

Copyright Policy

The Copyright Act of 1976 provides protection to “original” works of authorship. Protection is extended to the holders of copyright for literary works, musical works, dramatic works, pantomimes and choreographic works, pictorial and graphic works, motion pictures, and other audio works, sound recordings, and architectural works. This protection applies equally to published and unpublished works. The holders of the copyright possess the exclusive right to authorize reproduction, distribution, public performance, public display, and preparation of derivative works based on the copyrighted work. It is illegal to violate the rights of copyright holders or to direct others to do so. The penalties for violation can be severe. It is best to assume that anything published after 1920 is protected by copyright.

As an institution committed to providing convenient and equal access to information and creating environments which foster life-long learning, personal enrichment and a literate society, the Library is committed to complying with all applicable laws regarding intellectual property. That commitment includes the full exercise of the rights accorded to users of copyrighted works under the “Fair-Use” provision of federal copyright law.

It is therefore the policy of the Library to facilitate the Fair Use rights for librarians and staff in their teaching, research, and public activities and to that end, the Library shall:

1. Avoid whenever possible adopting or supporting policies and agreements that would restrict Fair Use rights.
2. Inform and educate staff about their rights and responsibilities regarding copyright law including their Fair Use rights and the four factors of determining those rights set forth in 17 U.S.C. section 107.
3. Exercise our full rights available under the TEACH act and rights set forth in 17 U.S.C. section 10.