

## Institutional repositories and copyright in Greek academic libraries

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### ABSTRACT

Institutional repositories were created to collect, preserve, and make available the academic institution's scientific output. The purpose of this study is to investigate and illustrate how Greek academic libraries with institutional repositories deal with copyright challenges. The study aims to identify and describe if institutional repository managers apply a certain copyright clearance protocol, the problems they encounter, and how they deal with them. For this study, a quantitative research method based on questionnaires was employed. The questionnaire consisted of twenty-nine (29) questions separated into three (3) sections and was sent to thirty-one (31) academic libraries.

According to the survey results, the majority of academic libraries have an institutional repository and provide open access to its content. It was found that academic institutional repositories face intellectual property difficulties. The biggest issue highlighted was a lack of knowledge of the notion of copyright. Finally, communication amongst libraries seems to be the foundation for developing a common policy and addressing the difficulties that have arisen in institutional repositories as a result of Greek copyright legislation limits.

### KEYWORDS

Institutional repositories; Digital libraries; Intellectual property; Copyright clearance.

## Introduction

One of the roles of libraries is to provide free access to information, either through traditional means (written material) or by access to electronic resources or digital collections. Several factors, including technological advancement and the open access (OA) movement, have driven libraries to alter their services and roles to suit the expectations of the new era in recent decades. The advancement of information and communication technology (ICT) has resulted in new instruments and opportunities for the creation and dissemination of knowledge. The OA movement has established new possibilities for making knowledge available not only to researchers but also to the general population (Björk 2016). In reaction to these changes, libraries have begun to create digital collections by digitizing items in their collections, taking advantage of the opportunities initially offered by technology. The content of these digital collections varies and typically consists of items that must be protected from frequent usage or items for which copyright protection has ended. With the rise of the OA movement, digital or institutional repositories were established, primarily by academic institutions, to gather, make available, and promote their institution's scientific activities (Marsh 2015).

Members of the academic institution are authorized to present and provide open access to their work in institutional repositories through the procedure of self-depositing, skipping the usual publishing process. Grey literature makes up a sizable component of institutional repositories' collections (Marsh 2015). Many academic institutions and researchers have been depositing their manuscripts in institutional repositories in recent years, based on the imperatives of the OA movement, so that knowledge can be made available to the research community without financial or other constraints (Björk 2016).

Intellectual property rights are one barrier to libraries' freely offering access to knowledge. Intellectual property rights cannot be ignored or suppressed; they were enacted to protect creators' work from being plagiarized and commercially exploited by others. But to what extent may intellectual property restrict the free dissemination of knowledge? As previously stated, the OA movement seeks to limit these restrictions, and libraries are important allies in this effort. The ambition to enhance an institutional repository's collection with publications deriving from the scientific activity of the academic institution's members occasionally conflicts with intellectual property rights. Writers' rights to their work, as well as agreements between authors and publishers, frequently make depositing a work in an institutional repository unappealing. Clearing the copyright of a work is the process of identifying the copyright holder(s) of a work and obtaining permission to publish it in an institutional repository. It is a complicated and time-consuming procedure, and it is one of the most difficult issues that libraries face (Macklin 2013; Dawson and Yang 2016).

Having the aforementioned in mind, the purpose of this study is to discover what procedures academic libraries use to resolve copyright issues in their repositories. Furthermore, this study will investigate whether institutional repositories adhere to a defined workflow for the clearance process, who is in charge of the clearance process, what kinds of problems arise, and what services or technologies they employ to facilitate the task of copyright clearance. It will also examine whether academic libraries communicate with one another about copyright issues and whether they have formed common methods or policies to resolve those issues.

## Related work - Clearance of intellectual property rights

Looking through the literature on how institutional repositories deal with copyright issues, it appears that multiple methods of clearing copyright are documented, which are carried out by different groups of people. In the early years of institutional repositories' deployment, one of the most important criteria determining a repository's success was the clearance of intellectual property rights (Palmer et al. 2008). It was and still is a time-consuming and complex process, as a variety of issues, such as problematic communication between the author and the publisher (delay in responding to authors' queries, incomplete or ambiguous answers), very strict licensing conditions, and failure to keep proper records about the licenses granted, delay the clearance processes (Hanlon and Ramirez 2011).

But who is responsible for resolving the copyright riddle, the author or the institutional repository's library manager? In recent years, there has been a widespread belief that the obligation for copyright clearance lies with the authors. On the contrary, research suggests that the situation was different in the early years of the adoption of institutional repositories. In particular, it appears that in that era, librarians were in charge of copyright clearance procedures, even if the author was the one who submitted his/her work to the repository. They contacted publishers to learn about the agreements they had made with authors and recorded the policies of the publishers. Even if the repository's policy required the author to carry out the deposit (self-depositing process), librarians handled the copyright clearance (Hanlon and Ramirez 2011). However, as Dawson and Yang (2016) point out, in recent years, managers of institutional repositories, which are typically libraries, have been less involved in the copyright clearance process. Libraries have a management role in a repository that is related to the repository's technical operation or the provision of metadata. The author/depositor is responsible for deciding how to make the work available to the public, and if a publisher intervenes, libraries require authors to have obtained permission from the publisher to deposit their publication in the academic institution's repository. Indeed, Dawson and Yang (2016) discovered that the majority of libraries are not participating in the copyright clearance procedure after investigating the intellectual property policies of one hundred (100) US institutional repositories. Most institutional repositories provide information on copyright and the self-depositing process on their websites. However, a limited number of libraries take complete responsibility for copyright acquisition or have support staff available to authors to offer advice and guidance on publisher policies, and some libraries are willing to pay publishers to obtain the rights. In addition, some repositories provide a questionnaire to help authors explain copyright concerns during the depositing process to aid them in determining whether their work is subject to copyright during the depositing process. Finally, few libraries work with publishers on behalf of authors.

The issue of copyright is critical for libraries because it affects many of the services they provide to the public. Library services such as digitization, lending of digital documents, and distribution of copies (photocopies) are provided in collaboration with copyright holders with whom they have achieved a monetary compensation agreement or, in some cases, an exemption from copyright limitations. Budget limits are also a recurring issue for libraries, posing a barrier to their function in providing access to knowledge. In response to this worry, research was conducted in the United Kingdom in 1993 on the impact of rising scholarly publication costs and

university library budget cuts (Muir 2019). The Follett Report (Brindley 2006) sought to study how information and communication technology could be deployed to university libraries to address these issues. One of the major issues addressed in the report's conclusions was the limitations imposed by copyright restrictions on information access. The Follett Report's findings and suggestions prompted the establishment of the eLib (Electronic Libraries) project, which aimed to fund several initiatives to assist academic libraries in integrating information and communication technology into their services (Muir 2019). Although efforts to collaborate with copyright holders and managers were limited within the initiative, two projects excelled in this area. The ACORN (Academic Course Readings via Networks) and SCOPE (SCottish On-demand Publishing Enterprise) programs. Both programs aim to give undergraduate students access to electronic resources (journal articles, books). This was accomplished through the employment of two distinct methods. On the one hand, they contacted publishers collectively, as was done with the ACORN program, where program administrators gained the trust of the publishers to participate in the program by working with a company that acted as an intermediary between the library and the publishers on subscription and copyright clearance issues. On the other hand, a strategy for copyright compensation was established, as was done in the SCOPE project. Academic libraries essentially established a pricing model for copyright payments and negotiated the final price with each publisher separately.

