

Copyright myths and facts

Myth: If it doesn't say 'copyright' or have the copyright symbol on it, then it isn't copyrighted.

Fact: A work doesn't have to say copyright on it to be protected. You should assume that a work is protected and should not be copied until you know otherwise.

Myth: I don't need permission to use material for educational purposes.

Fact: You may not need to get permission to project an image in a classroom, and some works are specifically licensed for other educational uses. Keep in mind though, that other educational uses of images and media *do* require you to get permission (republishing on the web for example).

Myth: No one will find out that I've used it.

Fact: There have been cases at Queen's of copyright owners asserting their rights and asking authors to remove material used without permission.

Myth: Fair dealing allows me to use 10% of any work.

Fact: Fair dealing is a complex component of the Canadian Copyright Act that allows copying for research or private study, criticism or review, and news reporting. The Act does not specify the amount of a work that is allowed to be copied. Note: teaching does not fall under fair dealing as it has its own exemptions within the Act.

Myth: If I post to MedTech, SONIT, Rehab Central, or Moodle then it's behind a password so I don't have to worry about copyright.

Fact: You should always be sure you are using material legally. Keep in mind that material could be downloaded from MedTech by students or others and posted elsewhere and you are responsible for content you create.

Myth: I've cited it so now I can use it however I like.

Fact: While citing is often enough for portions of text-based content, when you are working with an image or other media you should be sure that you are allowed to use it in your material. You may have gotten the content from a source that explicitly allows use or you may have to seek permission from the copyright holder. Keep in mind: even with permission to use something you should always cite it to give credit to the original creator.

Myth: It is legal to copy a work if I give the original creator credit.

Fact: See above.

Myth: Teaching material I create isn't covered by copyright.

Fact: All original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works are covered by copyright. This includes teaching material.

Myth: I have to apply to copyright protect my work.

Fact: In Canada, when you create an original work, it is automatically copyright protected.