

Topic 5.2: Being an Author and Sharing Findings

It is important to share what we find in research so other people can learn from it. That way, people can use our research study to make things better for people with disabilities.

One of the other rights you may have as a community research partner is the right to share information about what you learn from your research study.



When you hear the word author what do you think about? Some people think about a person who wrote a book. In research, the people who write about a research study are also called **authors**.

Authors are people who get the credit for doing the research and who are responsible for the research. You can be an author of any information you share about research. This includes:



- brochures
- podcasts
- videos, policy briefs
- letters to the editor
- academic journal articles
- presentations

In this unit, we will mostly talk about writing research papers and presentations.

However, everything we say applies to all the ways you share research. When you do research together, you should try to share what you learned in the research study with people with disabilities and in ways that can make things better for people with disabilities.



In research, an author is someone who plays an important role in deciding what the most important research questions are, how to collect information to answer the research question, collecting the information, and figuring out what you learned from the information.



You also have to help write about the research study to be an author. You can help write in lots of ways. You can type or write, talk about your ideas, or give feedback and add your ideas to what someone else wrote.

Being an author is a way you can be recognized for your work. If you are an author, people will know about what you did to help the research. Being an author is also a way for you to have a say over what your team shares about the research.

Authors get to help decide what and how to share about the research.

Being an author is one way you can make sure the research findings help people with disabilities.



If you do a lot of work on a research study, you might have the right to be an author. Every team figures out who can be an author differently. Your team should talk about what you need to do to be an author. It's always a good idea to talk about being an author at the beginning of a study so everyone knows what they need to do to be an author.



Sometimes you'll need to talk with your team about being an author later on as well. For example, as time goes on, what you are doing to help may change. You might do more and become an author.

It's important to make sure your project leader agrees with anything you want to share about the research with others. Sometimes you have to wait to share information about a study.