Another service that has emerged and aids in the copyright clearance procedure is the SHERPA/RoMEO service. It gathers copyright policies from publishers. However, according to numerous users, the information it offers is not always sufficient. The reasons for this are primarily found in the fact that such services are frequently not properly informed about publishers' policies and the versions of publications that they allow for a deposit (e.g., post-print, pre-print, etc.), and they also do not provide accurate information about the text of the agreement between the publisher and the author (Hanlon and Ramirez 2011). When the information provided by the SHERPA/RoMEO service is insufficient, repository managers often make direct contact with publishers. According to Hanlon and Ramirez's (2011) survey, the majority of respondents contacted publishers for each publication individually. E-mail is commonly used for communication. They also reported that a small percentage sought and obtained general permission from the publisher to grant permission to deposit in the repository publications of researchers who had any form of collaboration with the academic institution. This way, they ensured that future publications by researchers could be deposited in the repository according to the terms of this agreement, thus reducing staff time spent on copyright clearance and avoiding frequent contact with publishers. Regardless of how they communicate and enter into an agreement with the publisher, several librarians reported keeping a record of their communication with publishers, and some others even attaching the publisher's permission with the file of the publication to the repository.

In another survey, Palmer et al. (2008) report that copyright clearance processes are time-consuming and reduce the success of a repository. As a result, they argue that copyright management strategies must become more automated and coordinated to provide a common ground for dealing with these issues, which will also increase the repository's impact. There are areas of the copyright clearance workflow that could be improved, such as the development of a standard form of communication with publishers, more regular communication on this topic among information scientists to handle difficulties jointly, and the development of common policies.

A very similar survey was conducted by Yoo and Kim (2013) to investigate the copyright clearing methods for electronic document delivery in Korea. More specifically, the survey revealed that when it comes to copyright clearance for works published outside of Korea, Korean libraries have several options, including negotiating an agreement directly with publishers; establishing an agreement with, and paying royalties to, copyright collectives; establishing bilateral treaties with national copyright collectives; establishing a framework agreement with the organizations representing copyright holders; and incorporating extended collective licensing into the Korean copyright law.

Finally, Prandoni, Valentini, and Doerr (2009) proposed a paradigm for digital rights clearance based on the assumption that clearing intellectual property rights has become too complex and time-consuming to be done manually. More specifically, they presented an intellectual property rights domain ontology based on four levels of abstraction: (1) the legal framework, (2) the individual rights people hold, (3) the individual usage agreements right holders and others may issue, and (4) the specific actions that are restricted by intellectual property rights regulations or bring particular rights into existence.

To summarize, it seems that dealing with copyright issues is dependent on the nature of the material. The authors have the burden of obtaining copyright clearance. Authors are responsible for resolving intellectual rights issues with publishers, although there are libraries that either serve as advisors to authors throughout the copyright clearance process or engage in a contractual deal with publishers to provide them with access to the material they need. Some libraries develop their own policies with publishers in order to enter into an agreement with them while offering the option to withdraw from the arrangement in the future if there is a disagreement. Some institutional repositories allow authors to opt-out of the mandated deposit process or to submit an updated version of their article rather than the final version of the publication (Dawson and Yang 2016).

## Methodology

In this line of thought, the purpose of this study is to discover what procedures university libraries in Greece use to resolve copyright issues in their repositories. To be more specific, a quantitative research approach was used to carry out this study. Quantitative research provides an objective method of investigating and testing certain hypotheses or topics. It is based on the collection of data through the use of a questionnaire and allows data to be collected and analyzed to reach a conclusion (Godwill 2015).

To begin with, we investigated international and Greek indexes (i.e., ROAR, OpenDoar, and OpenArchives), which index repositories that offer OA in their content, in order to determine how many institutional repositories are handled by Greek academic libraries in terms of numbers (see Table 1).

Table 1: Greek academic institutional repositories

	Total Greek repositories	Repositories of Greek academic libraries	Other
ROAR	17	16	1
OpenDoar	31	21	10
OpenArchives	23	22	1



Because the above indexes do not represent the total number of institutional repositories and because academic institution mergers brought about changes to academic libraries as a result of the implementation of Law 4610/2019 “Synergies between universities and universities of applied sciences, access to higher education, experimental schools, General State Archives, and other regulations,” we chose to investigate the websites of each academic institution separately. As a result, the research sample included thirty-one (31) university libraries.

A questionnaire was created, consisting of twenty-nine (29) questions. It was divided into three (3) sections. The first section, which consists of eight (8) questions, deals with the identity of the repository. The second one, which consists of six (6) questions, deals with the academic community in terms of its relationship with the repository and intellectual property issues, but as perceived by libraries, and finally, the last section, which consists of fifteen (15) questions, deals with the copyright clearance process. The questionnaire was anonymous and was sent to thirty-one (31) academic libraries. It was sent in three (3) phases. The first one was done in two parts on 8/2/2021 and 10/2/2021. The second, which was in the form of a “kind reminder,” took place on 22/2/2021, and the third was a new dispatch on 8/3/2021. Twenty-five (25) of the thirty-one (31) questionnaires sent were returned, meaning that the response rate is rather high (i.e., 80.65%).

## Results

### Identity of the institutional repository

The first section of the questionnaire refers to the identity of the institutional repositories and gives us a general insight into their usage. More specifically, in response to the first question about whether the library has a repository, twenty-one (21) of the twenty-five (25) responses were positive (i.e., 84%) (see Figure 1).

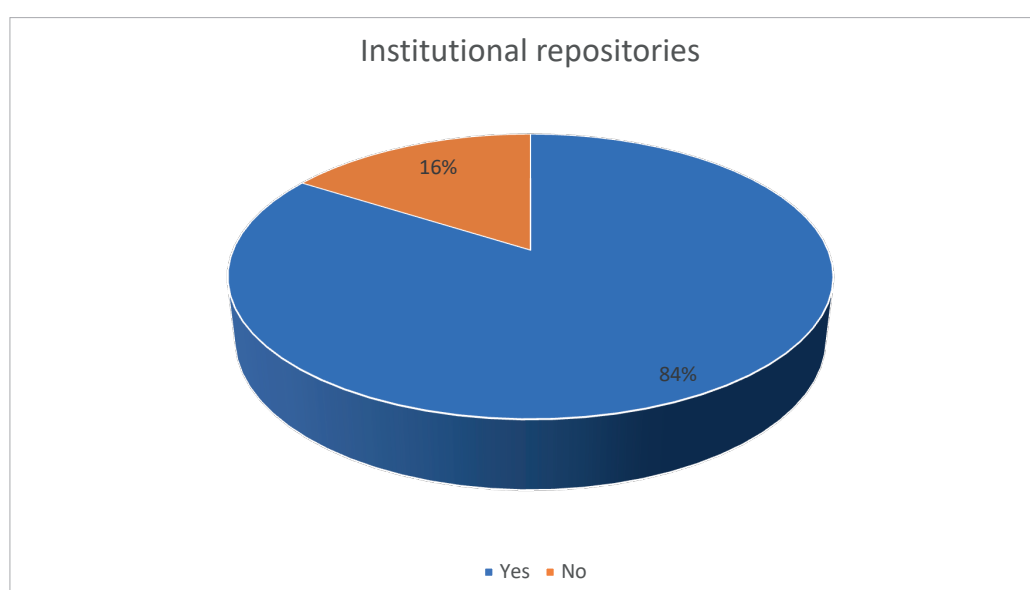


Figure 1: Existence of Institutional repositories

In the second question, we notice that nine (9) repositories were established in the first decade of 2000, while twelve (12) were established in the second decade (i.e., 2010 and after) (see Figure 2).

