Copyright for Students

What is copyright?

Copyright is a form of intellectual property that protects the original expression of ideas. More than one person may have the same idea, but it is how they express the idea that is protected by copyright. A copyright work is protected as soon as it is in material form (e.g. written down).

The Copyright Act 1968 (Cth) is the law that sets out how copyright works are protected in Australia.

What types of works are protected by copyright?

The types of works protected by copyright include materials such as: books, articles, sheet music, text and images on a website, plans, photographs, films, sound recordings, broadcasts, screenplays and computer programs.

Fair dealing for educational purposes

The Copyright Act 1968 (the Act) states that students can copy other people’s copyright works for their and research and study without the need to seek the permission of the copyright owner. This is covered by a section in the Act: Fair Dealing for research and study.

How much can you copy?

Students can copy a “reasonable” portion of text based information (for example, from books, magazines and articles) in both print and electronic form for the purpose of research or study.

What is a ‘reasonable’ portion? The 10% rule applies to text based information and allows you to copy for research or study the following:

- 10% of the number of pages (if its text or sheet music and is more than 10 pages long)
- One chapter (if its divided into chapters) either printed or electronic
- An article from a newspaper, magazine or journal (or more than one if it is for the same course of research or study)
- 10% of the number of words in an electronic work (e.g.Internet)

For other types of copyright material such as images, drawings, DVDs, and CDs the amount you copy must be “fair”.

The definition of “fair” is not provided in the Act; however the general rule is that you should only use what you need.

You can also use the fairness questions to help determine if your use is fair:

- Why do you want it?
- What type of work is it?
- Can you easily get your own copy?
- What effect will the copies you make have on the market, or value of the work?
- If it is part of a work, how much, how important or distinctive is it, in relation to the entire work?

For example, if you need to copy music from a CD to include in your assignment you may be able to justify copying an extract from the CD is “fair” as opposed to copying the whole CD.

**What do you need to do under Fair Dealing?**

- Only copy what you need.
- Keep to the limits e.g. 10% rule
- Include a full citation/reference of where you copied the material from.

**When does Fair Dealing not apply?**

Any work that is:
- not for research and study
- entered into a competition
- to be used in public (e.g. display, uploaded to the internet etc)
- used in the workplace

To find out more about Fair Dealing and student use of copyright material check out the following website:

Australian Copyright Council - information about copyright for students can be found here.
http://www.copyright.org.au/

**Managing your own copyright**

All the work you produce as a student at CIT such as assignments, objects, sculptures, fashions, music, or computer-aided designs or images, are copyright works and you own that copyright.

To protect your copyright you should always put a copyright notice on your work, the minimum notice is:

© [Your name] [Year].

Some CIT Colleges ask students to sign a licensing agreement on enrolment which enables CIT to use your work for publicity and promotional purposes. However, you still own the copyright. You can still use the works yourself and CIT must acknowledge you as the creator.
If you have not signed an agreement with CIT, and a teacher wants to use your work, including as examples in future classes, they must first obtain your written permission, either via email or signed form.

**Referencing**

Always include a full citation and reference in your bibliography of where you copied the material from.

**More Information**

For more information about copyright and how it applies at CIT, contact the staff in the CIT Library.

**Useful Websites**

For more information on IP and using copyright material see the following websites:

- [Australian Copyright Council](#)
  
  This website provides information and about Copyright. You can use the "Find an Answer" section to search for the answer to your copyright questions.

- [IP Australia : What is Intellectual Property?](#)
  
  This website provides information on Intellectual Property such as Patents, Trade Marks, Design and Copyright.