



## COPYING TEXT AND IMAGES FROM THE INTERNET

### The Internet is not a copyright-free zone

Copyright in Australia is automatically granted to the creator of a work; a website is a 'work' which often consists of multiple other 'works' such as the words, images, and music or other sounds contained within it. This means that material on the Internet is nearly always protected by copyright even if that is not immediately obvious.

It is your responsibility to check each website for any conditions regarding terms of use and/or the reproduction or copying of material from it.

### Copying or 'reproduction' of material

The Copyright Act defines down-loading material or printing material from the Internet as 'reproduction', which normally requires the permission of the copyright owner. However, you may generally copy a certain amount of material from a website when it is done under the '[fair dealing](#)' provisions of the Copyright Act. Briefly, these are:

#### **fair dealing for the purpose of research or study**

Any individual may copy a 'reasonable portion' – see below – of a third party's copyright work for private study or research without infringing copyright or having to make a royalty payment. 'Research or study' also includes assessment exercises, so students may be able to rely on fair dealing to copy third party work for inclusion in an assignment.

and

#### **fair dealing for the purpose of review or critique**

Copyright work may be copied from the Web for inclusion in, for instance, a conference paper or a journal article when it is for the purpose of commenting on or analysing the material. It is important that there should be a critical engagement with the work being reproduced – it should not be used simply to augment your argument.

#### **a '[reasonable amount](#)' when copying text from an electronic work is:**

10% of the words, or 1 chapter, or 10% of the pages; or one article in an issue of an online periodical (2 or more articles from the same issue may be copied if they are all required for the same research or course of study). Staff copying articles from the web under the CAL licence (i.e. for educational purposes, rather than their own research) may only copy more than one article if all relate to the same subject matter.

### Copying images from a website

**Staff** may copy any artistic work - images, photographs, and diagrams - from a website under the CAL licence if they are to be used for educational purposes.

Like all other 'unauthorised' third party copyright material these images should be held in [ECMS/eReserve](#).

**Students** would be covered by 'fair dealing for the purposes of research and study' if they were to use images copied from a website in creating a piece of work for an assignment.

(The resultant work could **not** however be used for any other purpose: e.g. publication of the assignment - *especially online*; or in an employment portfolio; etc., without the copyright owner's permission as these are no longer fair dealing 'purposes')

**Staff and students** should be aware that website owners can make exceptions to the above provisions: you may have agreed not to copy material from a website according to a subscription agreement, or if you have clicked through a terms-of-use agreement forbidding copying to get to the material, for instance. Contact the [Copyright Coordinator](#) if you are unsure about a website's terms of use.

### Copying images from a database

A database's contract overrides provisions of the Copyright Act such as 'fair dealing'.

However, many sites make statements similar to this one from Science Direct (which would cover a student's use for an assessment exercise): *You may print or download Content from the Site for your own personal, non-commercial use, provided that you keep intact all copyright and other proprietary notices...*

Check the specific terms of the database/site to see if there is express permission for 'personal', 'non-commercial', or 'educational' uses.

In regard to either internet or databases, it is generally considered that there is an implied licence to make a single copy of a work when a PDF or other print friendly format is offered, as here: <http://www.joannabriggs.edu.au/services/articles.php> .

### Citation

Any material quoted, paraphrased, or copied from the Internet must be fully referenced, including the URL and the date on which the material was accessed.

See details on referencing at <http://wwwlib.murdoch.edu.au/guides/cite.html>

these information sheets may also be useful:

[Fair Dealing with Copyright Materials](#)

and

[Definition of a Reasonable Amount of Material to Copy](#)

For more information on this or any other copyright matter, please contact the Copyright Coordinator on 9360.7491 or at [copyright@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:copyright@murdoch.edu.au)