

Copyright: Two sides to the coin

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Intellectual property rights (IP) and copyright are often perceived as hampering good, quick and efficient science communication. However, a proper understanding of what these two concepts stand for, what exactly is protected under IP and copyright and why, and how we can best deal with this complex legislation, should actually lead to better communication products for your scientific projects and results.

The scientific library plays a pivotal role in this process. Librarians are the experts in IP and copyright within their organizations, and they should act as hubs for any person or group that needs information and support related to copyright issues.

Providing this correct and complete information on the many possibilities for making fair use of protected and Creative Commons content will eventually lead to better science communication. The interactive workshop guided by the Library of the Flanders Marine Institute will focus on both sides of the copyright coin:

- how to organize your own output, i.e. when and why to protect your own work from unfair use, but also when and why to put your work in Open Access or in a Creative Commons license;
- how to identify correctly if any IP or copyrights are covering products you want to use in your scientific communication, and how you can still make fair use of this protected content.