



CURTIN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY PROGRAM: COPYRIGHT AND STUDENTS

The following information provides Curtin students a quick overview of copyright.

What is copyright?

Copyright refers to a group of exclusive rights owned by creators of an original work, including the right to copy, adapt, and share their work. To do any of these activities you generally need the permission of the creator of the work, or the copyright holder. These rights are protected by legislation and international treaties. Creators of works can licence or transfer their copyright.

What is fair dealing?

Copyright legislation permits certain circumstances where users can copy small portions of works without seeking further permission of the creator or copyright holder. One of these 'circumstances' is referred to as 'fair dealing'. For example, you may be permitted to copy a short extract of text or an image for the purposes of your own research and study – fair dealing generally *does not* allow you to share the copied content publicly.

There is a common misconception that the terms fair use and fair dealing can be used interchangeably. However fair use operates in the United States, and fair dealing operates in jurisdictions including Australia, Singapore, and Malaysia.

How do you infringe copyright?

By copying, adapting, and sharing substantial amounts of someone else's work without their permission. This would include using more than is permitted under fair dealing. Copyright infringement may result in legal action, reputational damage, and breach of contract.

What are moral rights?

In Australia and other countries, copyright legislation gives creators moral rights including the right of attribution and the right of integrity. The right of attribution means creators are acknowledged as the source of the work, which is why it is essential you reference your work. The right of integrity means the work should not be subjected to modification or derogatory treatment, which may be prejudicial to the creator's reputation.



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Copyright Ownership at Curtin

Ownership of copyright is covered in Curtin's Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures at <https://policies.curtin.edu.au/findapolicy/index.cfm#i>. Unless an agreement states otherwise, the general rule is:

- Students own copyright in their work (including theses)
- Staff own copyright in their scholarly works
- The University owns copyright in works created by staff as part of their day to day duties

Curtin learning and teaching materials supplied to students as part of their studies via Blackboard and other University systems are often the copyright of the University. They are provided for your personal research and study purposes only. You are prohibited from sharing them with non-Curtin staff and students, as this would be considered copyright infringement, which may have legal consequences.

Content provided through Library databases are covered by licence agreements which only permit Curtin staff and students to have access for research and study purposes.

Which content is okay for me to use?

There are different requirements for operating internally at Curtin versus making material available externally. If your work is made available to the general public (e.g. via an online website or platform):

- Content used under fair dealing
- Content made available under a Creative Commons licence
- Content on websites where the websites Terms of Use permit your re-use of the content
- Content in the public domain
- Content used with permission of the copyright holder

If your work is only accessible to Curtin staff and students internally, you can operate under the University's copyright licences which mean you can re-use up to 10% of the words or 1 chapter per book, and one article per journal issue, and images without requiring further permission.

Regardless of whether the use is external or internal, you must remember to always attribute the source of the content. For information on referencing visit the Library guides at <http://libguides.library.curtin.edu.au/referencing>.

What is Creative Commons?

Creative Commons is a set of licences that can be used by creators to permit others to re-use and share a work in set ways as long as the creator is acknowledged. For more information see <https://creativecommons.org/>



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How do I seek permission of the copyright holder?

Permission needs to be in writing (email is okay) and should include the following information:

- The material you want to re-use
- How you want to use it (e.g. you want to copy or adapt the work)
- Who will have access to it (e.g. available on an online website)

If the use is commercial, or access is to be made available to the general public, you may be asked to pay a licensing fee in order to use the work.

When reusing content with permission, you should clearly state that you have obtained such permission.

More information

The Copyright at Curtin website (<http://copyright.curtin.edu.au/home/>) provides general information on copyright for Curtin staff and students. For copyright queries, contact Library-Copyright@curtin.edu.au.