



The Hidden Barrier: Copyright Literacy, Rights Transfer and Open Access Practices among Indian Researchers

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Supplementary Table 1 Questionnaire on Copyright Awareness and Open Access

Section A: Background

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Participant's Response

Could you tell me your discipline and the approximate number of publications?

Have you published more in Indian journals or international journals?

When you select a journal, do you worry about the impact factor first or whether it will be open access or not?

Section B: Awareness of Copyright Law

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Participant's Response

What rights do you think an author has over their published work under copyright law?

Are you aware of the difference between authors' moral rights and their economic rights?

Do you know whether copyright vests with you, your institution, or the publisher after you publish?

Are you familiar with Indian copyright provisions that permit fair dealing for education and research?

Section C: Experience with Copyright Transfer & Licensing

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Participant's Response

Have you ever signed a copyright transfer agreement with a publisher? If yes, did you read the terms carefully?

Have you come across or used Creative Commons licenses (e.g., CC-BY, CC-NC)?

Do you feel you retain sufficient rights to share or reuse your own publications?

Section D: Open Access Publishing

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Participant's Response

Have you published in open-access journals? If yes, under which model — gold (APC-based), green (self-archiving), or diamond (no fees)?

Are you aware of Plan S (Europe), NIH open access mandates (US), or India's open access policy (DST/CSIR/UGC)?

Does your institution have an open access mandate or repository?

Section E: Barriers and Perceptions

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Participant's Response

What legal or practical barriers prevent you from publishing open access (e.g., quality concerns, lack of copyright clarity)?

Have you faced situations where you could not share your own work due to copyright restrictions?

Do you think the current copyright law sufficiently supports open access?

Section F: Forward-Looking

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Participant's Response

What reforms would you like to see in Indian copyright law to encourage open access?

How do you see the balance between protecting authors' rights and promoting access to knowledge evolving in the next decade?
