

Copyright Introduction for Students

Copyright law is designed to protect any piece of work that has been created, so writers, musicians, artists and publishers get paid appropriately when others use their work and ideas.

Everyone is a **copyright owner**, as everything you create is under your copyright.

If you take a photograph and perhaps want to sell it, you would be annoyed if someone else copied it and got the credit, or perhaps money for it.

This is likely to be what you are doing when you right click and copy images from the internet and other sources. It's important to be aware of the **restrictions** around using other people's material, as legal action could be the ultimate consequence.

You might have seen images with a copyright statement below them. For example:

© Dundee College 2013 all rights reserved.

This means the work cannot be copied without some form of **permission**. However, you can assign this information to images and content, but be **wary** of sites like Facebook which include their right to use your work as part of the registration contract.

Important points to remember:

- Copying of work can be done in a number of ways:
 - ◇ Right clicking and copying
 - ◇ Creating screen shots or screen grabs
 - ◇ Writing out text from books or the internet exactly as they appear
 - ◇ Scanning text or images
 - ◇ Photocopying text or image
- **All created material** (original work taking a physical form) is affected by copyright law
- The person who owns the copyright is known as the **rights holder** and **only** the rights holder / their agent can give **permission** to use their material
- Just because a piece of work is on the internet **does not mean it is free to use** and there are no copyright restrictions upon it
- Google is **very rarely** the copyright owner of the images found through a Google Image Search
- You must give **credit** to the copyright owner for all material you use

If you want to copy material like images and text for your college course work you can do it (under a legal exception) if you **reference it properly**.

A **reference** tells the person marking or reading your work that you are not claiming an idea, image or quote is yours. This means you are **acknowledging** the copyright holder and using their idea, image or quote to **illustrate a point you are making or to show various opinions on a topic**.

Referencing properly is essential to get **good marks** in your coursework and also means you will **not infringe** other peoples' copyright.

For more information on referencing and copyright, see the **Learning Hub Help** Moodle course or speak to staff in the **Learning Hubs**.

Library & Learning Hubs user guides

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