

Copyright Matters! 101

Saskatchewan School Library Association

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Copyright has always been a complex issue, whether it is in a library, a classroom or elsewhere. Digital learning has brought its own complexities with it as teachers and students are digitally researching and/or participating in online classes, or creating online courses while attempting to use media-rich management tools in the classroom. As media specialists, teacher librarians are continuously being asked about the restrictions both teachers and students face when it comes to copyright.

The recent publication of *Copyright Matters!* has attempted to address digital copyright issues raised since the publishing of the 2nd edition in 2005. With the explosion of information literacy and the emerging associated technologies, the 3rd edition has been timely and appreciated. Copyright concerns have grown immensely since 2005 as more creative work is accessible online and with it the question on how to use, disseminate, and share this content.

As a result of the new Canadian copyright changes that took place the summer of 2012, copyright laws have become easier and clearer to understand for classroom teachers and students. With the increased use of digital resources, former copyright laws caused much indecision for teachers. Teachers were left at their own discretion whether or not to use publically available Internet resources for educational purposes without breaking copyright.

The Coordinator of Instructional Resources of the Prince Albert Catholic School Division recently presented an overview of the new Canadian copyright changes and the fair dealing guidelines to the school division's teacher librarians. Authentic classroom examples were provided giving the teacher librarian a better understanding of how to use copyright materials legally and appropriately. Highlights of the presentation included:

- "Teachers and students are now permitted to access and use publically available Internet materials in the process of teaching and learning;"
- The new law also adds "education" as an allowable purpose within copyright "fair dealing" terms of the *Copyright Act*.
- Public Performance Rights license is no longer required when showing feature length movies and [some] documentaries for educational purposes;

- Public Performance Rights license [entertainment license] is required for non-educational purposes such as before/after school programs;
- Books meant for one-time use can be photocopied abiding by the 10% principle under the fair dealing guidelines;
- Internet images such as Google images may be used freely for educational purposes, as long as credit is given. Educators/students no longer need to worry about images having open attribution;
- Copyright information from the Internet may be used for educational purposes, as long as it is cited. Seeking permission for its use is no longer required.

Saskatchewan teachers received professional copies of *Copyright Matters!* in February 2013. An additional PDF copy of *Copyright Matters!* as well as *Fair Dealings Guidelines* are available at:

[Copyright Matters!](#)

http://cmec.ca/Publications/Lists/Publications/Attachments/291/Copyright_Matters.pdf

[Fair Dealing Guidelines](#)

http://www.cmec.ca/docs/copyright/Fair_Dealing_Guidelines_EN.pdf

Additional information about the changes to the Canadian Copyright laws is also available at:

[The Council of Ministers of Education, Canada](#)

<http://www.cmec.ca/>

[Copyright Laws.com](#)

<http://www.copyrightlaws.com/canadian/summer-of-2012-canadian-copyright-law/>