

Scottish Association of Writers - Copyright Where to find Copyright information.



About copyright

From the Intellectual Property Office : <http://www.ipo.gov.uk> website

Copyright can protect:

- **literary works**, including novels, instruction manuals, computer programs, song lyrics, newspaper articles and some types of database
- **dramatic works**, including dance or mime
- **musical works**
- **artistic works**, including paintings, engravings, photographs, sculptures, collages, architecture, technical drawings, diagrams, maps and logos
- **layouts or typographical arrangements** used to publish a work, for a book for instance
- **recordings** of a work, including sound and film
- **broadcasts** of a work

You should only copy or use a work protected by copyright with the copyright owner's permission.

Copyright **applies to any medium**. This means that you must not reproduce copyright protected work in another medium without permission. This includes, publishing photographs on the internet, making a sound recording of a book, a painting of a photograph and so on.

Copyright does not protect ideas for a work. It is only when the work itself is fixed, for example in writing, that copyright **automatically** protects it. This means that you do not have to apply for copyright.

A copyright protected work can have more than one copyright, or another intellectual property (IP) right, connected to it. For example, an album of music can have separate copyrights for individual songs, sound recordings, artwork, and so on. Whilst copyright can protect the artwork of your logo, you could also register the logo as a trade mark.

Information in a form that can be downloaded is available from this listed site : <http://www.ipo.gov.uk>

Other Organisations offering Information

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society - section on copyright and leaflets available on their website at : <http://www.alcs.co.uk>

The Society of Authors : <http://www.societyofauthors.org>