**What is copyright?**

Copyright relates to artistic creations, such as books, music, paintings and sculptures, films and technology-based works such as computer programs and electronic databases [1]. In the United States, copyright is a form of protection provided by the laws (title 17, U.S.Code) to the authors of “original works of authorship,” including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works. This protection is available to both published and unpublished works.[2]

**What is a copyright policy?**

Copyright policy for any original piece of work defines the policies around permissions, duplication, distribution and display of that work. It can involve clauses that explicitly state penalties, monetary or otherwise, imposed on those who do not adhere to those policies.

**Copyright in digital libraries**

According to “*Unless Otherwise Indicated: A Survey of Copyright Statements on Digital Library Collections (*[*http://crl.acrl.org/content/70/4/371.full.pdf*](http://crl.acrl.org/content/70/4/371.full.pdf)*)”,* educating users about copyright is often considered a responsibility of libraries. Libraries’ role as stewards of the public domain has only been enhanced by the rise in digital content. Digital libraries must adhere to the copyright policies of the content they house and of digitized works.

**Components of copyright policies for digital libraries**

Typically every digital library has a set of copyright policies guiding the access and use of its content and services. Some components of these policies are [3]

* Ground Rules: Has the library complied with the "ground rules" related to access for outside researchers, noncommercial purpose, systematic copying, and notices on copies?

* Permitted Activities: Does the proposed use of copyrighted materials involve one of the three activities: (1) preservation copying; (2) copies for a user's private research; or (3) copies for transmitting through ILL?

* Permitted Works: Is the material to be copied one of the types of works that the library may copy in connection with each of the three activities?

* Permitted Quantity: Is the quantity of the material to be copied within the amounts permitted under the statute?

* Required Conditions: Has the library complied with the detailed conditions specified in the statute with respect to each of the three activities?

**Laws/Acts**

* + US Code: Title 17 Copyrights: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17>
  + Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, Public Law 105-298, 112 stat. 2827 (1998) This act of 1998 extended the copyright terms in United States by 20 years.
  + Section 108 of U.S. Copyright Act. <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/17/108>

**Sample digital library copyright policies**

* International children’s digital library: <http://en.childrenslibrary.org/about/copyright.shtml>
* University of Florida: <http://digital.uflib.ufl.edu/procedures/copyright/>

**Useful Links**

* + Copyright management center: <http://www.iupui.edu/~webtrain/web_samples/cmc.html>

Assists universities on creating and managing their copyright policies and provides many resources dealing with the subject of copyright.

* + Copyright policy for digital libraries in the context of the i2010 strategy (European Commission's digital library)

<http://www.communiaproject.eu/communiafiles/conf2008p_Copyright_Policy_for_digital_libraries_in_the_context_of_the_i2010_strategy.pdf>

* + Copyright policies for images: <https://www.cu.edu/digitallibrary/policies.html>
  + Copyright and digital libraries: <http://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=205323.205324>
  + Copyright Law for the Digital Library: Framework of Rights and Exceptions: <http://dml.indiana.edu/pdf/CopyrightLawforDLibFramework.pdf>
  + Digital Libraries, Internal Databases, & Copyright <http://www.sla.org/content/Shop/Information/infoonline/2000/may00/copyright.cfm>
  + Digital library copyright project <http://www.law.berkeley.edu/12040.htm>
  + World Intellectual Property Organization, which has oversight for intellectual property treaties: <http://www.wipo.int/portal/index.html.en>
  + New Jersey Digital Highway, Copyright Issues for Digital Collections website: <http://www.njdigitalhighway.org/copyright_issues_libr.php>
  + Copyright crash course: <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/cprtindx.htm>
  + Sample website with copyright info on their web page <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/legal.html>

**Tools:**

* Copyright policy computator for images: <http://www.vraweb.org/resources/ipr/dirc/index.html>
* Compilation of useful charts and tools: <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/charts_tools/>

**References**

[1] Understanding copyright and related rights, World Intellectual Property Organization (<http://www.wipo.int/freepublications/en/intproperty/909/wipo_pub_909.pdf>)

[2] Copyright basics by the United States Copyright Office (<http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf>)

[3] Digital Libraries and the Application of Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Act (<http://dml.indiana.edu/html/crews-sec108/>)