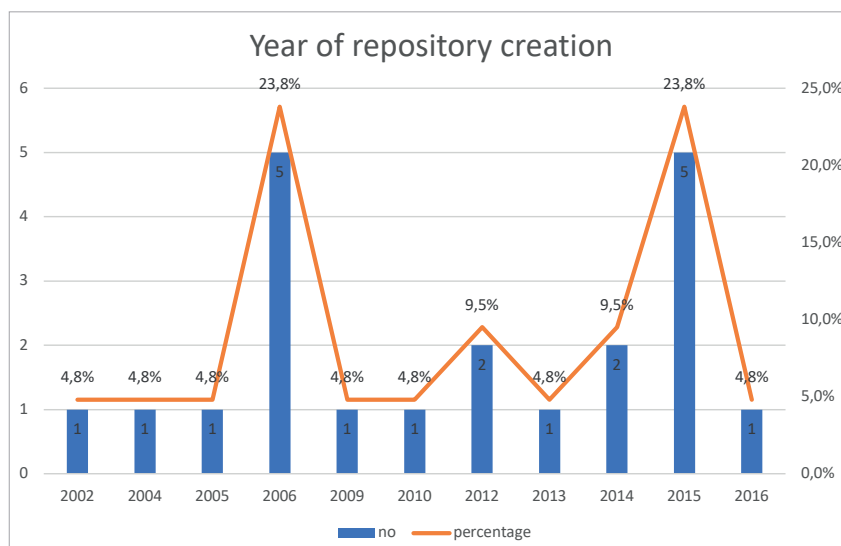


Figure 2: Year of repository creation

Who has the authority to make deposits in the repository? Of course, the majority of 95,2% (i.e., 20) are students, which is to be expected given that most academic institutions require students to deposit their thesis or dissertation to complete their studies. Also, in the majority of repositories, professors (81%, i.e., 17), researchers collaborating with the academic institution (47,6%, i.e., 10), administrative staff (38,1%, i.e., 8), graduates of the institution (19%, i.e., 4), and doctoral candidates (4,8%, i.e., 1) have the right to deposit. Finally, one library says that it deposits works belonging to the public sector that it has digitized, whilst another does not permit self-deposit in the repository, meaning that the deposit is made by the library (see Figure 3).

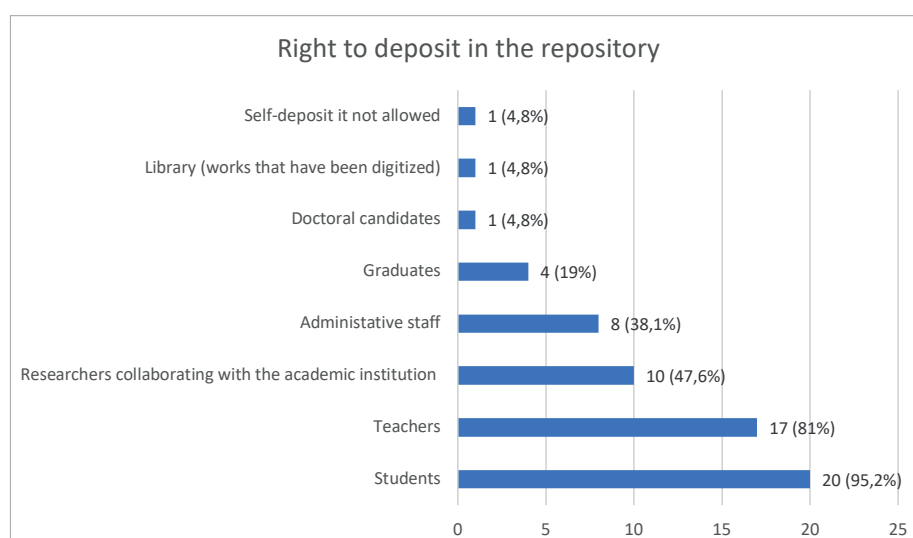


Figure 3: Right to deposit in the repository

Whereas the previous question examined who has the authority to deposit in the repository, question four (4) asks about “who is obliged to deposit in the institutional repository.” For the reasons described in the preceding question, students have the highest proportion (i.e., 100%, 21), whereas professors (i.e., 9,5%, 2) and doctorate candidates (i.e., 4,8%, 1) have substantially lower percentages (see Figure 4).

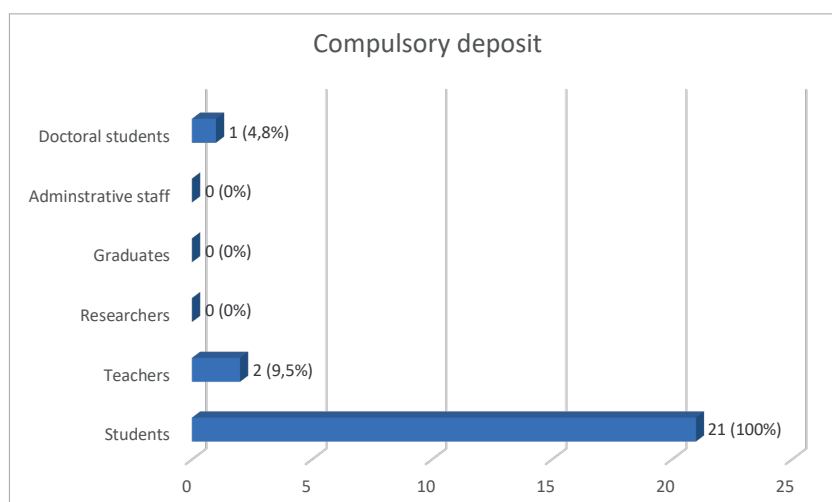


Figure 4: Compulsory deposit in the repository

When the participants were asked about the management of the institutional repository and who is responsible for this task, we note that the management of the repository is a task that necessitates the collaboration of experts from several domains. With a 100% (i.e., 21) percentage, librarians are unquestionably the ones who are responsible for the operation of the repository. Next, with 33,3% (i.e., 7), are the IT specialists, who probably collaborate with the librarians on technical issues. Other professionals are the repository manager with 23,8% (i.e., 5), who is probably an employee who deals exclusively with the institutional repository, and finally the administrative staff with 4,8% (i.e., 1) (see Figure 5).

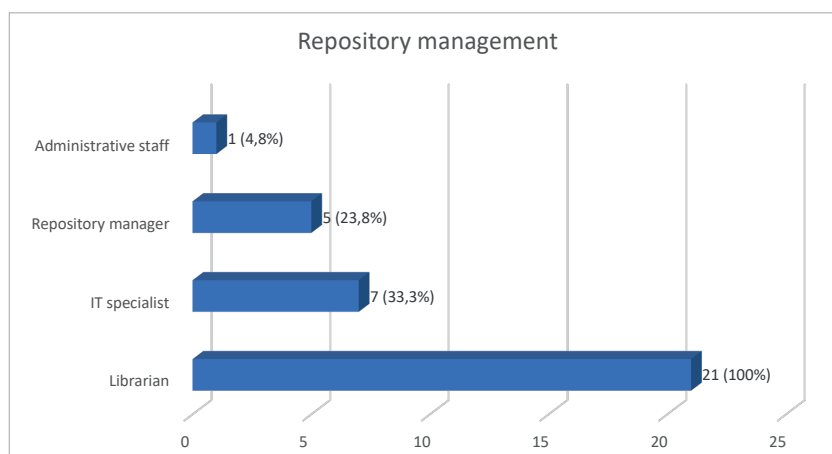


Figure 5: Repository management



The materials included in the institutional repositories are theses 90,5% (i.e., 19), doctoral dissertations 85,7% (i.e., 18), bachelor theses 71,4% (i.e., 15), journal articles 52,4% (i.e., 11), pre-prints 42,9% (i.e., 9), post-prints 33,3% (i.e., 7), publications of the academic institution and conference presentations with 38,1% (i.e., 8) respectively, professors' textbooks 23,8% (i.e., 5), e-books 19% (i.e., 4), e-journals 14,3% (i.e., 3). Also, to a much lesser extent, some repositories have audiovisual material, photographic and historical archives, audio files, songs and videos, technical reports, and studies (see Figure 6).

