**In this video I will examine: What is copyright?**

Rather than giving you a legal definition, I’ve put on this slide many of the things that copyright protects:

*Books; articles; letters; emails; web pages; blogs; poetry; song lyrics; computer programs; paintings; photographs; sculptures; interviews; engravings; sketches; drawings; plans; maps; buildings; models of buildings; sound recordings; films/videos; radio & TV broadcasts; published editions; and research data*

By scanning through this list, you can see that almost everything you will use for your research or will publish is covered by copyright.

Note that I’ve listed research data. However not all data is protected by copyright. For example, under case law, phone books no longer have copyright protection. Also data created by machines without sufficient human creative spark is also unlikely to be protected by copyright. However, it’s best to presume that research data has copyright protection.

Copyright is one of the forms of Intellectual Property. Other forms of Intellectual Property include patents, trademarks and designs.

Copyright is intangible property. You cannot touch it. The copyright in a book is not the physical book itself, but the order of the words and the layout of the book. Each of the diagrams, graphs and images in a book are separate copyright works.

There is no copyright in ideas. However there is copyright protection once you create a fixed expression. For example if you write a draft for an article, take a photo or paint a painting – that draft, photo or painting will have copyright protection.

Unlike other forms of Intellectual Property, copyright does not require registration.

You will often see attached to a work the copyright sign (a C within a circle) followed by the year the work was created and the name of the copyright owner. This is useful as it reminds others that the work is protected by copyright and it tells others who to contact if they want permission or a licence to use the work. But the copyright sign is not required for copyright protection.

This is important to understand this when considering using images and others copyright works from the internet. They may not be marked with the copyright sign, but you will still need to investigate who owns the copyright and whether they will permit you to publish their image before doing so.