COPYRIGHT & CREATIVITY
How to protect your work, and how to lawfully reuse other people’s work

13 OCTOBER 2016
COPYRIGHTUSER.ORG

Online resource intended to make UK copyright law accessible to everyone.
BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

- Frequently Asked Questions

- Interviews with Creators

- Myth and Reality Cards
WHY IS COPYRIGHT IMPORTANT TOCREATORS?

• **Create lawful content:** copyright law regulates creative production, it states how you can reuse existing content in the production of new work.

• **Exploit your work:** copyright allows creators to make a living out of their work.

• **Balance:** copyright law needs to strike a balance between the interests of rights holders and those of users of copyright works.
Copyright is granted automatically, no formalities as registration are required.

Requirements for protection: **Originality + Fixation**

Prove your **ownership ©**

**Economic rights** (reproduction, communication to the public, distribution, etc.) and **moral rights** (attribution and integrity).
Copyright protects the following types of work:

- **Literary work**: anything that is written, spoken or sung; also includes a table or compilation, a computer program, and a database.
- **Dramatic work**: includes a work of dance or mime.
- **Musical work**: a work consisting of music, without the words or actions performed with the music.
- **Artistic work**: including painting, drawing, diagram, map, chart or plan, photograph, sculpture or collage, any work of architecture or any work of artistic craftsmanship.
- **Film**: any form of moving image that can be replayed.
- **Sound recording**: any recording of sound that can be replayed.
- **Broadcast**: any electronic transmission of visual images, sounds or other information.
- **Typographical arrangements** of published editions.

UK copyright law provides a list of types of work that can be protected by copyright.
WHAT IS COPYRIGHT

Copyright protects your work and stops others from using it in certain circumstances without your permission.

These rights enable owners to stop others from:

1) copying the protected work (**the reproduction right**)
2) issuing copies of the work to the public (**the distribution right**)
3) rent or lend the work to the public (**the rental right**)
4) performing, showing or playing the work in public (**the public performance right**)
5) communicate the work to the public (**the communication right**)
6) make an adaptation of the work (**the adaptation right**)
First ownership of copyright (Section 11 of the Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988)

(1) The author of a work is the first owner of any copyright in it, subject to the following provisions.

(2) Where a literary, dramatic, musical or artistic work, or a film, is made by an employee in the course of his employment, his employer is the first owner of any copyright in the work subject to any agreement to the contrary.
REUSE OTHER PEOPLE’S WORK

- Get permission
- Copyright duration
- Idea/Expression dichotomy
- Copyright exceptions
GETTING PERMISSION
If you want to use a substantial part of a copyright protected work, generally you need permission from the copyright owner(s)

- Find the copyright owner(s) and contact them
- Useful resource: WATCH (Writers Artists and Their Copyright Holders) http://www.hrc.utexas.edu/research/watch/contact/
- Get a licence (PRS for Music, PPL, etc.)
- Open licences that allow everyone to freely reuse copyright works without permission.

- Six types of Creative Commons licence, with different conditions.
Copyright Bite #1 - Copyright Duration

Copyright generally lasts for the lifetime of the author plus 70 years. Once a work is out of copyright it can be used freely by anyone.

http://copyrightuser.org/copyright-bites/
- Copyright lasts for **70 years after the author’s death**

- After that, the work is in the public domain and everyone is free to reuse it.
Different copyright rules apply in different countries.

- A reproduction or recording of a public domain work often qualifies for copyright itself.

USEFUL RESOURCES:

- Images: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)
- Film: [http://archive.org/details/prelinger](http://archive.org/details/prelinger)
Copyright Bite #2

Idea-Expression Dichotomy

Copyright protects only the expression of ideas, not the ideas themselves.
Copyright does not protect ideas, only the **expression of ideas**.
Copyright Bite #3

Permission or Permitted?

Using copyright-protected work requires permission from the owner, unless the use is permitted by law.
COPYRIGHT EXCEPTIONS

- In general, in order to use a copyright work you need to get **permission** from the copyright owner.

- **Assignment vs Licence**

- **Exceptions**: cases in which, under certain conditions, you can use copyright works without permission from the rights holders. (quotation, education, parody, etc.)
THE GAME IS ON! - http://copyrightuser.org/the-game-is-on/
The Adventure of the Girl with the Light Blue Hair
Thanks

BARTOLOMEO MELETTI
Bartolomeo.Meletti@bfi.org.uk