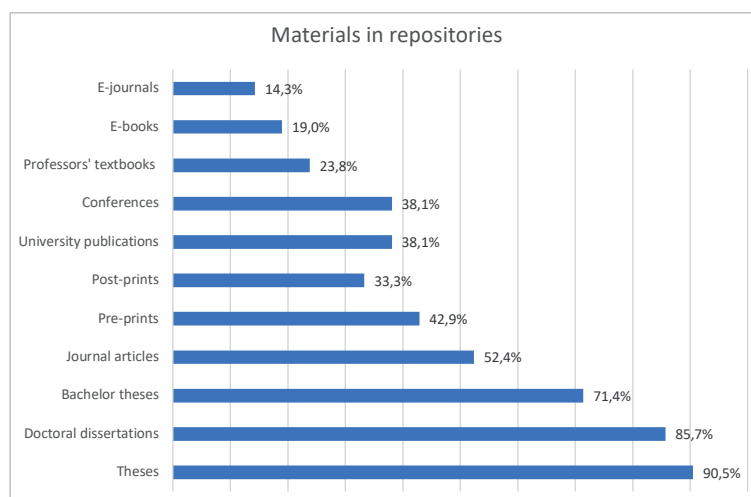


Figure 6: Materials deposited in academic repositories

Moving to the next question, it seems that access to the majority of repositories is unrestricted. However, 19% of the repositories have restricted or limited access, which means they are only available to registered users who are members of the academic community. Repositories also reported that while providing OA, they provide some flexibility, such as offering closed access for three years if asked. There is also a library that specifies that special authorization from the author is required for theses. Finally, there is a library where the access policy is determined based on the type of work or the specific circumstance (see Figure 7).

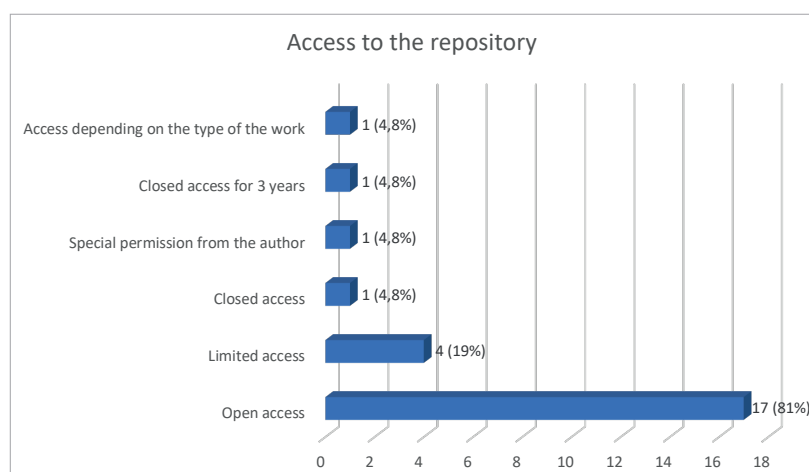


Figure 7: Access to the institutional repository

Who is responsible for depositing a work in the repository? The authors are responsible in most cases (i.e., 71,4%, 15). Librarians follow with a relatively high percentage (i.e., 52,4%, 11), followed by the repository manager (i.e., 19%, 4). Also mentioned a case where the author makes the deposit through the self-deposit process, but the librarian gives the final approval (Figure 8).

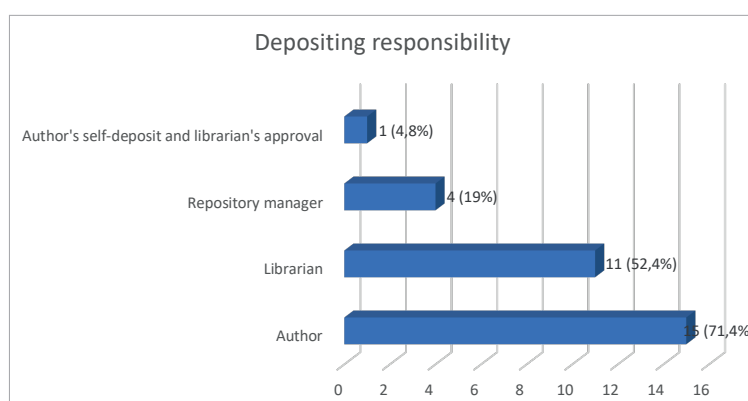


Figure 8: Self-depositing or not?

To summarize, we can conclude from the first section of the questionnaire that the majority of academic libraries have an institutional repository. The vast majority of them offer open access to their content. Most members of the academic community (students, professors, researchers, graduate students, administrative staff, and so on) have the right to deposit papers or publications in the repository, though it is mandatory for students in all libraries and, to a lesser extent, professors and doctoral candidates. Librarians administer the institutional repository with the assistance of other professionals, such as IT specialists. Finally, while authors are in many cases responsible for depositing their work in the repository, librarians are often involved in or completely responsible for the process.

### Academic community – Institutional repository

This section explores how libraries perceive the academic community's relationship with the institutional repository. From the results, we can observe that there is generally a positive attitude from the academic community towards the repository (i.e., 95%, 20) (see Figure 9).

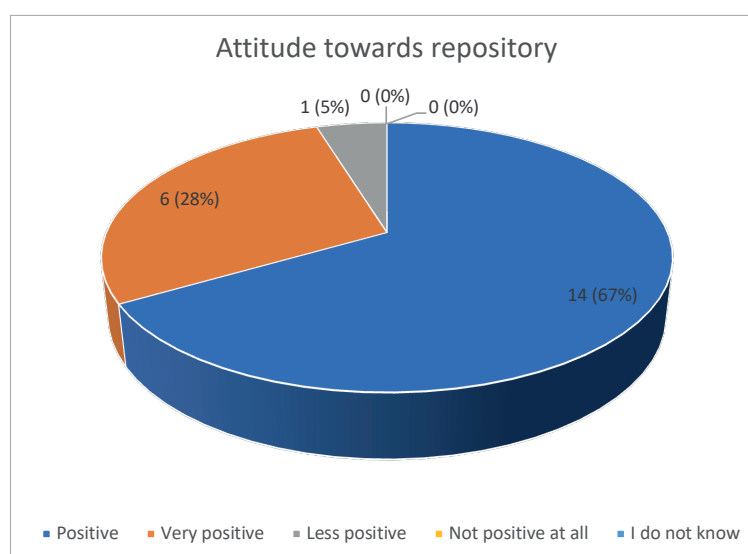


Figure 9: Attitude towards the institutional repository

Members of the academic community participate by depositing their works in the institutional repository to a fairly satisfactory degree, with a percentage of 47,6% (i.e., 10), while there are also cases of low participation (i.e., 9,5%, 2) (see Figure 10).

