Publishing Contracts: Hypotheticals

With a partner, review the hypotheticals below. Be prepared to share your answers and discuss them with the group.

Suppose you are on the editorial board of the (fictitious) Journal of Ann Arbor Studies. The journal’s goal is to disseminate peer-reviewed scholarship about Ann Arbor as broadly as possible. It receives $10,000 a year from the membership dues of its sponsoring academic society, the Ann Arbor Studies Association, but it has no other income beyond what it gets from selling and licensing the journal. The board wants to revise its standard publishing agreement.

- What provisions would you want in that agreement?

Suppose you are publishing an article or monograph for the first time.

- Why are you publishing? What qualities would most motivate you in selecting a venue for your scholarship?
- Suppose your first-choice venue accepts your work. What contract provisions would you have to have before signing the agreement? What provisions would be nice?

Suppose you are a recently tenured professor publishing an article or monograph.

- Why are you publishing? What qualities would most motivate you in selecting a venue for your scholarship?
- Suppose your first-choice venue accepts your work. What contract provisions would you have to have before signing the agreement? What provisions would be nice?