

Copyright

Copyright provides protection for original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works.

This means the owners of the work can control how it used. Copyright does not have to be registered so, for example, if you use one of your own photos in our u3a newsletter it is protected by copyright and anyone using it elsewhere should ask your permission.

Some work has several different copyright elements. An example is a song, where the lyrics have protection as a literary work, and the composition as a musical work.

If a work is on the internet, it does **not** automatically mean it is copyright free and available for anyone to use.

You can use the work of others in 4 circumstances.

1. The copyright holder has given permission. The copyright holder should be acknowledged.
2. Copyright has expired.
3. The use is covered by a licence the u3a has subscribed to
4. The use is fair dealing as defined under the 1988 Copyright Designs and Patents Act

Copyright for literary, dramatic, musical and artistic works lasts 70 years from the end of the calendar year in which the author died. If the author is unknown, it is 70 years from the end of the calendar year in which the work was created.

For computer generated musical and artistic works, it is 50 years.

Copyright for the typographical arrangement of a published edition of a literary, dramatic or musical work expires 25 years from the end of the calendar year in which the edition was first published.

The 1988 Copyright and Patents Act does grant some exceptions to copyright infringement and allows some **limited** uses of the work of others without the need to obtain permission from the copyright owner. These are

- a) Research and private study – sources must be acknowledged; use must be non-commercial and no multiple copies.
- b) Quoting a small amount of the work for criticism or review. Sources must be acknowledged.

c) Making the work accessible for an individual i.e. enlarging print, but no multiple copies are allowed.

So, while showing an image at an interest group meeting to illustrate a point is likely to be acceptable, using the same image on a u3a website or in a newsletter may constitute copyright infringement.

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www.mpaonline.org.uk

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