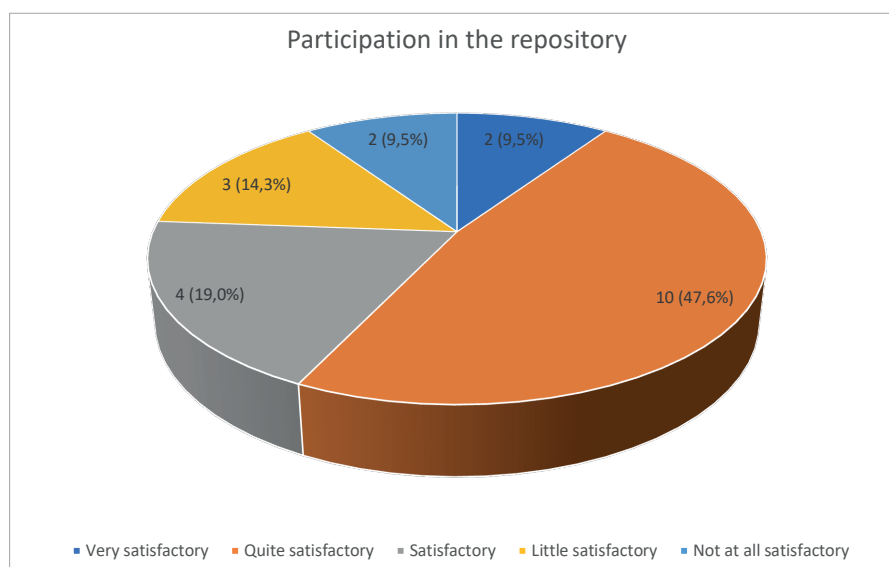


Figure 10: Participation in the institutional repository

Important information is provided by the question of whether the library provides information to members of the academic community about intellectual property. Almost all libraries (i.e., 95,2%, 20) provide such information, which can be interpreted as an indication that they understand how important intellectual property issues are for members of the academic community as well. Only one library stated that it does not provide this information (i.e., 4,8%) (see Figure 11).

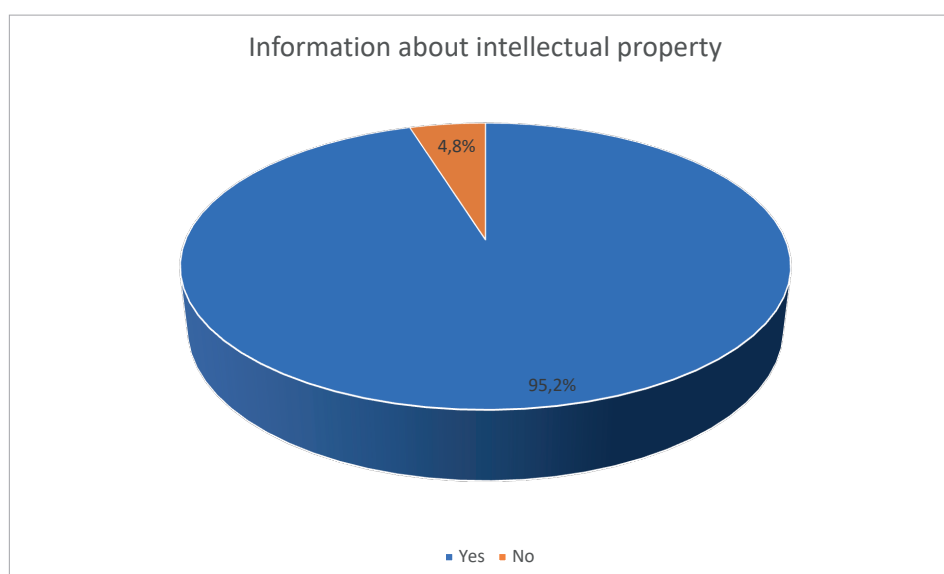


Figure 11: Information about intellectual property

How does the library communicate intellectual property to members of the academic community? Initially, 71,4% (i.e., 15) are informed during the workflow of depositing a work in an institutional repository. With the same percentage, we observe that librarians provide advice and information about copyright. Other ways to inform the academic community include the provision of additional information on the repository's website (i.e., 66,7%, 14), the hosting of educational/training programs to inform the community (i.e., 33,3%, 7), and finally, the provision of advice by a lawyer with whom the library collaborates (i.e., 4,8%, 1) (see Figure 12).

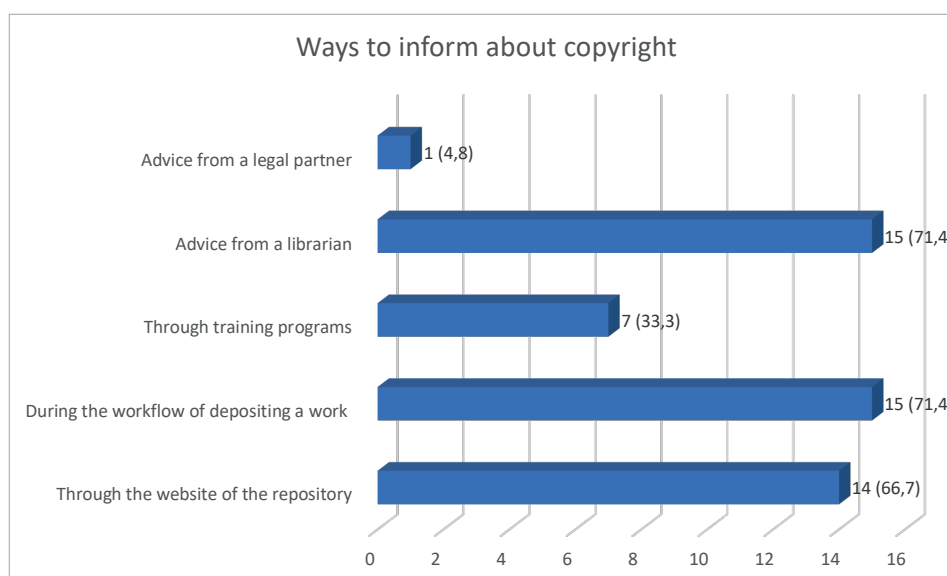


Figure 12: Ways to inform about copyright

When participants were asked whether the authors who deposited in the repository had reported problems related to intellectual property issues, most of them answered negatively (i.e., 57,1%) (see Figure 13).

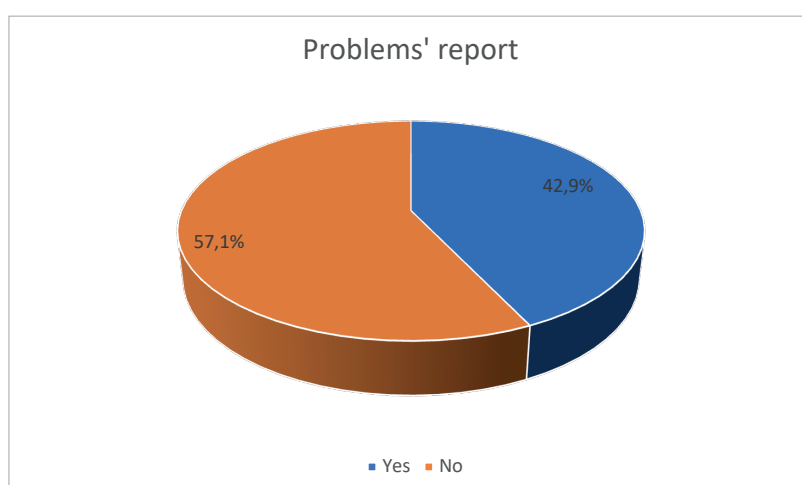


Figure 13: Problem report

The problems commonly reported by authors concerning copyright are difficulty in selecting a license during the submission of the work (i.e., 38,1%), difficulty in understanding the concepts of copyright (i.e., 33,3%), unfamiliarity with the concepts of copyright (i.e., 23,3%), permission to deposit in the repository from the publisher (i.e., 9,5%), and a case of plagiarism (i.e., 4,8%) (see Table 2). Such problems seem to have arisen from a lack of information and education since most academic libraries in Greece do not provide information literacy courses to their users as part of the educational process (information literacy in the curriculum) (Derakhshan and Singh 2011).

