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Becoming an author

Elke Brehm, Göttingen, 7th June 2016 Young Scientist Day

Agenda ohne Hintergrundgrafik



- 1. Introduction to copyright law
- 2. A licence agreement
 - Hands-on group work
 - discussion
- 3. A few short notes on Open-Access-Licences

Use of copyrightable works published on the internet



Copyright law is national law: applicable law depends on facts of the case

Similarities of national copyright laws:

- scientific texts, illustrations, abstracts, etc. will generally be protected by copyright law
- Fair-Use-Doctrine or statutory exceptions exist





Statutory exceptions (German Copyright Code)

Documents published online may generally only be used in part for the users "Own Use" ("eigener Gebrauch"):

Allowed e. g.: Download, store, read, cite, pass on to friends, make available small parts on password-protected platform for working group (for teaching/research purposes)

Not allowed e. g.: Make available entire text freely accessible for everyone online, create derivatives and distribute derivates to unknown Third Parties, commercial use

Exception: Open-Access-Licenses

Who is the author/"creator"?



Creator is the person who **created** the work ("copyright owner").

All rights to the work belong to creator.

Exceptions:

- work was created by several persons in close cooperation
- •work was created while fulfilling work obligations (right of direction of superior); not applicable for professors, doctoral students for their doctoral thesis
- •obligations to publish due to publication agreements (third party funding)

Rights of the creator – meaning of "copyright" (German Copyright Code)



Moral Rights:

protection of author's/creator's personal relationship to his/her work

- time and place of first publication
- attribution
- prevent disfigurement, interference

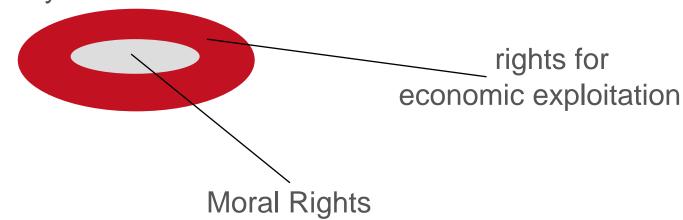
Economic exploitation of the work:

- copy
- distribute (~pass on digital or analogue copies)
- exhibition
- •"public representation": presentation, performance, making publicly available (~online-publication)

Licence contracts



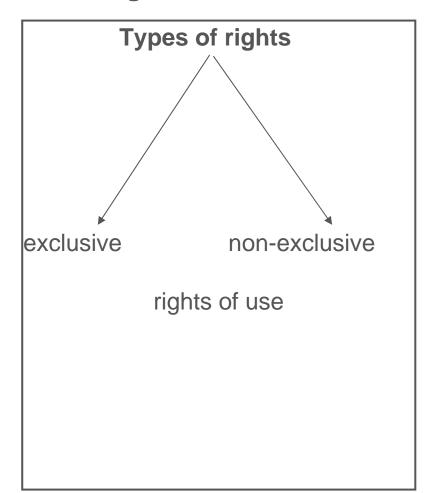
•in Germany copyright cannot be transferred to others completely



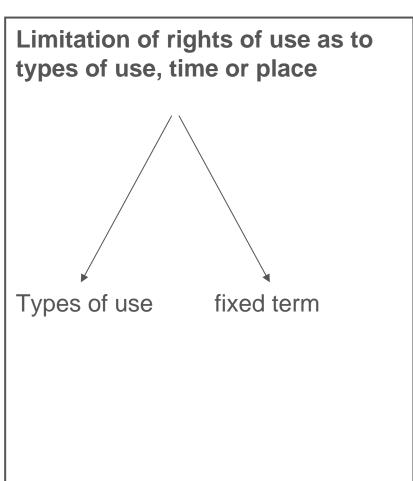
- •author/creator can transfer rights for economic exploitation
- •licence contracts are bilateral agreements in all countries

Licence contracts

to distinguish:







Publication

Licence contract

TIB

Content e.g.:

- title of publication and contractual parties
- scope of granted rights (exclusive non-exclusive, limitations of time, place and types of use)
- exemption from liability for violation of rights of Third Parties

Form of the contract: Written form (handwritten signature) only obligatory in special cases

But: Legal proof in court of law - email has low probative value

written form is recommended.

Publication



Primary publication: first-time publication of work

Secondary publication: Publication of work, which has already been published e. g. in institutional or subject specific repository or by a publishing company

Additional considerations:



- •Boundaries of **right to cite other publications** for scientific purposes
- •Patent law: No publication before official application to patent authorities
- •Data protection: Publication of information about specific identifiable individuals only with their explicit consent or in anonymised form

Open-Access-Licences



Creator can grant additional usage rights to the user which exceed statutory exemptions or Fair Use, e. g. ...

- to distribute work
- •to create derivatives of work, distribute derivatives
- •commercial use

They adhere to the recommendations of the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities http://oa.mpg.de/lang/de/berlin-prozess/berliner-erklarung/

Generally legally sound, have been subject of legal disputes in Germany

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Open-Access-Licences



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