

Rights and Permissions

Things to consider:

- Do some of your resources require that you clear copyright or seek additional permissions?
- Does the material you're working with need to [respect other rights protocols](#)?
- Is there material in the [public domain](#) that you could be repurposing?
- Are you [tracking and labelling the rights context](#) for all the content you're working with?
- Just because you can locate, copy, or manipulate material (photographs, texts, recordings, data, tables etc.) does not mean you can publish or freely use content.
- Not clearing the copyright and other rights may limit the circulation and impact of your scholarship
- Canadian copyright legislation differs from practices in the USA and in many European countries. You may encounter different copyright restrictions when you conduct research in other locations.

Determining the copyright status of archival material

Dryden, Jean E. *Demystifying Copyright : A Researcher's Guide to Copyright in Canadian Libraries and Archives*. 2nd edition. Canadian Library Association, 2014. Catalogue record: <https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3356667>

Our Digital World also has online resources to help folks determine copyright status for a number of types of records. See: <https://ourdigitalworld.net/resources/copyright/>

Using copyrighted material in your work | Licensing your own work

[Creative Commons](#): these are licences that you can attribute to your own work. See: <https://creativecommons.org/>

[Copyfraud](#): sometimes individuals and organizations will claim copyright over material that are/should be in the public domain. Sometimes this takes the form of publishers or a literary estate over reaching to dictate how a scholar can sample/quote from published material. Sometimes this takes the form of heritage organizations claiming copyright over material they have reproduced, even when that content is in the public domain, or was never beholden to copyright law (e.g. medieval manuscripts). Sometimes copyright is claimed on the basis of owning copies or archival material or when public domain material is migrated or transmitted into a different medium (e.g. newspapers on microfilm).

[Copyleft](#): is a practice of offering users the right to freely distribute copies or modify works with the understanding that the same rights be preserved in any subsequent/derivative works.

Useful Resources:

Dryden, Jean E. *Demystifying Copyright : A Researcher's Guide to Copyright in Canadian Libraries and Archives* /. 2nd edition. Canadian Library Association, 2014. See: <https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/3356667>.

Opening Up Copyright Instructional Modules (series of webcasts by the University of Alberta) including:

- Copyright overviews (<https://sites.library.ualberta.ca/copyright/>)
- Images (<https://sites.library.ualberta.ca/copyright/modules/images/>)
- Other Types of Intellectual Property(<https://sites.library.ualberta.ca/copyright/modules/other-types-of-ip/>)
- Including Third Party Content in Your Work (<https://sites.library.ualberta.ca/copyright/modules/including-third-party-content-in-your-work/>)

Bergis Jules, "Some Thoughts on Ethics and DocNow,"<https://news.docnow.io/some-thoughts-on-ethics-and-docnow-d19cfec427f2#.wqgpi9pie>.

Michelle Moravec, "What would you do? Historians' ethics and digitized archives," <https://medium.com/on-archiv/on-april-at-the-organization-of-american-historians-i-participated-in-a-roundtable-discussion-563213dc94a>.