Table 2: Problems concerning copyright

	Answers	Percentage
Difficulty in selecting a license during the submission of the work	8	38.1%
Difficulty in understanding the concepts of copyright	7	33.3%
Unfamiliarity with the concepts of copyright	5	23.3%
Permission to deposit in the repository from the publisher	2	9.5%
Plagiarism	1	4.8%

## Copyright clearance procedure

The final section of the survey investigates the copyright clearance process. More specifically, when participants were asked whether libraries have a policy on the copyright clearance process, the majority (i.e., 52,4%) responded negatively, while 33,3% responded positively. Furthermore, some libraries reported that the depositor signs a document stating that he/she has made proper and legal use of third-party works, or that there is no such procedure because depositing theses and dissertations is mandatory, whereas depositing other publications (e.g., journal articles, conference papers, etc.) requires consent from the publisher (see Figure 14).

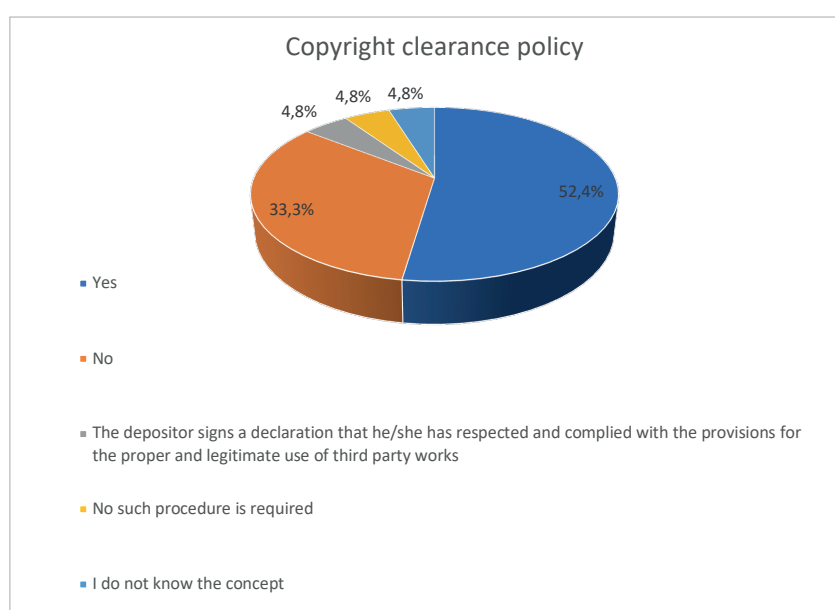


Figure 14: Copyright clearance policy

When asked who is in charge of the copyright clearance process, the majority of participants (61,9%) answered authors/creators, followed by librarians (23,8%), while a minor but significant finding is that the legal department of the academic institution is in charge of this process. Furthermore, several libraries indicate that they lack a policy or are unaware of the concept (see Figure 15).

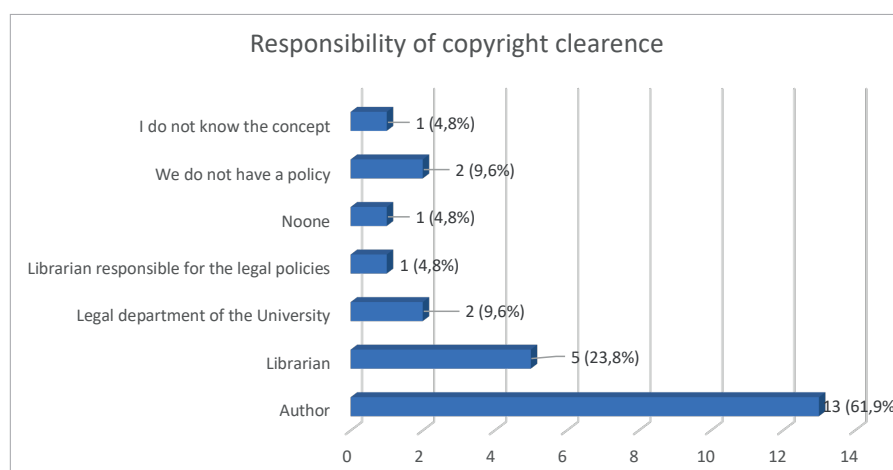


Figure 15: Responsibility for the clearance of copyright

As we noted in the question on whether libraries have a copyright clearance policy, most of them answered negatively. The same can be seen in the question of whether there is a workflow model for this process, where again the largest percentage (i.e., 52,4%) answered negatively. There are also smaller percentages reporting that they do not know the concept of copyright clearance. However, a percentage of 23,8% answered positively to the same question. Libraries that answered positively report that they resort to services such as SHERPA/RoMEO and publishers' websites to gather the necessary information. When submitting a work, the author is also responsible for copyright clearance. In the case where the library deposits content in the repository, it makes sure to make contact with the authors to ask for the necessary permission, while in the case where a work belongs to the public domain (work that is freely available and can be distributed without restrictions, only the author should be mentioned), no action is taken, which is in line with the declarations of the OA.

When it comes to what type of material is more challenging, as expected, the highest percentage (i.e., 23,8%) is journal articles. This is followed by post-prints, theses and dissertations, and doctoral dissertations with 19%. Also, other already mentioned materials are pre-prints and conference presentations with 14,3% respectively, professors' texts with 9,5%, and e-books with 4,8%. Finally, some libraries report that they have not encountered any problems.

As far as it concerns the problems that libraries face in the copyright clearance process, we identify the following. Limited staff time and difficulty in understanding the concepts of intellectual property by authors are the problems that gather the highest percentage (i.e., 23,8%). This is followed by reduced library staff and the limited experience of staff in intellectual property issues (i.e., 19%). Other problems include the inability to obtain permission from the author or publisher,



understanding the publisher's copyright policy, or the inability to locate the agreement made with the author.

What tools or resources do libraries use to facilitate the copyright clearance process? The main service they use is SHERPA/RoMEO (i.e., 57,1%, 12), followed by the Heal Legal service of the Hellenic Academic Libraries Link (i.e., 52,4%, 11), contacting publishers or searching for publishers' policies on their websites (i.e., 28,6%, 6) or contacting authors (i.e., 28,6%, 6). Some libraries also report that the legal department of the academic institution also assists (see Figure 16). These tools are beneficial to libraries in 52,4% of the cases, while 23,8% of the respondents said that they are ineffective in facilitating the process. Reference is also made to the legislation, i.e., that it is unclear or even incomplete in the field of theses and dissertations.

