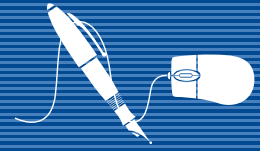




Beyond the Book



A Resource for Authors and Creators from Copyright Clearance Center

Got “Reverted” Rights?

By Cheryl Razin, Author Relations Coordinator

When a book appears in print, certain rights contained within the copyright to that book are contractually transferred from the author to the publisher. This transfer of rights isn’t necessarily forever—indeed, it typically expires when the book “goes out of print.” For many authors participating in Copyright Clearance Center’s programs, however, going out-of-print isn’t definitively the end of the publishing line for that book.

Authors may want to explore with their agents, or on their own, several possibilities to extend the life of any work. You may want to resell your book to another publisher, for example. Or you may want to take advantage of new technologies and investigate print-on-demand publishing solutions.

If you think demand exists for photocopying or for electronic distribution of your work in a corporate or academic setting, you may want to contact Copyright Clearance Center. We will be happy to work with you to determine whether you can provide rights for re-use of your previously published work that may not be readily available for dissemination today.

Out-of-print, Not Out-of-luck

Immediately upon an author’s creation of a book in a fixed form, the author’s literary expression of ideas is protected by copyright. While an author may have certain exclusive rights to the work he or she created, the rights typically granted to a publisher(s) include:

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- the right to reproduce the work and
- the right to distribute copies of the work to the public.

Generally, a publishing contract will include a ‘reversion of rights’ clause. A reversion of rights conveys control of copying rights from the publisher back to the author, or creator, of the material. Sometimes a publisher will automatically revert rights back to an author once a book has gone out-of-print. Sometimes an author may be required to send a written request to the publisher before rights will be reverted, even if all other conditions for a reversion of rights have been met.

If you think you may be entitled to a reversion of rights, review your publishing contract and send a written request to your publisher’s rights and permissions department asking for clarification on reclaiming these rights.

For more information about our Rightsholder Authorizations Agreement, contact Copyright Clearance Center’s Author & Creator Relations Department at authors@copyright.com, or call 800-982-3887, ext. 2420.

Cheryl Razin is Author Relations Coordinator for Copyright Clearance Center. She has been with CCC since 1995, starting as an Account Specialist working with academic and corporate content users, and in 1998, moving to the Author & Creator Relations team. Cheryl works extensively with various author and information industry trade organizations, as well as individual authors, and organizes events and publications for Beyond the Book, an educational program connecting authors, publishers, and others with experts on the latest business issues in publishing. Cheryl attended Bridgewater State College, earning a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration. Before coming to Copyright Clearance Center, she worked as an Account and Order Specialist for EBSCO Publishing, an information aggregator specializing in full text databases used in corporate, academic, biomedical, and government settings.

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