Access Repositories

The Python Papers was asked about the official policy towards authors archiving their journal articles into open-access repositories, especially institutional repositories.

We believe it is clear from the distribution license that this is clearly permitted. The exception would be in the case that the open-access repository is run for-profit. *The Python Papers* general position is that the journal is operated on the principle of promoting general access and any reasonably open-access repository should be well within its rights to make use of content from the journal. If there are any doubts, it is recommended that publishers contact either the author in question or the journal itself.

If the general license is not compatible with the goals of any particular open-access repository, we would encourage publishers to contact us to organise special permission.

Drafts, pre-prints, post-prints and other alternative versions of articles

Authors will typically produce a number of drafts or revisions prior to the final, accepted version of their paper. On occasion, authors will wish to publish these drafts or revisions for a variety of purposes.

The editors of *The Python Papers* need to be sure that drafts and alternative versions - which may or may not be decorated with a Creative Commons licence and/or reference to *The Python Papers* - cannot be confused with the final, approved version we published.

The license under which each issue is released covers *only the final, approved version*. Especially for academic papers, *The Python Papers* believes it is inappropriate for article pre-prints to be published as though they had met the academic review process. As such, we would be unlikely to give permission for authors submitting academic papers to publish a draft, pre-print or revision of the final version. Articles which are submitted as non-academic are not subject to the same peer-review standards, but published articles are still a reflection of the standard of *The Python Papers* as a whole. Permission may be specially granted in some cases, but we require authors and other publishers to contact us on a case-by-case basis.

This decision does not relate to whether the use is commercial or non-commercial, but rather reflects the high standards that *The Python Papers* requires from its authors.

Some of the articles in *The Python Papers* are based on articles which have already been published to the web. A common example is where we have invited a blog author to expand on an interesting entry. Our requirements only cover the article as published in each issue.

What kinds of repositories may use content from *The Python Papers*?

The Python Papers has been asked to clarify whether its position on article re-use is different for university institutional repositories, personal websites, or other repositories.

Any institution may include abstracts and meta-information in their databases. However, they may not necessarily be able to hold actual copies of *The Python Papers*. This provides an alternative for any institution which does not meet the requirements of our distribution license. Such institutions may provide searchable information to their users, with a link to download the content directly from the *Python Papers* website.

Any repository which is not run on a commercial basis may freely and without special permission use content from *The Python Papers*. This *may* include a university institutional repository, if that repository does not operate on a commercial basis. If, however, the institution requires a payment before content may be accessed, they are **not** permitted to use content from *The Python Papers*.

The same principle applies to personal websites. So long as that website is not operated on a commercial basis, authors may freely include content from *The Python Papers*.

Repositories which do not meet those requirements, or which are not certain of their status, are encouraged to contact *The Python Papers* for clarification.