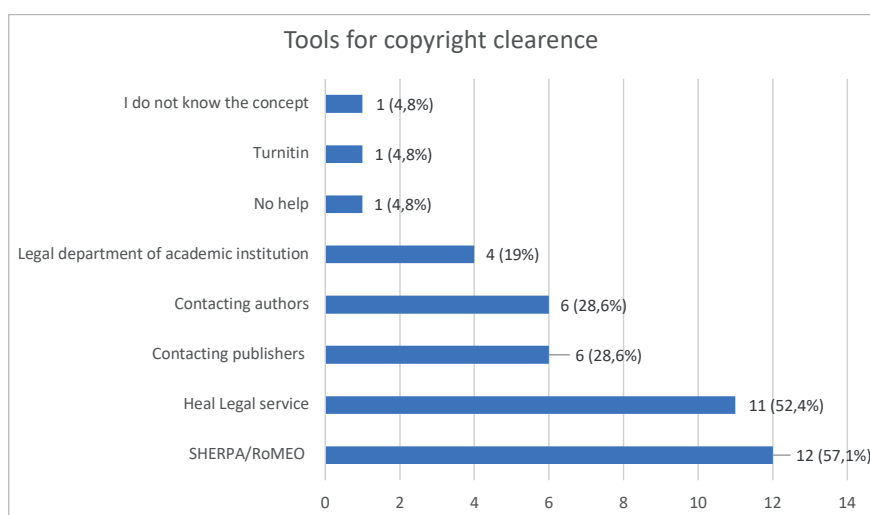


Figure 16: Tools or resources libraries use to facilitate the copyright clearance process

What tools, services, or actions could facilitate the copyright clearance process for libraries and authors? Education of library staff and members of the academic community on copyright issues (i.e., 61,9%) is one of the most necessary actions identified by the respondents. This is followed by the library working with a legal advisor (i.e., 38,1%), as expected since intellectual property concepts are difficult to understand. Cooperation and communication between academic libraries to jointly address problems arising from intellectual property rights is also suggested by 28,6%. Finally, the suggestion to enter into an agreement with publishers to provide permission for publications by members of the academic institution is highlighted by 19% of the participants (see Table 3).

Table 3: What could facilitate the copyright clearance process?

	Answers	Percentage
Education of library staff and members of the academic community on copyright issues	13	61,9%
Library working with a legal advisor	8	38,1%
Cooperation and communication between academic libraries	6	28,6%
Enter into an agreement with publishers	4	19%

When asked whether the library contacts publishers to obtain permission for previously published material, the majority of the participants (i.e., 61,9%) answered negatively. This is most likely due to the fact that the repositories currently only host grey literature, such as theses and dissertations (Chantavaridou 2009). However, there is a proportion of 23,8% who contact publishers (see Figure 17).

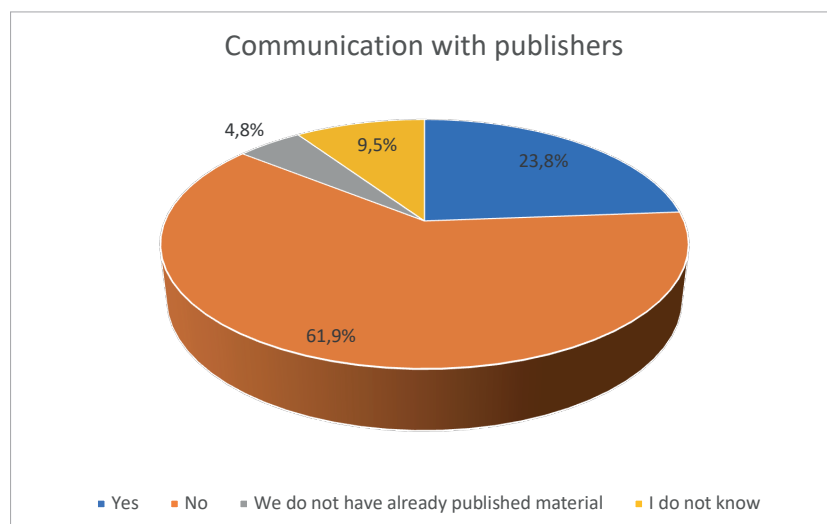


Figure 17: Communication with publishers

Where there is a successful arrangement with the publisher to obtain a license, 33,3% indicate that the license is provided at no financial cost, while a small proportion, 9,5%, claim that some compensation has been paid to the publisher for acquiring the license. There are also other circumstances where the repository does not include material that requires permission from a publisher or where the publishers are the authors themselves, in which case contact is made with them. When asked if the library's budget covers the costs of the copyright clearance process, the vast majority of libraries responded negatively (i.e., 85,7%), with only one library responding favorably (i.e., 4,8%) (see Figure 18).

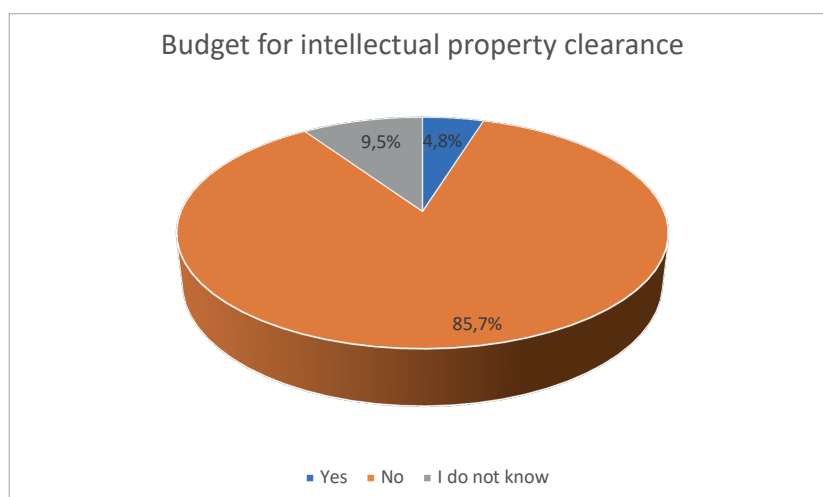


Figure 18: Budget for intellectual property clearance

Is there communication concerning copyright issues among academic libraries? The majority of libraries (57,1%) responded negatively, but there is also a 33,3% who transmit their experiences to other libraries. In addition, one library (4.8%) is willing to disclose any information needed (see Figure 19).

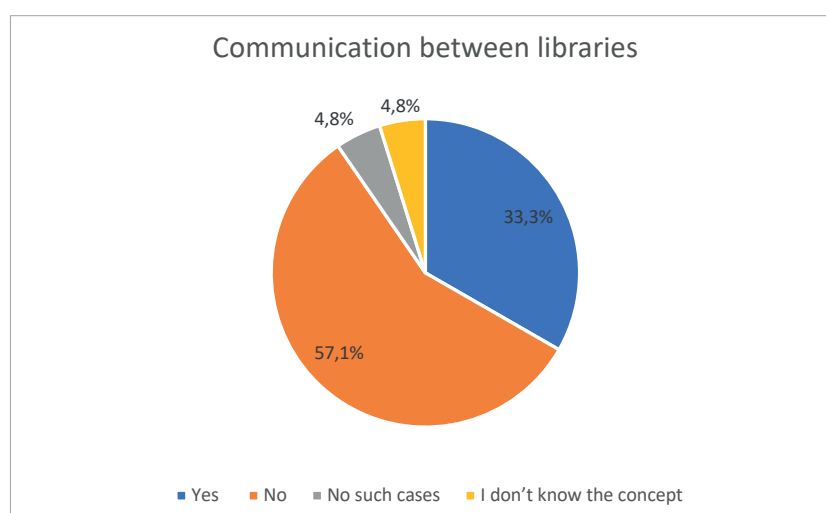


Figure 19: Communication between libraries

Additionally, meetings with academic library staff to exchange knowledge and experience (i.e., 38,1%), e-mail communication (i.e., 33,3%), or telephone communication (i.e., 4,8%) are the most common methods of communication with libraries. Libraries also provide information on their websites (14,3%) or through postings on forums (9,5%).

