

## Definitions and Resources

### Copyright

Copyright is a form of protection granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression. Copyright protects original works of authorship including literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright does not protect facts, ideas, systems, or methods of operation. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works.

### Fair Use

Fair use is duplication of copyrighted material for purposes such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, or research. If specific criteria are met, such uses can be done without permission from the copyright owner.

### DMCA

The **D**igital **M**illennium **C**opyright **A**ct updates U.S. copyright laws for the digital age. The act criminalizes the development or use of software to circumvent anti-piracy measures in software and other copyright materials, including music, DVDs, software, etc.

### TEACH Act

The **T**echnology, **E**ducation, and **C**opyright **H**armonization (TEACH) Act enables the performance and display of copyrighted materials for distance education by accredited, non-profit educational institutions (and some government entities) that meet the TEACH Act's qualifying requirements. Its primary purpose is to balance the needs of distance learners and educators with the rights of copyright holders.

### Public Domain

Public domain is the legal name given to a work that is not protected by any intellectual property rules such as copyright, patent or trademark, trade secrets, or contract. The work may be copied or used freely.

### Creative Commons

Creative Commons is a non-profit organization providing a means from which creative works are made available for others to legally build upon, share and use. The organization has released several copyright licenses (Creative Commons licenses) that allow creators to communicate the rights they reserve and those they waive for the benefit of recipients or other creators.

### Copyright & Ethics Resources:

- US Copyright Office: <http://www.copyright.gov/>
- AECT Code of Ethics: <http://www.aect.org/About/Ethics.asp>
- Public Domain: <http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/resources/publicdomain.cfm>
- Cornell University Copyright Information Center: <http://www.copyright.cornell.edu/>
- Stanford University Copyright and Fair Use: <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/>
- Creative Commons: <http://creativecommons.org/>
- Copyright Clearance Center: <http://www.copyright.com/>