COPYRIGHT SURVIVAL GUIDE

What is copyright?

Copyright is a legal protection that automatically applies to original creative works like books, articles, films, music and more.

Other people need permission from the copyright holder to copy and reuse the work, except in certain specific circumstances.

Why does it matter?

Copyright affects you in lots of situations, from accessing articles for your studies, to creating marketing for an employer, to posting online. And don't forget, copyright protects your own work too!

If you understand copyright, you have a key skill for university, employment, and wider life.

What do I need to know?



You can copy limited amounts for your own personal private study so long as it's for a non-commercial purpose and the amount is 'fair'. This is generally considered to be no more than about 1 chapter from a book, or 1 article from a journal issue, or equivalent.



You can quote from other people's work but don't reproduce more than you need to make your point. Always remember to include a reference or acknowledgement to the original creator.



If you're sharing other people's content online, it's best to share a link to the original material rather than posting a copy. This helps avoid copyright infringement and helps creators get proper recognition for their work.



Want to reuse someone else's material, like photos, artwork, or music, to make your own work? You can:

- Use older material that's out of copyright
- Find material with an open licence, such as a Creative Commons licence
- Get permission from the copyright holder.

Copyright can be confusing sometimes! Need more advice?
Visit www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/copyright or email library@abdn.ac.uk



