

Plenary Session 1

Thursday, September 19, Room B, 9.00

INFORMATION OWNERSHIP, COPYRIGHT AND LICENCES

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This paper will consider some recent developments in the tense relationship between creators of scholarly and research materials, their employers and publishers. Specifically it will look at the following issues: the ownership of output of academic staff; the changes to copyright law brought about by developments in electronic materials; the relationship between librarians and publishers; and initiatives such as the Budapest Open Archive Initiative and SPARC. A primary focus will be the increasing concern that the employers of scholars have that the output from those scholars has potential value, both as a sellable product, but also that by taking ownership, the employers can reduce the costs of their libraries purchasing from commercial publishers. Another focus will be the three-way response of publishers to developments in technology, i.e., strengthening of the law, development of Digital Rights Management systems, and locking clients into contracts.

The talk will conclude with some thoughts about the future of authorship in the electronic environment.