

# COPYRIGHT CORNER

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*[Editor's Note: This column will become a regular feature in future issues of the journal. Please submit materials directly to Irene Starr, as noted below.]*

The IALL board has appointed a special committee to consider copyright issues. The committee is slowly coming into existence. Besides addressing your questions and concerns, we plan a long term process of educating media producers, especially in entertainment, to better understand the needs of people in our field. For example, wouldn't it be wonderful if videotapes came with the same permission as computer software to make one back-up copy or if home videos had a waiver for educational use printed on the warning label or outer packaging?

We would also like to collect correspondence between you and copyright holders/publishers that has enabled you to duplicate either entire tapes or segments. The patterns we detect may enable us to apply for blanket permissions for all IALL members or learn more about possible allies in our efforts.

Similarly, we would like to collect

articles on copyright, new interpretations of fair use policies, information on law suits and their outcome, a list of materials that come with permission to copy, and institutional guidelines relating to copyright.

We also need your help to develop a catchy, compelling slogan for a poster that would encourage faculty/student compliance. "Why Comply?" is a possible opener but we need answers to this question, or even a totally different approach.

Please send any of the above and other ideas/questions to Irene Starr, FLRC - UMass, Herter Hall 19, Amherst, MA 01003.

Please note that the committee is unable to offer specific legal advice! However, we will try to help you become better informed.

Along these lines, we reprint for you the following bibliography, prepared by Carolyn Kotlas of the Institute for Academic Technology.

*Irene Starr is Director of the Foreign Language Resource Center at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.*

## COPYRIGHTS AND COPY WRONGS: SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COMPUTER COPYRIGHTS

Carolyn Kotlas, MSLS  
Institute for Academic Technology

### OVERVIEW

College and university computer center staff increasingly find themselves called upon to interpret copyright law, especially as it relates to software, optical discs and other formats used in multimedia development and classroom presentations. This document lists several sources of information to help centers answer faculty and student questions, formulate campus policies, and build an information collection for dealing with a wide range of copyrighted materials.

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- Hollander, Patricia A. *Computers in Education: Legal Liabilities and Ethical Issues Concerning their Use and Misuse*. Asheville, NC: College Administration Publications, Inc., 1986.
- International Communications Industries Association. ICIA's Materials Council will send a free packet that includes a leaflet titled "Should I Copy Microsoftware?" — a legal analysis showing how microcomputer software is covered by the Copyright Act. A packet can be obtained by writing to: ICIA, 3150 Spring Street, Fairfax, VA 22031; or call 703-273-7200.
- International Council for Computers in Education. ICCE publishes a leaflet titled "Suggested District Policy on Software Copyright." A copy can be obtained by writing to: ICCE, University of Oregon, 1787 Agate St., Eugene, OR 97403; or call 503-686-4414.
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"Software use and the law: A guide for individuals, educational institutions, user groups and corporations." Pamphlet published by Software Publishers Association. Includes sample corporate policy statement. Available free of charge by sending SASE to: Software Publishers Association, 1101 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 901, Washington, D.C. 20036.

SPA Self-Audit Kit. Audit kit for corporations to use on a voluntary basis to examine their software use practices and determine if illegal copies are in use. Available free of charge by contacting the SPA at 202-452-1600, or by sending SPA a written request on company letterhead to above address.

U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment. *Intellectual Property Rights in an Age of Electronics and Information*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1986.

U.S. Copyright Office. You may write to the Copyright Office at: Register of Copyrights, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20559; or call the Copyright Office Hotline at 202-287-9100 to request forms. The Hotline is available 24 hours a day and is answered by a recording machine. Before you call, you should know which forms you need. The Copyright Office encourages authors to photocopy their forms.

University of New Mexico. Maintains an on-line collection of software use policies from many institutions and legislation from several states. Access is through anonymous ftp via nma.unm.edu or IP address 129.24.8.1. Look in directory/ethics. Files also can be obtained through their listserv: Listserv@unmvm.unm.edu. Access is through normal listserv commands (get, help, etc.). Look in directory stgeorge.

"Using software: A guide to the ethical and legal use of software for members of the academic community." Brochure published by EDUCOM. For a complimentary copy of the revised edition, contact: Ruth Holder, EDUCOM, Suite 600, 1112 16th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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