

Copyright Guidelines for RVC Staff and Students

This guide is intended to help all users of copyright material. As UK and European copyright regulations are complicated this guide is quite lengthy, but please take the time to familiarise yourself with the regulations and your responsibilities. Academic institutions are not exempt from prosecution, but the responsibility for infringement of copyright rests with the person making the copy, not with the providers of the equipment. Buying or owning the original or a copy of a copyright work does not give you permission to use it how you wish. The Library has various books on the subject and you can request these by emailing Simon Jackson

(sjackson@rvc.ac.uk) who liaises with the Copyright Licensing Agency. Copyright is an intellectual property right for writers, artists, musicians, photographers, publishers and other creators. Copying without their permission is illegal. The following:

- x original literary, dramatic, musical or artistic works, such as books, articles, web pages, drawings, photographs, databases and computer programmes
- x sound recordings, films, videos, broadcasts, or cable programmes
- x typographical arrangements of published editions

The [Copyright Designs and Patents Act 1988](#) and the [Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003](#) give legal protection to creators of these works in order to prevent exploitation and to protect their moral rights. Creators do not need to apply for copyright protection in the UK – it is automatic. The Act also states the rights of members of the public, employees and libraries in terms of copying copyright works.

How long does copyright last?

Copyright generally exists in a work for a period of 70 years following the death of the creator. If the work has been created by several people the period of protection will last for 70 years following the death of the last surviving creator.

and the copyright owner and it is for both parties to negotiate the terms and conditions, including the payment or royalty for the use. There are no rules in copyright law governing what may be acceptable terms and conditions. Sometimes copyright owners act collectively to license certain uses and collective licensing bodies can be approached for a licence. The Government's

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Theses. A thesis is an unpublished work, and photographs and other copyright works may be included since it is considered to be the equivalent of an examination. If the thesis is subsequently published permission must be obtained to include copyright material.

Visually impaired . The [Copyright \(Visually Impaired Persons\) Act 2002](#) allows a visually impaired person to make, or have made for them, an "accessible" copy of the whole work - for example: braille, audio, large print or electronic.

Helpful copyright sites

- x [JISC Legal Information Service](#)
- x [UK Intellectual Property on the Internet](#)
- x [The Copyright in Higher Education Workgroup](#)