

Copyright



Intellectual property is protected by copyright law. This is government legislation to protect the creators of works such as books, journals, song lyrics, music, art, films and TV programs. Copyright means that you need to get the owner's permission to copy the work –whether that is photocopying, scanning or downloading. This is the symbol you will most often see when something is protected by copyright: ©. Be careful, though. Even if the copyright symbol is not present, the owner still has moral and legal rights over how the work is used. So how can we get round this in the library? Well, there is a law of “Fair Dealing” which, for library users, means you do not need permission to photocopy every time as long as the copy is for your own personal use.

Unfortunately, the law does not specify how much of a work may be copied whilst still being considered ‘fair’. However it is generally agreed that a single copy of:

5% or one article from a single issue of a journal, and 5% or one chapter of a book would be considered fair dealing.

It is wrong to try and pass someone else's ideas off as your own. If you do this you will be guilty of **PLAGIARISM**.