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# How to get back the rights to your books

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# How to Get Back the Rights to Your Books

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# Today's Agenda

- What is **Rights Reversion**?
- How can you get your rights back?
- How can Digital Scholarship Services help you?

**Disclaimer: We aren't lawyers!**

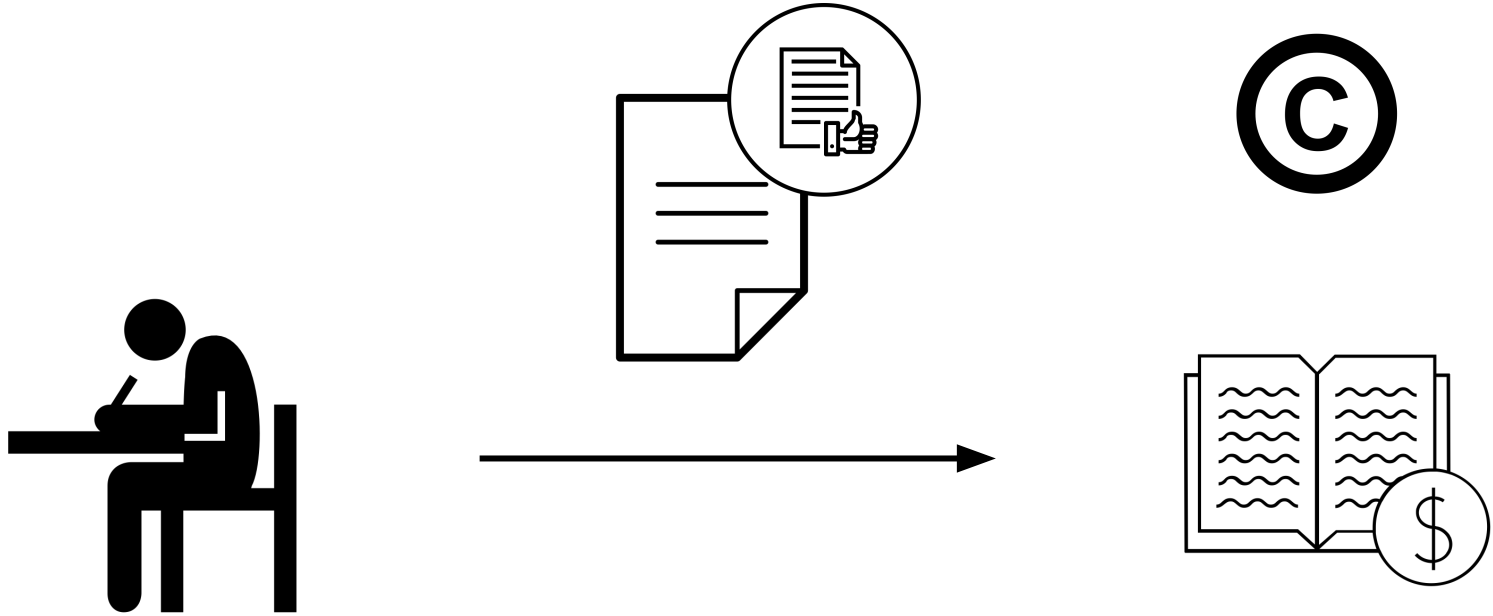
**We provide education so that  
you can make an informed  
decision.**

