**In this video I will examine copyright ownership.**

You may have seen these images on the internet before. They are somewhat famous as they are selfies taken by a monkey. A photographer maintains that he enabled these photos by setting up his photographic equipment in a jungle. Who then owns the copyright in these photos? I’ll give you time to think about this question and come back to it later.

**Normally in the first instance the creator owns the copyright in what they have created. Whether it’s the author who wrote the novel, the painter who painted the painting, the photographer who took the photo.**

**HDR candidates own the copyright in their research outputs (such as articles, theses and data sets)**

**Under Griffith’s Intellectual Property policy, Griffith as the employer owns the copyright in research outputs created by staff, but encourages staff to publish these outputs.**

When two or more people each contribute what is called a “significant portion” to a work, there is joint copyright ownership. So if you write an article with your supervisor, and you both contribute significantly, there is joint copyright ownership. These contributions don’t need to be equal, they just need to be “significant”.

Copyright ownership can depend on agreement. For example if your project comes under an externally funded agreement, the copyright and other IP created under that agreement may belong to the external party. Feel free to contact me for advice.

Copyright protection can last for a long time. For a written work such as a book or article, copyright protection lasts for the life of the author plus 70 years. The duration can depend on the type of work. For an edition (for example a new edition of Shakespeare’s works) the copyright protection lasts for 20 years. Once a work is out-of-copyright, anyone is free to use the work.

**Many of you will be publishing articles. In about 90% of the time, authors sign over (or assign) their copyright in their article to their publisher (in their publishing agreement).**

**Once you sign over your copyright, you will need permission from your publisher to reuse your article (for example you will need permission to include your article in your thesis for publication). I will speak more about this later.**

Back to the monkey. Believe it or not, an ethical treatment of animals organisation took the question of copyright ownership in these photos to a Californian Court on behalf of the monkey. The Court determined that the monkey was not the owner as it wasn’t human. No one owned copyright in the photos. In Australia, there needs be the work of a human hand for copyright to exist.