

UVic to sign Access Copyright model license reluctantly and work with other universities on Open Access to research and teaching materials

The University of Victoria has informed [Access Copyright](#), a Canadian copyright collective, that it will sign the model license recently negotiated by the [Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada](#) (AUCC), which covers the costs of reproducing a range of digital materials for research and teaching purposes. During the three years of the license, the university will set up organizational structures and processes in order to be in a position to opt out of the license by the end of the term.

The costs of the license, which represent a 46 per cent increase in fees, are not considered sustainable in the long term and the philosophical underpinnings of the Access Copyright license are problematic in a range of areas such as the right to store digital materials and the payment for rights already granted under copyright legislation, such as copying or pasting hyperlinks.

The decision to opt into the license was taken reluctantly as a strategy to mitigate the risk of litigation by Access Copyright in the immediate future while giving the university time to work towards setting up internal structures and processes to protect the rights of faculty and students to use materials in their teaching, research and learning. The concerns that arise out of the Access Copyright license also highlight the need to move towards Open Access in order to ensure the widest possible distribution of UVic research and support free access to information created by faculty and researchers.

More information about the implications of the Access Copyright license and the advantages of Open Access will be coming soon from the University's [Copyright Office](#).