Self-archiving dermatology articles

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Manuscripts, like embryos and tumors, develop in stages (Table I), and dermatology authors increasingly expose this development to examination by self-archiving—that is, by posting manuscripts or published papers on personal Web sites and in public repositories (Table II)[1] before, simultaneous with, or after publication in academic journals.[2-5] When authors publish in closed-access traditional journals, self-archiving makes their work accessible to those without subscriptions or medical-library access (including peers in developing countries and the lay public) and may also improve the preservation of digital content[6,7]; a downside of self-archiving, however, remains the potential loss of revenue to scientific societies dependent on subscriptions or manuscript access fees.[8]

When deciding whether and, if so, at what stage(s), to self-archive, authors should examine the policies of journals to which the final manuscript will be or has been submitted. Although few do so, publishers may prohibit self-archiving. In other cases, self-archiving before publication may decrease the likelihood of a manuscript's acceptance. SHERPA/RoMEO[6] lists the self-archiving policies of more than 300 journals.[9] Volunteers contribute SHERPA/RoMEO data, so there is no guarantee that it is current; prospective authors should verify a publisher's current policies with the publisher directly.

We commend the *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*'s (*JAAD*'s) publisher, Elsevier, and its owner, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), for the *JAAD*'s permissive self-archiving policy.[10-12] This policy allows *JAAD* authors to post (1) preprints prior to submission and (2) articles

Table I. Stages of manuscript development

Draft	A composition (manuscript) before submission; ideally drafts undergo multiple rounds of development and revision.
Submission	"Finished" manuscript submitted for publication consideration
Revision	Manuscript changed in response to comments by the peer reviewers and editor
Accepted manuscript	Manuscript accepted for publication
Copyedited manuscript	Manuscript refined by journal staff or contractors, largely for correctness, clarity, conciseness, and consistency with journal style and format
Uncorrected proof	Preliminary version of the formatted paper, to be checked by the author(s) and editor(s)
Preprint or corrected proof	Corrected version of the above; at this stage, issue and page numbers may or may not be assigned.
Forthcoming article	An accepted article in line for print publication; some journals, such as the *JAAD*, publish some forthcoming articles as an electronic publication ahead of print.
E-publication ahead of print	Final formatted paper available via the journal's Web site
Postprint or article on paper	Paper in the print journal

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Table II. Selected online repositories listed alphabetically

Repository (Year initiated)	Description*
arXiv: http://arxiv.org/ (2005)	"E-print service in the fields of physics, mathematics, nonlinear science, computer science, and quantitative biology."
The Depot: http://depot.edina.ac.uk/ (2007)	"The Depot has two main services on offer: 1. a re-direct service, with the Depot acting as a gateway, especially to repositories at UK universities (institutional repositories) 2. a deposit service for e-prints, with the Depot acting as a national repository for researchers not yet having an institutional repository in which to deposit their papers, articles, and book chapters (e-prints)."
DSpace at MIT: http://dspace.mit.edu/ (2003)	"MIT's online institutional repository—built to save, share, and search MIT's digital research materials."
E-LIS: http://eprints.rclis.org/ (2002)	"Research in computing and library and information science."
JournalReview.org: www.journalreview.org (2004)	JournalReview.org provides authors a means of adding supplemental content to published work and colleagues a medium for discussing published literature.
MERLOT: http://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm (1997)	"MERLOT's vision is to be a premiere online community where faculty, staff, and students from around the world share their learning materials and pedagogy."
PubMed Central www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/ (2001)	Official repository of published research funded by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). All investigators shall "submit or have submitted for them to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central an electronic version of their final, peer-reviewed manuscripts upon acceptance for publication, to be made publicly available no later than 12 months after the official date of publication."[1]
University of California eScholarship Repository: http://repositories.cdlib.org/escholarship/ (2005)	"The eScholarship Repository. . .enables the rapid and low-cost creation, management, and dissemination of journals, peer-reviewed series, working papers, discussion papers series, and other electronic forms of scholarship by UC researchers."

*Descriptions of numerous additional repositories can be found at the Registry of Open Access Repositories (ROAR, http://roar.eprints.org/index.php?prev=Prev&page=all). Descriptive quotes were taken from the respective websites listed.

Table III. Glossary

ArXiv	Large electronic archive of physics, mathematics, computer science and quantitative biology papers (www.arXiv.org)
Author self-archiving	The storing of a digital version of an author's work on a publicly accessible Web site (eg, the author's Web site, author's institution's Web site, or another digital repository.
Citation advantage	Increased citation of a manuscript.
Digital Object Identifier (DOI)	A unique identification number purchased by a publisher for the work*
Open access	Making published papers available to all readers over the Internet without charge—via the efforts of authors (a.k.a. the green road to open access) or publishers (a.k.a. the gold road to open access)[16]
SHERPA/RoMEO	Resource that provides a summary of permissions that are normally given as part of each publisher's copyright transfer agreement. Volunteers contribute these data, so there is no guarantee that it is current. Prospective authors should verify a publisher's current policies with the publisher directly.

*For example, our recent *JAAD* article, "Frequently asked questions regarding self-plagiarism: How to avoid recycling fraud" (J Am Acad Dermatol. 2007;57:527)" has the following DOI: doi:10.1016/j.jaad.2007.05.018.

after submission on their personal Web sites and their institutions' Web sites if the posting includes the article's citation and either a link to the *JAAD*'s home page or the article's digital object identifier (DOI)—a unique identification number purchased by a publisher to identify the work on the Internet persistently.

The additional work for authors constitutes a minor barrier to self-archiving. Although self-archiving is not difficult, it may take 10 to 20 minutes to upload one's first paper and 10 or fewer minutes to upload subsequent papers.[13] Despite the ease of self-archiving, and the enhanced exposure to a paper that self-archiving affords, many authors remain unaware of its benefits.[14] Because of the lack of familiarity, medicine has been slow to adopt new publishing models. However, now, like computer scientists and physicists who have been self-archiving articles for many years,[15] all physicians, including dermatologists, should consider self-archiving their articles more routinely and promoting journals with permissive self-archiving policies (Table III).[16]

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