

Keeping the user in the workflow: IR licensing for mediated deposits

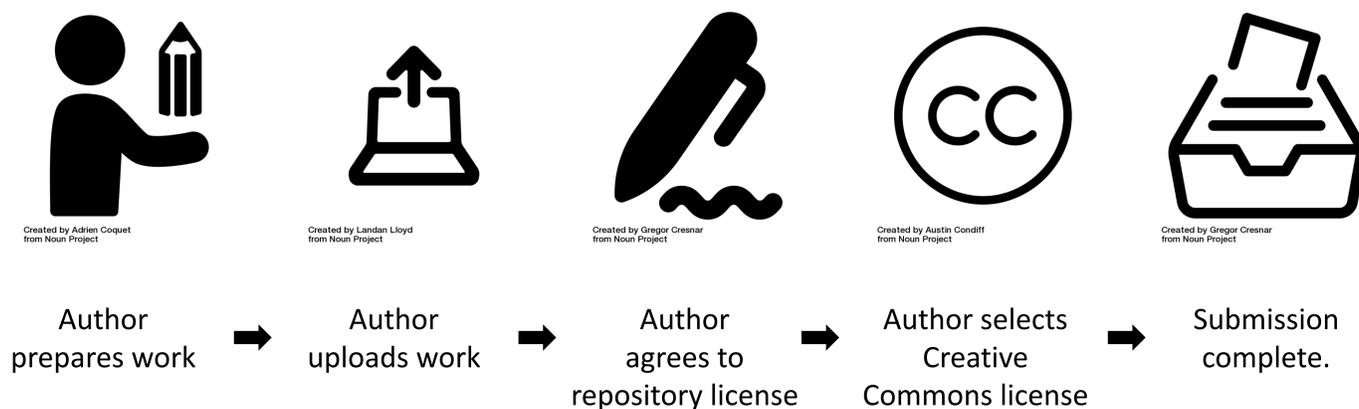
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Background

The practice of mediated deposit of content to Institutional Repositories (IRs) is widespread. For Cornell University's DSpace installation, eCommons, approximately 80% of deposits are mediated.

