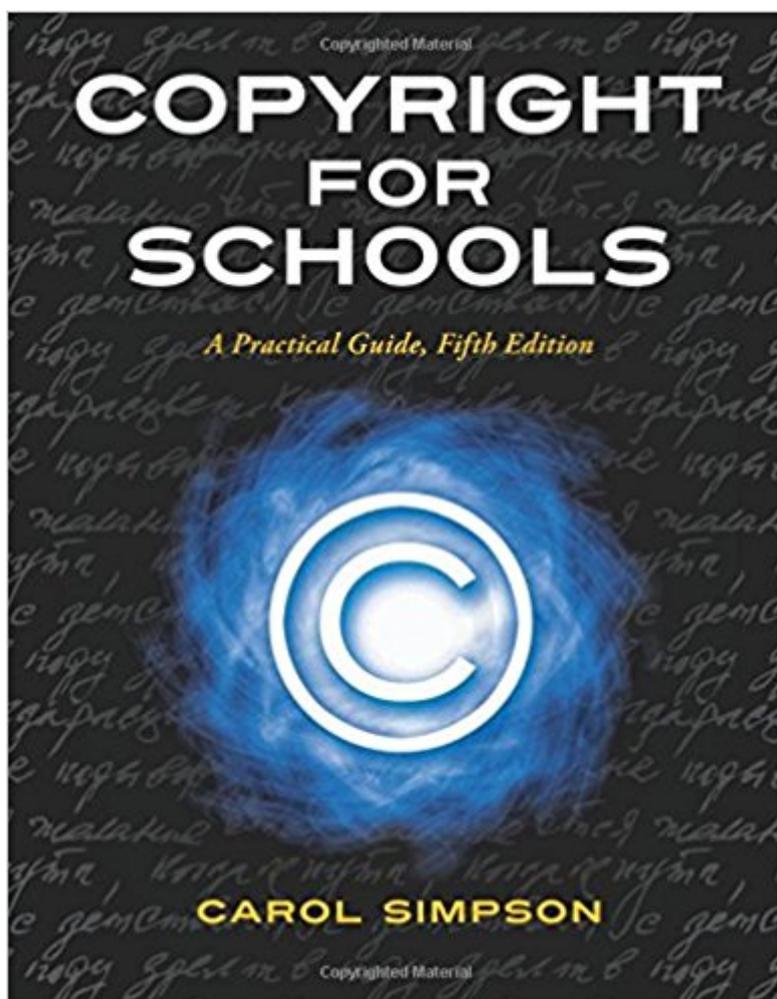


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# Copyright For Schools: A Practical Guide, 5th Edition (Copyright Series)



## Synopsis

An updated edition of the standard, comprehensive guide to copyright issues affecting schools, this book provides the watertight copyright policy and plan that's a must for every school district.

- Sample logs, record-keeping aids, notices, policies, request letters, forms, and instructional materials
- Questions and answers on representative school situations involving copyright, including hot topics like video yearbooks, wikis, and distance learning
- A reproducible copyright brochure suitable for school staff
- Examples of fair-use analysis
- Lists of copyright-cleared media and producers
- A comprehensive bibliography, including Internet links related to copyright

## Book Information

Series: Copyright Series

Paperback: 252 pages

Publisher: Linworth; 5 edition (October 14, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1586833936

ISBN-13: 978-1586833930

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 0.6 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #389,108 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > Law >

Intellectual Property > Patent, Trademark & Copyright #178 in Books > Textbooks >

Humanities > Library & Information Science #342 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences >

Social Sciences > Library & Information Science > General

## Customer Reviews

This resource, which has become the definitive guide for librarians, only gets better and better as Simpson dives into murky and ever-changing digital waters. She expands the scope of the previous edition (2001), particularly in aspects of law and technology. Following general chapters on copyright law, public domain, and fair use are chapters on specific types of materials and uses: print, audiovisual, multimedia, music, computer software, and distance learning. Each section presents typical activities that occur in a school setting, such as students adding clip-art to Powerpoint projects or a librarian bookmarking Web sites for the next day's class. The issues are discussed in terms of the rules and guidelines for use. Specific questions, such as, I have a teacher

who are answered in boxes throughout the book and hit the mark for most library-media dilemmas. Sample forms appear within chapters for off-air taping requests, permission requests, and more. An interesting chapter titled The Software Police sheds light on software piracy and measures being formed to prosecute violators, aided by provisions under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). Simpson's accessible style is reflected by simple language and an uncluttered format. A sample copyright policy, copyright and plagiarism guidelines for students, and a copyright infringement reporting form are among the topics that appear in the appendixes, followed by an extensive cross-referenced index. This exhaustive revision is a first purchase for school librarians.

