

Information about publisher positions on prior publication and e-theses

In line with the majority of other UK Higher Education Institutions UWE Bristol has, since September 2013, adopted the mandatory deposit of doctoral theses in electronic form to the UWE Research Repository.

Researchers have expressed concern that this may impact on future publication of work which first appeared as part of an author's thesis. This document addresses those concerns.

In the Spring of 2014, Library Services contacted several major publishers on behalf of UWE Bristol, to try to establish the current picture. The responses are shown below.

- **Elsevier** – In general, Elsevier is permissive with respect to authors and electronic preprints. Where a paper was originally available as a thesis or dissertation, this is not generally viewed by Elsevier as 'prior publication' and therefore Elsevier will not require authors to remove electronic preprints of an article or e-thesis from public servers should the article be accepted for publication in an Elsevier journal.
- **Cambridge** – Individual journals have their own policies regarding what they might consider to be prior publication. It is not known that any Cambridge journals would view a thesis as prior. However, it is recommended that any author in this situation consults the journal's instructions for contributors or the editorial office before submitting a manuscript.
- **Springer** – Policy varies by journal but according to Springer: "There are no overriding ethical issues as long as the dual publication is transparent and cross referenced. Transparency is key, though a few journals might reject such an article for the reason of non-originality." (Information from [Massachusetts Institute of Technology](#).)
- **Taylor & Francis** – The policy varies from journal to journal; the individual editor would need to be consulted.
- **Wiley** – It would be the designated editors of each journal who can determine if research is suitable for publication, advise on the review period, and other related submission queries.
- **International Committee of Medical Journal Editors** – Will not accept articles that have already been publicly posted, but have no consistent position on e-theses.

The underlying message seems to be that an early publication plan would be helpful. Individual journal editors should be contacted and their opinions sought; if there are potential problems, an appropriate embargo could be requested. The UWE Bristol regulations allow pre-publications to be accepted as a possible reason for embargo if

publishers or journals will not accept for publication research that has been made available as an e-thesis.