What is protected by copyright & what is in the public domain?
The following websites will help you answer this question.

Copyright Slider Tool

When US Works Pass Into the Public Domain

Digging a bit deeper into copyright
Selected books for educators & artists


The library is constantly adding material. To find more information, search these subject terms and phrases in the CIA Library's online catalog or OhioLINK's online catalog and digital databases (CIA access only).

| ARTISANS - LEGAL STATUS, LAWS, ETC. | INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY |
| ARTISTS CONTRACTS | LAW AND ART |
| ARTISTS - LEGAL STATUS, LAWS, ETC. | PATENT LAWS AND LEGISLATION |
| COPYRIGHT | PHOTOGRAPHY - LAW AND LEGISLATION |
| COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT | TRADEMARK LICENSES |
| COPYRIGHT LICENSES | TRADEMARKS - LAW AND LEGISLATION |
| CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION | TRADEMARKS - INTERNATIONAL LAW |
| FAIR USE (COPYRIGHT) |

**Useful Copyright & Intellectual Property Websites**

**AAUP Copyright Resources** This site provides links to useful copyright resources for faculty.

**Columbia University Copyright Advisory Office** was established to address the relationship between copyright law and the work of the academic community and provides an easy-to-understand style and practical approach to the topic.

**The Association of Research Libraries: “Copyright and Intellectual Property Policies”** This site is rich with information and links for those who want to keep up-to-date with national and international copyright and intellectual property issues and laws.

**Copyright@Case** This is the copyright compliance policy at Case Western Reserve University.

**Copyright and Fair Use Center** This is an extensive website from Stanford University that includes blogs, a twitter feed, charts and tools, and links to US copyright laws and cases.

**Crash Course in Copyright** is tailored for students, faculty and anyone interested in copyright basics from the University of Texas.

**Legal Information Institute: Copyright** The entry on copyright from the free legal encyclopedia hosted by Cornell University.

**10 Big Myths about Copyright Explained** E-publisher Brad Templeton provides a lively but solid explanation of the “10 Big Myths about Copyright.”
**What is Copyright Protection?** This is a non-profit site that provides an overview of the Berne Convention. Although national copyright laws may vary, these laws “never contravene or provide less copyright protection than the Berne Convention.”

**US Copyright Office** This government site contains general information, publications, copyright records, legislation, international laws and agreements, announcements, and resource links.

**Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.** The United States has signed this international treaty.

**The World Intellectual Property Organization** is an agency of the United Nations dedicated to developing a balanced intellectual property system that encourages and rewards creativity yet protects the public interest at the same time. The United States is a member of WIPO.

### Patent & Trademark Websites

The [United States Patent and Trademark Office](https://www.uspto.gov) provides information on how to find or get a patent or trademark, attorneys and agents, business guides, registration and related processing, resources, information on international protection, and patent and trademark searches.

Viewable in French, German, Dutch and English, the [European Patent Office](https://www.epo.org) brings together information and links ranging from news and events to national patent offices and patent searches.

---

**THE FINE PRINT:** US copyright law attempts to provide a balance between encouraging creative expression by protecting the rights of authors and publishers with the need for society to benefit from a free exchange of ideas. It is a delicate balance, with limits set both on the rights of creators and on the public’s use. Lawyers have varying interpretations of the copyright law provisions; some like “fair use” guidelines and others do not. Case law also can be conflicting, though court cases continue to elucidate the law. The resources listed in this document may help you decide if your project has a copyright problem. If you need copyright advice, you might want to contact a lawyer.

---

**CAN’T FIND ANYTHING?**  *Ask the library staff for help.*

---

© Cleveland Institute of Art Library staff

May be reproduced only for non-profit, educational purposes. Last updated 7.2015