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Revised, expanded, and updated, this classic primer for K-12 library professionals now consists of 16 chapters. Chapter 1 covers the basics of copyright law. Chapter 2 brings together information about public domain materials, while chapter 3 addresses fair use and its four main criteria. Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7 focus on specific formats, including MP3. Chapters 8, 9, and 10 center on distance learning, the Internet, and computer software. Chapters 11 through 15 consider administrative topics such as school library exemptions, permissions, and copyright policies. Chapter 16 provides 15 appendixes ranging from a sample copyright compliance agreement to a reproducible copyright -questions-and-answers brochure. Most chapters include a works cited list. Simpson's book adds another strong voice to the professional copyright section that should already include Complete Copyright (ALA, 2005), Copyright for Teachers and Librarians (Neal-Schuman, 2004), and Copyright in Cyberspace 2 (Neal-Schuman, 2005). Esther Sinofsky

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Clearly written and relatively concise, Simpson's Practical Guide offers just that for teachers and librarians looking to parse the finer points of copyright law. While the focus is largely on K-12 and school libraries, those in higher education and academic/public/special libraries will also find solid guidance here. Simpson begins with an overview of the law (know thy enemy?), as well as an explanation of the public domain, licensed and royalty-free material, and fair use before launching into chapters addressing the use of specific types of materials (print, audiovisual, music materials, multimedia, software) with a bit about the internet and distance learning crammed in the middle for

good measure. Aside from the repetitive nature of the chapters, which are likely designed with the awareness that some people are only going to read the section they think pertains to their circumstance and not any of the context and thus tend to cover the same points over and over, the only weakness of Simpson's work is its age. The 5th edition was published in 2010, and while that does not render it unusable, it does make you seriously wonder how out of date her coverage of technological issues is. A quick googling reveals at least a couple of touch-ups to the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, and hey, speaking of Google, there may have been a couple of pertinent cases involving them in the last decade that would bear mentioning. So very slight buyer beware: the basics are thoroughly covered here, but there may be recent tweaks (additional exemptions? limitations? who knows?) that happened post-press. Even with that caveat, *Copyright for Schools* is fantastically helpful for anyone attempting to navigate the vagaries of fair use. While not precisely scintillating reading, it more than makes up in utility what it lacks in dramatic flair.

Principals, teachers and school librarians, can you answer these questions correctly? 1. What are the four factors for Fair Use in education when it comes to copyright law? 2. What does copyright law say about the use of videos in the classroom? 3. Under what circumstances is a teacher allowed to keep copies of students' work to show as examples? 4. How does one report suspected copyright violations? 5. What are proper or improper uses of consumables? What is the definition of "consumables"? When is it permissible to make copies? Many teachers and librarians would not know the answers to these questions, and copyright law is an important issue. More and more schools are finding themselves in trouble over violations (knowing and unknowing) of copyright law. Granted, reading a book, even one as clearly-written as this one, does not make up for consulting a good copyright attorney if there is any doubt, but Simpson gives readers a good start with the fundamentals. The situations presented are very straightforward and to-the-point, and in plain English, not in legalese, with sidebars discussing common scenarios that could be troublesome. This, the fifth edition, goes deeper than earlier editions about distance learning and the TEACH Act, internet in schools, and school library exemptions. This book is very important reading for every school administrator, school librarian, or classroom teacher. I not only rate it five stars for its clarity, but I also say "required reading" for this audience.

This book has many aspects of copyright and the impact on schools covered. Simpson provides some clear guidelines and realistic scenarios for the impact of copyright. She covers the development of copyright from the English to fairly present day issues even getting into some of the

latest laws such as DMCA. I found the book to be very helpful in explaining the use of video in schools and have seen educators face such challenges.

A must have for any media specialist. I purchased this book after using it as a resource for a project in grad school and have used it and recommended it several times in the few months since I have purchased it. It offers real life examples (which I have actually seen) and tells why the law was or was not broken. Easy to read it will become a favorite reference source guaranteed!

Informative I used this for a college class and keep it handy for use in my classroom.

This book has a great, approachable layout. The text covers the most up-to-date information for anyone (especially librarians) and is a super reference.

good book

What an amazing book! Easy to use and indispensable if you are a school library media specialist. Hard to believe a book like this could be EXCITING, but it's always nice to know when you are right and others are not so well informed. Use this book for all the black, white and gray areas of copyright issues. Should you make a "back up" copy of an audio tape? Is it okay to use photos off the web on a personal web page? This book will help you be a legal eagle with copyright issues in your school. Do you really know what "Fair Use" means? What about the legality with video tapes and multiple copies of other resources in the library collection. This highly informative and easy to comprehend book is invaluable as you try to wrap your brain around the complicated and complex copyright issues with print, media and the web. If you are a Library Media Specialist, add it to your personal or professional library.

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