Copyright and Intellectual Property
Copyright Basics
Welcome to the University of Michigan's Guide to Copyright.

Copyright law is complicated, and for good or for ill, increasingly important in scholarship and academia. The following guide seeks to provide answers to frequently asked questions, help authors learn effectively to use and enforce their rights, and to demystify copyright law as much as possible.

Table of Contents for this Guide
- 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.

Overview

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

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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.

Learn more about copyright

New Sessions Open for Fall 2012!
Register for one of our in-person workshops!
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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

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General

- 10 Big Myths About Copyright Explained
  By: Brad Templeton
- And Then There’s Copyright
  By: Sharon A. Fordham Multimedia Laboratory
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- 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)
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- 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

Citation Guides

Citation Guides

See the separate guide:

- Writing and Citation Formatting

FAQs

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- Frequently Asked Questions about Copyright
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If you are using any sort of material that you yourself did not create, you need to think carefully about copyright. Using someone else’s copyrighted material without permission could constitute copyright infringement, an illegal and unethical act that violates not only US law but also the Aggie Honor Code, as well as other professional and research standards of conduct.

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
- 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
- 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.