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First, although you are free to behave as you want with regard to materials for which you have the sole copyright (or for which there is no copyright), your ability to share other people's works, where the copyright is not yours, or not solely yours, e.g. stories, poetry, or songs, depends on what copyright law applies and what agreements you have in place. If you recorded poetry by an indigenous poet, followed by transcription and translation, in the absence of a copyright assignment, the poet would own the copyright. Surprisingly, you could own the copyright to the translation but still not be able to make full use of it because someone else owned the copyright to the underlying work in the original language. You might have an explicit or implicit licence to use the poetry or story in your scholarly work, but you might not have obtained the right to make copies to send back and distribute in multiple form to the author's community or country. This could prove to be an unpleasant oversight where the researcher finds himself caught in the middle between local scholars, librarians, and archivists, on the one hand, who expect to have access to the full panoply of research materials, and indigenous poets, praise singers, and storytellers, on the other hand, who demand control over their artistic output in the home setting.

Second, even if there are no copyright problems to deal with, there may be contractual issues. For example, the research lab under whose auspices you did the research might have rules or embargoes on the external sharing of the materials, or the organization that funded the research might have archiving requirements and related conditions covering the distribution of field materials. These requirements are independent of copyright issues and have to be adhered to on their own terms.

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The main difficulty with published works is that the publisher typically demands a transfer of rights as a condition of publication, such that the field researcher often relinquishes his or her ability to make full and free use of the work. The fieldworker may have been the initial author, and thus the initial copyright holder, but after publication may discover that she lacks the right to make copies to send back to the people where she worked, clearly an embarrassing situation. The solution is to anticipate the bottleneck before it happens and take steps in advance to alleviate the problem.

In the case of journal articles and chapters in edited volumes, the author needs to understand that he does not have to sign the preprinted contract but rather can preserve desired rights through sensible negotiation. Although publishers typically ask for copyright assignment pure and simple, they are becoming increasingly aware that they do not need all of these rights and that they can function just as well by being author-friendly. For example, *Language*, the flagship journal of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), has a very progressive Author's Agreement which allows authors to retain a large number of important rights.¹⁶ However—and this was probably an oversight—the agreement does not include a provision allowing fieldworkers to make copies of their articles to send back to their field sites. Fortunately, even if the publisher hasn't anticipated authors' needs in the boilerplate agreement, most are now open to contractual adjustments on an ad hoc basis. Thus, if the author writes and says, 'I would like to be able to make copies of my article in paper or electronic form (e.g. PDF or Word) to share with field assistants and colleagues and