

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY COPYRIGHT GUIDE

In today's rapidly evolving educational landscape, navigating the intricate world of copyright has become an essential skill for librarians and all other educators alike. As school librarians, you possess a unique opportunity to champion copyright awareness and compliance within your school community. By becoming copyright leaders, you not only ensure the ethical use of intellectual property but also foster an environment of respect for creativity and innovation. This guide is designed to equip you with strategies that will empower you to take the lead in promoting copyright education among teachers, setting a precedent for responsible content use, and fostering a culture of integrity within your schools and districts.

Understanding key copyright vocabulary is crucial for school librarians and teachers to navigate copyright issues effectively. Here are some important copyright terms along with their definitions:

- **Copyright:** A legal concept that grants creators exclusive rights to their original works, including literary, artistic, musical, and digital content.
- **Fair Use:** A doctrine within copyright law that allows limited use of copyrighted material without permission from the copyright owner for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research.
- **Educational Use:** Limited use of copyrighted material for teaching, research, scholarship, or educational purposes that may be subject to specific exceptions and guidelines.
- **Public Domain:** Works that are not protected by copyright and are free for use by anyone, either because the copyright has expired or the creator has explicitly waived their rights.
- **Creative Commons:** A licensing system that allows creators to specify how their work can be used, shared, and adapted by others, offering various levels of permission while retaining some rights.
- **Attribution:** Giving proper credit to the original creator when using their work, as required by many Creative Commons licenses and good academic practice.
- **Citation:** Properly acknowledging the sources of information, ideas, or materials used in academic or creative work, including both in-text citations and bibliographies.
- **Plagiarism:** Presenting someone else's work, ideas, or words as your own without proper attribution, which is a violation of academic and ethical standards.

Familiarity with these copyright terms will empower school librarians and teachers to navigate copyright-related issues confidently and ethically while fostering responsible use of intellectual property in educational settings.

How can we share our expertise with the teachers in our school/district so that they can share information with their students AND so that they can ensure that they are following copyright laws, as well? Here are some strategies:

1. **Know the Basics:** Deepen your understanding of copyright law, including fair use, public domain, and Creative Commons licenses, to confidently answer questions and provide guidance to teachers.
2. **Offer Workshops:** Organize workshops and training sessions for teachers to educate them about copyright regulations, dispelling myths and addressing common misconceptions.
3. **Create Resources:** Develop comprehensive guides, FAQs, and digital resources that teachers can refer to when creating lesson plans, presentations, or other educational materials.
4. **Stay Updated:** Keep abreast of copyright law changes, technological advancements, and educational trends to provide the most current advice to teachers.
5. **Collaborate with Curriculum Development:** Work closely with curriculum teams to integrate copyright education into lesson planning, emphasizing responsible content sourcing and citation practices.
6. **Provide One-on-One Support:** Offer personalized consultations for teachers working on projects with complex copyright considerations, ensuring their materials are compliant and ethical.
7. **Model Best Practices:** Set an example by demonstrating proper citation, licensing, and permissions in your own educational initiatives and library resources.
8. **Advocate for Technology Tools:** Recommend and implement digital tools that simplify copyright compliance, such as plagiarism checkers and citation generators.
9. **Initiate Copyright Reviews:** Regularly assess school materials for copyright adherence, providing constructive feedback to teachers and celebrating those who excel in respecting intellectual property.
10. **Host Copyright Awareness Events:** Organize events like Copyright Awareness Week, inviting guest speakers, panel discussions, and activities that engage both teachers and students in understanding the significance of copyright.

By embracing these strategies, you'll not only elevate your role as a copyright leader but also cultivate an atmosphere of integrity, creativity, and collaboration within your school community. Your dedication to copyright education will not only safeguard intellectual property but also inspire a generation of responsible digital citizens.

Go to page 3 for a list of resources and tools that will be helpful in your quest to learn more about copyright and to become a copyright leader in your school.

Copyright Resources and Tools

- ★ [Copyright PowerPoint](#) (from ExCITE! 2023)
- ★ [Copyright Presentation](#) (from ExCITE! 2023)
- ★ [The Educator's Guide to Copyright, Fair Use, and Creative Commons](#)
- ★ [A Teacher's Guide to Copyright and Fair Use](#)
- ★ [CopyrightLaws.com: A Simple Guide to Copyright for Librarians](#)
- ★ [Creative Commons: About CC Licenses](#)
- ★ [Resources for Teaching Copyright and Fair Use](#)
- ★ [US Copyright Office on YouTube](#)
- ★ [Library of Congress Blogs on Copyright](#)
- ★ [Teaching Copyright and Free Expression: Help for Educators](#)

Plagiarism Checkers

- ★ [Turnitin](#) - A widely used plagiarism detection tool used by educational institutions to identify potential instances of plagiarism in submitted assignments and papers.
- ★ [Grammarly Plagiarism Checker](#) - A well-known writing assistant tool that includes a plagiarism checker feature to help users identify potential plagiarism in their text.
- ★ [Copyscape](#) - Primarily used to detect online plagiarism, Copyscape can help you find instances of your content appearing on other websites.
- ★ [Plagscan](#) - A comprehensive plagiarism detection tool suitable for academic, business, and content creation purposes.
- ★ [Quetext](#) - Offers a user-friendly interface and deep search capabilities to identify potential instances of plagiarism.
- ★ [SmallSEOTools Plagiarism Checker](#) - Part of a suite of SEO and content-related tools, it offers a free plagiarism checker with basic features.
- ★ [PaperRater](#) - Offers a plagiarism checker along with grammar and style analysis tools.
- ★ [Viper Plagiarism Checker](#) - Tailored for educational and academic use, Viper scans documents against a large database of academic papers.
- ★ [Plagiarisma](#) - A multilingual plagiarism detection tool that supports more than 190 languages and multiple file formats.

Remember that the effectiveness of plagiarism checkers can vary, and it's a good practice to use multiple tools to ensure accurate results. Additionally, while these tools can help identify potential instances of plagiarism, human judgment is still essential to determine whether the flagged content constitutes actual plagiarism or is appropriately cited and attributed.