Finally, an open-ended question asked the respondents if they would like to make any further comments on the copyright clearance process. Comments indicated that the legislation is unclear, that the information provided to library staff by the academic institution on copyright issues is insufficient, and that the reduced library staff does not allow them to be involved in monitoring the copyright clearance process.

## Discussion

This study aims to describe the copyright issues that Greek academic libraries managing institutional repositories encounter, as well as the solutions they adopt to address these issues. To begin with, as stated in the literature review, the majority of academic libraries have an institutional repository. We may say that most libraries accept and encourage the OA declarations because access to their content is free and unrestricted in most repositories. There are also repositories that give restricted access, i.e., solely to members of the academic community that they serve. As a deposit in the repository is required for the completion of studies, the majority of their content consists of theses and dissertations. Such a finding is in complete agreement with Chantavaridou's (2009) research. However, they may also include doctorate dissertations, journal papers, pre- and post-

prints, professors' texts, e-books, and other materials. The duty to deposit theses in repositories primarily affects students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, with only a few repositories requiring professors and doctorate candidates to do so. Of course, in addition to the community members mentioned above, administrative staff and senior graduates of the academic institution have the right to deposit items in the repository. The academic community also participates to a satisfactory extent in the institutional repository and has a positive view of its operation and the purpose it serves. One of the purposes of institutional repositories is for the author to deposit his or her work in the repository (self-depositing). According to the survey, this principle is true because authors are responsible for depositing their work in the repository. However, a relatively high percentage of librarians are also involved, possibly carrying out the process entirely or supervising or even providing assistance during the depositing process.

As indicated in the literature review, the academic community is frequently reluctant to get involved in the repository, expressing fears of copyright infringement of their works as well as a lack of understanding of intellectual property concepts. In this study, we discovered that the majority of community members who deposit their works in the repository have not voiced any worries regarding intellectual property issues. If they do report an issue, it will be an inability to comprehend which license to select during the deposit procedure. However, incidents of difficulties in understanding or ignorance of intellectual property principles are also documented, which is consistent with the findings of Dawson and Yang (2016).

In terms of the copyright clearance process, more than half of the libraries surveyed stated that they do not have a specific policy. A lower percentage, on the other hand, stated that they have a policy that primarily entails contacting publishers or authors to resolve copyright issues. They also use services like SHERPA/RoMEO, the Heal Legal service, or search their websites for publisher policies. As stated in the literature review, the author is in charge of the clearance procedure. Librarians are referenced as well, albeit to a lesser extent. They are often not solely accountable for the process, but rather play a supporting role. A noteworthy conclusion is that four libraries state that the process is handled by the academic institution's legal department. This statement is significant since having the assistance of a legal practitioner in these situations is quite beneficial and relieves authors and librarians of the "burden" of this arduous duty. Such a finding contradicts the results of Hanlon and Ramirez's (2011) study, in which the university legal department did not provide any advice to libraries about institutional repositories or the copyright clearance process.

Moreover, difficulty in understanding the concepts of intellectual property, limited library staff, limited time, lack of experience in intellectual property issues among existing staff, inability to obtain a license from the author or publisher, and the inability to locate the publisher's agreement with the author are some of the issues that libraries face during the clearance process. They usually have issues with journal articles, post-and pre-prints, professors' texts, and theses and dissertations.

To obtain a license, the vast majority of libraries do not contact publishers. This is largely due to the fact that the repositories' content is primarily comprised of grey literature (theses and dissertations). However, as previously stated, many libraries lack a copyright clearance policy. Only those that have such a policy communicate with publishers. As a result, when this contact occurs, the vast majority of publishers provide permission without monetary remuneration. However, a small number of libraries report paying compensation to publishers. Based on the findings above, we can assume that publishers are more tolerant and will enable publications to be deposited in

an institutional repository without financially burdening libraries. This is an important element to consider because the majority of libraries reported that their budgets do not include costs for intellectual property issues.

Additionally, we focus on what libraries suggest to facilitate the copyright clearance process:

- Educating the academic community and library staff on copyright issues
- Collaborating with the legal department of the institution
- Establishing an agreement with publishers to grant permission for publications by members of the institution

Finally, the academic community's knowledge of intellectual property and communication among academic libraries are critical. As far as it concerns the library community, participants reported that there is not much communication between libraries to share experiences and information and that when there is communication, it is primarily through meetings or e-mail. Due to the complexities of intellectual property concerns, researchers emphasized communication between libraries as a crucial aspect that would help to better inform and resolve issues efficiently.

## Conclusions

The goal of this study was to offer a thorough picture of Greek institutional repositories of academic libraries and how they deal with copyright issues. To summarize the survey results, the first insight we have is that most university libraries have established an institutional repository that serves as an active service to the academic community.

In the area of copyright, the survey shows that Greek academic institutional repositories face challenges from intellectual property issues, but they share them equally with the authors who deposit in the repository. We base this conclusion firstly on the fact that to a large extent the responsibility for depositing a work in the repository lies primarily with the authors. The same can be said for the copyright clearance process. It is the author's responsibility to carry out this process to obtain the necessary permission to deposit the work in the repository. Most authors of course do not report any problems in the clearance process, but there is a considerable percentage that has problems mainly in understanding both the licenses to choose when depositing the work and in understanding the concepts of copyright.

A small number of members of the academic community report difficulties in obtaining permission from publishers, which is likely expected given the limited number of publications published in journals or books in Greek institutional repositories (Togia et al. 2018). Libraries, on the other hand, are more likely to declare they do not have a copyright clearance policy. This is most likely due to the fact that authors are in charge of the clearance process, or because the copyright clearance process itself incorporates some fundamental procedures that help facilitate it without the need for another policy.

There is also a significant number of libraries that state to have a copyright clearance policy. When a library undertakes the clearance procedure, it typically uses services such as SHERPA/RoMEO to identify a publisher's policy or contacts publishers or authors to gain the necessary permissions. In addition to SHERPA/RoMEO and contacting publishers, libraries can benefit from the Heal Legal service, which gives copyright assistance to academic libraries. Something intriguing is that

a small number of libraries indicate that the university's legal department assists with intellectual property issues and also handles copyright clearance. The participation or involvement of the legal department in the future will immensely benefit libraries and members of the academic community, as intellectual property principles can be difficult to grasp in some cases.

Because of the involvement of publishers and the constraints they impose, the content with which they are most concerned is journal articles. Other types of material include theses, dissertations, and doctoral theses, most likely because the research results of these manuscripts will be published in a journal or book in the future, so there is an agreement with a publisher, or because, as previously stated, the most difficult problem that authors face when depositing in the repository is difficulty in choosing a license.

By completing the study, we identify specific areas where their implementation could ease some of the procedures relating to intellectual property issues. The first observation may be described as a "common request" from libraries and members of the academic community for training on intellectual property concepts to make them more comprehensible. Libraries provide information to members of the academic community either through the repositories or the website, as well as through training programs. Perhaps intellectual property information should also be included in the curricula of academic institutions, as it is essential knowledge for future scholars. In the library sector, communication between professionals is one of the most important factors. The survey shows a low degree of communication between libraries. Frequent communication between libraries can lay the foundations for the creation of common policies as well as a common approach to the problems that arise in Greek institutional repositories due to the restrictions imposed by intellectual property rights.

Future work should be targeting other types of libraries (e.g., public libraries and special libraries) that have undertaken major digitization projects and their policies on copyright clearance.



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