

Copyright & Fair Use

Copyright is an important consideration when you are using the works of others in the course of teaching, learning and research. Copyright also protects material that you create. In essence, copyright is a system of laws that is designed to protect the works of authors from unauthorised copying and transmission, whilst at the same time allowing the public to have reasonable access to information. Fair use is using the intellectual property of another, but not abusing it. Further details are available at the [Copyright Association of Ireland](#).

The ease with which online content can be copied (accidentally or otherwise) can often lead to violation of copyright law. The fact is that every digital artefact (e.g. a document, photo or web page) is automatically granted full copyright so that the creator has control over how it can be re-used. This also means that the content of your Learning Portfolio when developed is yours. All rights are reserved to you and no copying is allowed without your permission.

It is important to remember that as a developer of a learning portfolio:

- You cannot copy text verbatim. If you want to extract or quote from a particular source, you must always correctly cite it by following [referencing standards](#). Plagiarism occurs when you take the ideas of someone else and present them as your own or without following the above referencing standards. Under university regulations, plagiarism is an offence
- You are free to use any images you have created. However, you are not allowed to reuse images from other sources (such as websites, books or periodicals) without written permission. Alternatively, you can use copyright free images available from the resource list below.

In conclusion, Copyright and Fair Use laws hold both teachers and students accountable for their action, require honesty and protect the work of others.

Creative Commons

One of the best ways to ensure that you do not infringe copyright law is to use [Creative Commons](#) (CC) licences. These enable simple sharing of content and are very popular in the development of eLearning materials. All current CC licences require that you attribute the original author(s) to the best of your ability with the information provided. For images, the attribution should display in italics directly underneath the image itself. Here is the standard convention for attributing CC content throughout IT Online materials: *Photo by (author) under (Creative Commons Licence Type)* i.e.

Photo by [Ars Electronica](#) under [CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

Abbreviated name of CC licence type plus link to full description

Photographer name plus link back to source (eg Flickr)

To find out more about Creative Commons, check out these links:

- **Creative Commons Kiwi** Clever New Zealand video explaining the various CC licence types. It's important to be aware of the different types so you can use them appropriately.
- **Catherine Cronin's Blog** Excellent range of CC-related information and resources. The Open Attribute browser plugin mentioned is also very useful.
- **FAQs** Everything you ever wanted to know about creating, using & attributing CC content.

Sources for Copyright Free Images

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