

Copyright

You will come across materials and resources that fall under copyright laws. In which case, you will need to obtain permission to use those materials or find other materials that are in the public domain. This document will help you to know the basics of copyright rules and regulations. Please see the list below to know what you can find here and what other additional resources are available. This information comes from the BYU Copyright Licensing Office found at this link: [BYU Copyright Licensing Office](#)

1. What is Copyright?
2. What Works are Protected?
3. Unprotected Materials
4. Other Helpful Webpages

What is Copyright?-- <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/what-copyright>

Copyright is protection provided by law (17, U.S. Code §102) to the authors/creators of “original works of authorship,” expressed in a tangible medium. This protection is available for original works from the moment they are created in a tangible medium, and it applies whether they are published, unpublished or registered with the U.S. Copyright Office.

Copyright protection is available for an author/creator if three requirements are met:

1. Fixation—the work exists in a medium from which the author’s expression can be read, seen, or heard, either directly or by the aid of a machine
2. Originality—the work owes its origin and independent creation to an author
3. Minimal creativity—the work is the product of at least a minimal level of creativity

What Works are Protected?-- <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/what-works-are-protected>

Most original works are protected by copyright. The U.S. Copyright law places copyrightable works in the following categories:

1. Literary works
2. Musical works, including any accompanying words
3. Dramatic works, including any accompanying music
4. Pantomimes and choreographic works
5. Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works
6. Motion pictures and other audiovisual works
7. Sound recordings
8. Architectural works

You should view these categories broadly. For example, computer programs and most compilations may be categorized and registered as literary works; maps and architectural plans may be categorized and registered as pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works.

Unprotected Materials-- <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/unprotected-subject-matter>

Copyright protection does not extend to the following, therefore permission is not required for you to use them:

1. Works for which the copyright has expired.
2. Works federal government employees produced within the scope of their employment.
3. Works clearly and explicitly donated to the public domain.
4. Works that have not been fixed in a tangible form of expression (for example, choreographic works that have not been notated or recorded, or spontaneous speeches or performances that have not been written or recorded).
5. Titles, names, short phrases, and slogans; familiar symbols or designs; mere variations of typographic ornamentation, lettering, or coloring; mere listings of ingredients or contents.
6. Ideas, procedures, methods, systems, processes, concepts, principles, discoveries, or devices, as distinguished from a description, explanation, or illustration.
7. Works consisting entirely of information that is common property and contains no original authorship (for example, standard calendars, height and weight charts, tape measures and rulers, and lists or tables taken from public documents or other common sources).

Other Helpful Webpages

Here are a few additional websites on the [BYU Copyright Licensing Office](#) webpage.

1. Copyright Tutorial
 - A. <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/copyright-tutorial>
2. Uploading to Learning Suite or other ways for providing materials to students
 - A. <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/can-i-upload-readings-learning-suite>
3. Free Images-what images can be used
 - A. <https://copyright.byu.edu/content/free-image-resources>

For more information or questions, go to the [BYU Copyright Licensing Office](#) webpage or contact their office at 2-9339.