

# A HOSTAGE SITUATION

## Electronic Resource Licenses, Information Access, and the Classroom



UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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### Electronic Resource Licenses

Licenses govern what library users are allowed to do with E-Resources. The terms of the licenses often depend on the vendor and library's bargaining power.

### The Problem With Licenses



#### No Alumni Users:

Libraries teach students the value of scholarly sources, credibility, and participating in the scholarly conversation, but upon graduation, **alumni can no longer access this important knowledge.**



#### Restrictions of Use:

Unless stated in the Agreement, **Licenses trump Copyright.** That means Licenses restrict how our communities can use the Licensed Content. For example, printing, downloading, display, course reserves, ILL, and scholarly sharing can all be restricted by the Licenses.



#### Diversity of Licenses:

**Each License is different**, so it can be hard for librarians and students to get a handle on the variety of terms of use.

### Licensing Terms to Know



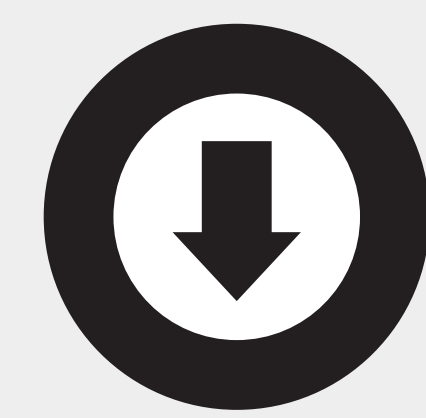
**Authorized Users** outlines who can use the resource. It usually includes faculty, staff, students, and walk-ins.



**Printing and Downloading** may or may not be allowed. Some licenses even outline if licensed content can be displayed or if downloaded items need to be deleted upon cancellation.



**Scholarly Sharing** occurs when an authorized user shares a part of the resource, like an article, with someone outside of the institution.



**Systematic Downloading** is when a large amount of licensed content is downloaded in a short amount of time. This is not allowed by most licensors and can cause IP addresses to be blocked. Systematic Downloading can be done by bots, crawlers, or even triggered by citation managers.



**Course Reserves/Electronic Linking** terms may or may not allow for materials to be incorporated into course reserves, linked to from a course management system, or put in a course pack.

### Now What?

#### Things you can do:

- Most licenses require that their Terms of Use be displayed and available for users. **Know where you can find these terms at your library!**

#### Things to do in the classroom:

- **Be transparent** with students about the realities of proprietary library resources and the terms that come with them.
- **Discuss how to find and utilize Open Access Resources** in class and also use Open-Education Resources and materials in teaching.
- **Teach strategies** on how to get access to materials outside Academia.

#### How you can advocate:

- **Collaborate with librarians negotiating agreements at your library.** If it has not been done already, discuss the terms that would be most important for your students.

**For further information and references:**  
<https://go.umd.edu/Uvx>

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