



## Copyright Information for Teaching Assistants

### SOME BASICS

**Know the rules.** Check the above links to know what you can use in your classes without violating copyright rules. Copyright owners have sued individuals. They will probably sue the University, too, but that may not insulate the individual who took the allegedly infringing action from the full force of a lawsuit. *When in doubt, ask!*

**Fair use:** Generally, showing or distributing a small portion of a copyrighted work in class for educational purposes is permitted. But it is always a good idea to check with an expert. So again, *when in doubt, ask!*

#### **Here are a few ideas to consider.**

- Give students a link to the work instead of making copies of it. The library may have a subscription license that entitles your students to online access, or the work may be available on another legitimate website.
- It is illegal for an instructor or student to copy software for distribution among the members of a class without permission of the author or publisher.
- You may show a rented movie in class if it is shown for educational purposes.
- Credit the source of information you use from the internet.
- If the author of a work (video, audio, graphic) provides explicit guidelines on how to use his/her work, follow them.

The information presented here is only general information. Library staff can answer most questions about copyright. They are experts! The information here must not be relied on as a substitute for obtaining legal advice from a licensed attorney. Please contact the Office of University Counsel at (217) 333-0560 in the event that you need legal advice on copyright issues at the University.