

## **COPYRIGHT FAQs**

**Q:** Can I show a movie to my residence hall buddies in my room?

**A:** “Public” in copyright terms is “a performance at a place open to the public or at any place where a substantial number of persons outside of a normal circle of a family and its social acquaintances is gathered.” Generally speaking, watching a movie with friends in your dorm room will not constitute a public performance and would be permissible under current copyright law. However, showing the movie in the student center or residence hall lounge would be considered a public performance and therefore, not permissible.

**Q:** “Out of print” means I can copy the work freely, right?

**A:** **WRONG!** Even out of print works can be considered copyright protected under current copyright law. According to US copyright law, the current term of protection is life of the author plus 70 years so most works remain protected by copyright for a long time after they cease to be commercially available.

**Q:** We want to create a video to show in chapel and we want to use clips of CDs and/or DVDs in the video.

**A:** There is some leeway to use clips in educational settings without getting permission from the copyright owner. However, they should be very short clips, and the video cannot be shown in any other setting than the one time for which it was created.

**Q:** I want to use Google maps in a video DVD. Do I have to get permission to do so?

**A:** **YES.** According to the terms of copyright on the Google Web page, it is not permissible to use the maps in any way that makes them available to a third part, or gives someone access to the material that could be mass copied without obtaining permission.

**Q:** I have a video that some of the students made as a tribute to a faculty member. They are hoping to play it in Chapel sometime in the future. It contains clips of films and music. Do we need permission to show it?

**A:** No, if:

1. it contains an inconsequential amount of material from the movie;
2. the clips have been copied from a legally obtained copy of the movie;
3. the video will not be posted to the Web in any form or location after it is shown in chapel.