Copyright and Intellectual Property
The following guide provides answers to common copyright questions.

Overview

Using Copyright — Answers questions about how to use copyrighted materials.

Copyright Components — Offers an overview about copyright by responding to basic copyright questions.

CTOOLS — Addresses the questions about using copyrighted material in CTOOLS.

Fair Use and Other Exceptions — Explains the exceptions to copyright rules which might grant use to copyrighted materials.

Requesting Permission — Defines what permissions are and how you can get them if necessary.

Resource Links — Offers additional links and information pertaining to copyright.

Copyright Questions?

Looking for help with copyright questions? Please contact us.

Melissa Levine
Kristina Eden

Contact info:
MLibrary Copyright Office
734-764-9602
Send Email — copyright@umich.edu

Links:
Copyright Office Website
Other Copyright LibGuides

Reuse of this guide content

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Copyright Information and Resources

Most visitors to our site want to know one of two things - but if the big buttons below don’t represent your questions, you may want to try the “Learn More” button, or explore the menus on the left side of the page.

New Sessions Open for Fall 2012!
Register for one of our in-person workshops!
- Can I Use That?: Copyright in Everyday Life
- Know Your Rights: Copyright Essentials for Authors & Creators
- Copyright in the Classroom (and Online)

PDF Handouts available:
- 5(ish) W’s of Copyright
- Can I Use That? Fair Use in Everyday Life (update coming soon!)
- Copyright Essentials for Authors and Creators

Learn more about copyright

This web site presents information about copyright law. The University Libraries make every effort to assure the accuracy of this information but do not offer it as counsel or legal advice. Consult an attorney for advice concerning your specific situation.

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Your Own Works
Using Copyrightable Materials
Specific Uses: Teaching
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**Representative Documents: Copyright and Intellectual Property**

- 10 Big Myths About Copyright Explained
  - By: Brad Templeton
- And Then There's Copyright
  - By: Sharon A. Fordham Multimedia Laboratory
- Copyright Basics
  - U.S. Copyright Office
- Copyright Law and Graduate Research: New Media, New Rights, and Your New Dissertation
  - By: Kenneth D. Crews
- Copyright Matters: An Introduction
  - By: Jeanne Boyle
- Copyright Term and the Public Domain in the United States
  - By: Peter B. Hirtle
- Know Your Copyrights: What You CAN Do (B&W)
  - Association of Research Libraries
- Know Your Copyrights: What You CAN Do (Color)
  - Association of Research Libraries
- Tales from the Public Domain: Bound by Law?
  - Duke Center for the Study of the Public Domain
- When U.S. Works Pass into the Public Domain
  - By: Laura Gasaway
- Copyright FAQs
  - See the separate guide:
    - Writing and Citation Formatting
- FAQs
  - Copyright FAQs
    - Stanford University Libraries
  - Frequently Asked Questions about Copyright
    - U.S. Copyright Office
  - Frequently Asked Questions About Copyright Issues Affecting the U.S. Government
    - CENDI
  - General Information About Copyrights
    - Oppenheim Patent Law Firm LLC, 1993-present
  - Using Copyrighted Works in Your Teaching;
    - Questions Faculty and Teaching Assistants Need to Ask Themselves Frequently
    - Association of Research Libraries
Copyright

This Guide is for you....

If you've ever wondered if it is okay to:
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- Scan a textbook so you can study it on a portable device
- Include a chart, graph or text excerpt in your student paper, thesis or dissertation
- Add a quote or cartoon to your PowerPoint slide
- Screen a movie at your club's next meeting
- Rip movie scenes from a DVD, mix and mash them up, and repost your new video to YouTube
- Burn a CD from your Itunes account and give it to your friend

Or if you have wrestled with other forms of Copyright Confusion!

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- Use materials that are free of copyright restrictions because they are in the public domain, or they are published with an open license for use
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To comply with copyright law and with standards for ethical conduct, you need to do one of three things:

- Determine that your use qualifies for one of the limitations to the copyright holder’s rights, such as Fair Use OR
- Use materials that are free of copyright restrictions because they are in the public domain, or they are published with an open license for use OR
- Obtain permission for your use from the copyright holder.

How do you know what approach to take in your particular situation? That's what this Guide is designed to help with. Here you will find some brief explanations of key copyright concepts as well as resources for learning more.

Ultimately, each Aggie makes his or her own decision as to whether, or how, to use copyrighted works in a legal and ethical way. The information and resources are offered here to provide helpful and reliable information you can use to make that decision.

Please click on the tabs above to learn more.