

Common Copyright Questions

Q: If I copy one chapter or 10% of a textbook in one class is that it for all my courses?

A: No, you may copy 10% (or one chapter) of the same textbook for different classes. You are restricted to 10% (or one chapter) per textbook per class.

Q: What if I need to copy more than 10% for a class?

A: There definitely are options in this case. We can put the textbook on physical reserve at one of the libraries for students to consult, or we can investigate getting permissions for the work in question.

Q: I've ordered a required textbook for a class, but can I put the first week's readings in Blackboard to give student's time to buy it?

A: Yes, as long as the excerpt you wish to copy is not more than 10% or one chapter.

Q: I can show films in class, Can I stream films on Netflix for my class?

A: Although the *Copyright Act* (in Section 29.5) allows the screening of films on campus for educational purposes, it is important to note that screening Netflix titles from your private account would be a violation of the terms of use agreement you signed with them (which states you agree to not screen the films publicly).

Q: I use a lot of resources from countries with longer copyright terms. Public Domain doesn't kick in until 70 years after the author's death. Does that mean I have to follow their rules?

A: No, in Canada we follow Canadian law regarding copyright and public domain. Currently, in Canada Public Domain is defined as 50 years after the author's/creator's death. Although there are some rumblings this may change, that is what we currently follow.

Q: Do I own the copyright to a preprint or draft that I published? How do I know?

A: It is important to review the publishing agreement you signed to see what rights you retained. If you are unsure, you can search sites like [SHERPA/RoMEO](#) to investigate publisher policies. You can retain additional rights by using an agreement like [SPARC's Author Addendum](#).

Q: Do I need to cite images in PowerPoint?

A: We recommend that you always cite materials, especially taken from Internet sites, wherever possible. Although the educational exemption for Fair Dealing does not require citation, there is an additional exemption in the *Copyright Act* (section 30.04) for educational use of Material that is Publically Available on the Internet, but it does require citing the source for protection. So, citing images could give you an additional layer of protection.

Q: How does copyright relate to students' theses?

A: Students do own the copyright to their own work, although they will sign an agreement allowing the work to be posted online in DalSpace and be harvested by Library and Archives Canada. When it comes to copyrighted material in theses (like figures and graphs), some inclusion may be permissible under Fair Dealing (for the purposes of criticism, for instance). If a student wishes to make use of a paper they themselves previously wrote and published, in their thesis, it is important to check whether their publishing agreement allows for this, and if not, then permission must be sought."