

As library and information science professionals, it is crucial for us to be aware of the ongoing debate about intellectual property rights. We should be mindful of this, but we also need to inform and then teach our patrons about intellectual property rights, so they do not inadvertently break them. As our world grows more technologically dependent and places more information and creative properties online, we should know what is protected by these laws. Our role as librarians in this is to be teachers and informers to our patrons, especially if we are teacher librarians. As teacher librarians, this is a perfect opportunity for us to inform and teach students starting at an early age about copyright and intellectual property.

Another aspect that we, as librarians and information science professionals, should be aware of is the growing broadband policies both here and abroad. Unfortunately, many people do not have access to broadband due to their social or economic status. And as a result, they rely on the library to provide free broadband and technology to do everything from homework to filing their taxes. This limited access to broadband has been impacted due to our state of affairs here in the States, with COVID and libraries having to shut down. Libraries have tried to continue to make their broadband free and open to their patrons by widening the range around their library. However, the technology that many may use (computers, for example) are now out of reach. I believe that libraries should continue to provide broadband for their patrons. And when visiting other countries, having access to free broadband allowed me to pull up a map of where I was or contact my family to say hello. Having access to free broadband is also necessary here in the States because not every area works well with cellular data. Broadband access is vital today because almost everything can be found or can be filled out online.