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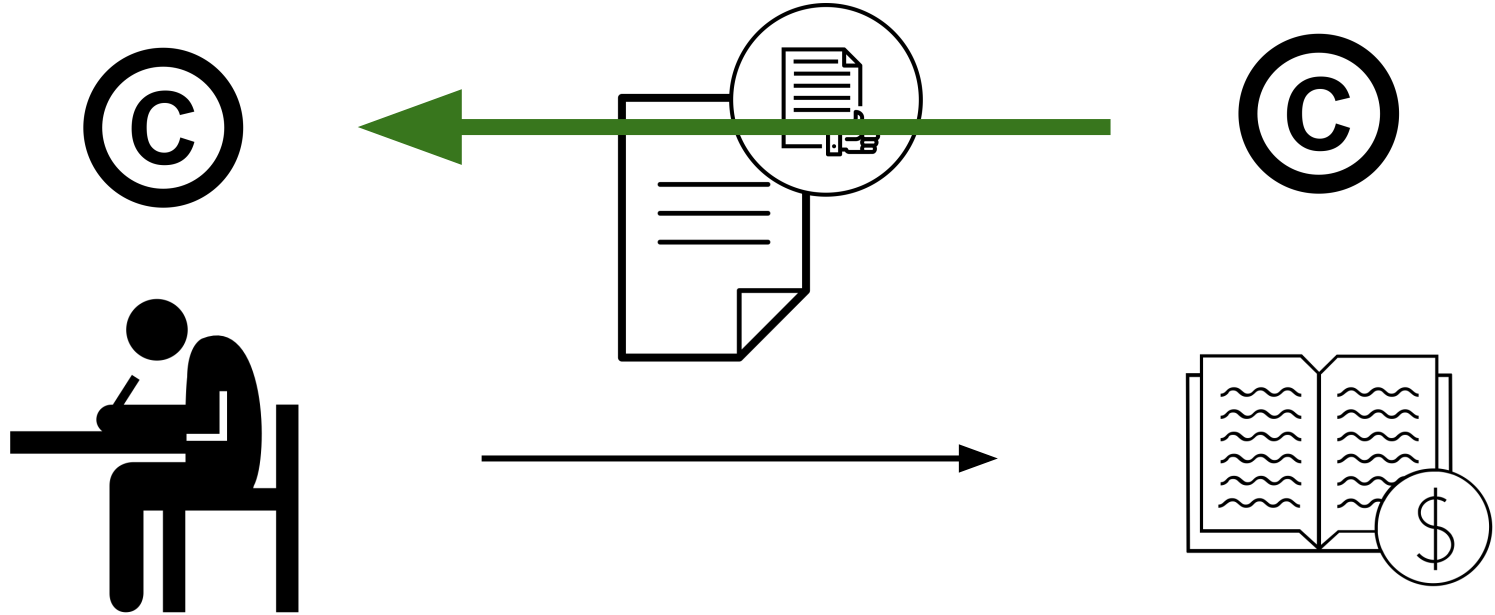
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# What is Rights Reversion?

# Copyright Transfer to Publisher



# Rights Reversion



# RIGHTS REVERSION

**Contractual provision** that allows an author to **regain some or all rights** in their book when **certain conditions** (i.e., out of print, revenue or copies sold under certain value) are met

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## After you regain your rights, you can:

- Create a digital edition and make it openly available online
- Use content from your book in a new work
- Create an updated edition
- Release an ebook edition

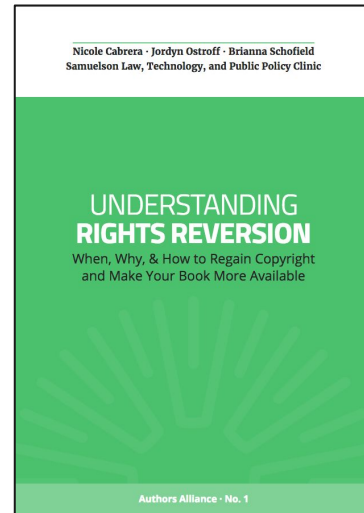
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**How do you go about getting  
your rights back?**



# Readings for Getting Your Rights Back

- + Success stories from authors <http://bit.ly/2gpOoIA>
- + Authors Alliance booklet: “Understanding Rights Reversion”  
<http://bit.ly/1z5tn8Q>





# Develop A Plan For What You Want To Do With Your Book

- + Find out what your publisher intends to do with your book in the future.



## Evaluate Your Publishing Agreements

- A. If you already have the rights or if you have a *reversion clause* (See p.42-44 in the booklet). If not:
- B. May be able to regain rights using Termination of Transfer provision:

Try the ToT Tool <https://rightsback.org/>



Related note: Think about your book's commercial lifecycle



# Send a Rights Reversion Letter to Your Publisher

- + Find a contact at your publisher and work with them to maintain your rights going forward.
- + Sample letters here: <http://bit.ly/2gqO1NP>

N.b. You don't need a reversion clause in your contract to start the conversation!



## After Reversion: Making Your Work Open

- A. **Digital editions:** Track down copies, and unlock them (HathiTrust, Google Books, or Internet Archive)
- B. **Print-only editions:** Scan and OCR to make available online

Note: We can help!

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**How can Digital Scholarship  
Services help you?**





## DiSc Services

- Consultations with referrals
- Assistance or guidance on digitization
- Find a digital archive, such as [OpenBU](#) and [Internet Archive](#), to:
  - make your books openly accessible (indexed in Google Scholar)
  - help preserve them for the long-term (with a permanent URL)

Contact us: [disc@bu.edu](mailto:disc@bu.edu)



## Upcoming Events

Transcribe-a-thon - Mon. 10/16, 12-2pm, Mugar 302

Public Domain Film Fest Lunch - Wed. 10/18, 12-1pm, Mugar 302

Copyright Workshop: Mon. 10/30, 3-4pm and Tues. 10/31, 10-11am

See: [tinyurl.com/OAMonth17](https://tinyurl.com/OAMonth17)