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See also Questions 26–30.

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Version of Record: final published version.

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General queries

26. **What is copyright?**

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27. **Why does IOP request transfer of copyright?**

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1. Owning copyright comes with certain obligations which Publishers are well placed to carry out. For example, the owner of copyright needs to respond to requests for permissions from other authors and Publishers and from institutions perhaps for course packs. There is also the obligation to negotiate licences with institutions and sub-licences such as with document suppliers. Then there is the duty to register copyright in certain jurisdictions. We believe that Publishers are better placed to do these things than authors. For example, do authors really want to familiarize themselves with the procedures for registering their copyright in certain jurisdictions?
2. Then there is the issue of multiple authors who would automatically own copyright jointly. If they retained copyright they would have to deal with all the above on a joint basis. Having a single copyright holder eases the management of copyright. One party can deal with these things much more easily than a multitude.
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4. In addition, it makes enforcement of rights much easier, enabling IOP to protect the work against infringers. Authors rarely defend themselves against infringers, pirates and plagiarists as they do not have the expertise, time or money to do so. IOP is much better placed to do this.
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6. For further discussion of this issue please see also the STM position paper **Publishers Seek Copyright Transfers (Or Transfers Or Licences Of Exclusive Rights) To Ensure Proper Administration & Enforcement of Author Rights.**

7. Finally, note that IOP does not take a copyright assignment for supplementary material (see Question 23 above.)

28. **Why does IOP believe it needs exclusive rights?**

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