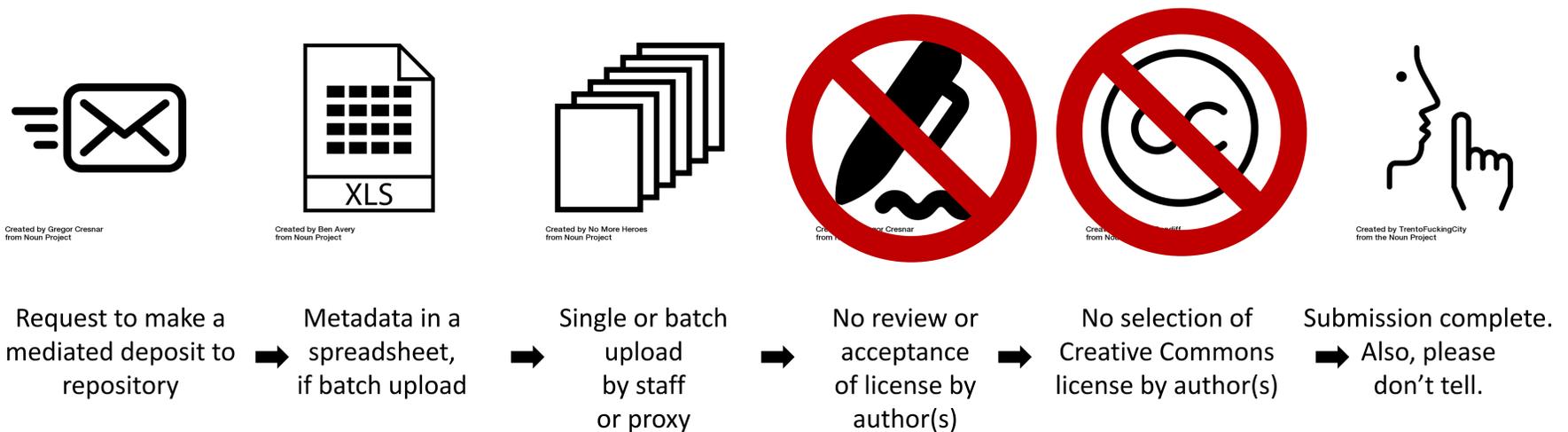
Idealized submission workflow

An IR deposit workflow typically involves presenting the uploader, presumed also to be the author or rights holder, with a license agreement granting the service provider the non-exclusive rights required to provide the service. Mediated deposit complicates the process of obtaining permission from the rights holder and removes them from the licensing process.



(One) realistic submission workflow

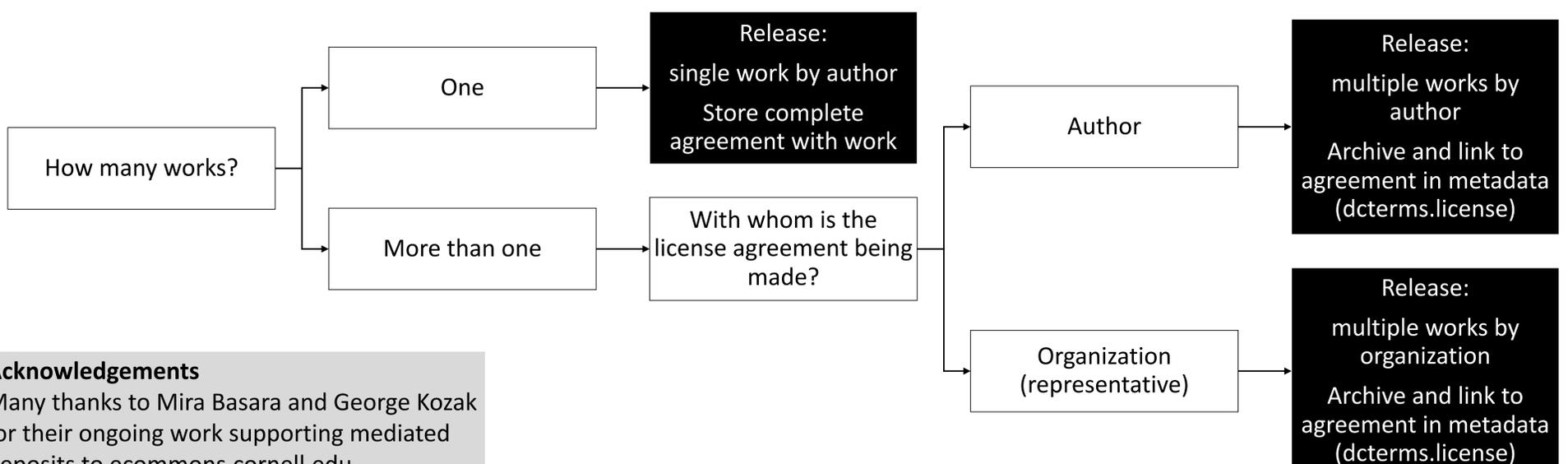
In spite of this reality, IR platforms have yet to support mediated deposit, even while they support batch upload (presumably mediated). Similarly, standard deposit agreements seldom address mediated deposit. This leaves IR managers to either develop their own workarounds, or perhaps, simply omit the process of obtaining and documenting the rights holder's acceptance of the repository license.



(One) workaround

We developed three release forms to cover some common mediated submission scenarios. An author or organizational representative (when appropriate) completes the form online, which is sent to (for their records) the person completing the form, repository staff, and anyone else they designate, such as a proxy. When a single agreement applies to a single work, a copy of the completed form is stored in the DSpace license bundle. When one agreement applies to multiple works, the completed form is stored in an administrator-only collection, and the handle is added to the dcterms.license metadata element of each work. When applicable, Creative Commons licenses are applied as reflected in the completed form.

A decision tree illustrates the selection of the appropriate form:



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