The primary copyright law in the United States today is a federal statute codified in Title 17 of The United States Code. Congress has authorized each state to codify this law on an express

question which works to protect, to whose benefit, and for how long. The question which works to facilitate the advancement and evolution of advanced on one could foresee, intellectual property law must continually

advance and evolve in an environment of rapid technological change. As the social function of information is disposed of and the property rights of intellectual property are subject to change, information is no longer the monopoly of

With a legal monopoly of intellectual goods, there is no incentive to improve. Without a legal monopoly for information holders or creators, the more information is produced, the more rapidly innovation is encouraged. The administration of copyright law is an exercise in maintaining

The Supreme Court has recognized, however, that if the monopoly incentive is removed, the more technological

the marketplace.

the information that is marketplace.

The United States Copyright Act of 1976 provides a legal monopoly of intellectual goods to those who choose to create and produce such goods. This legal monopoly is an incentive to create and produce intellectual property and to maintain the quality of

One economic justification for intellectual property law is to encourage the consumer

evolved more slowly.

by others. Ideas or information on the other hand, are less tangible and more

common law, which states that each piece of intellectual property is protected by the Federal Copyright, the Copyright Law, the Patent Law, and the Trademark Law. These laws provide for the exclusive ownership of

law. Copyright law is an example of these fundamental principles which allow for the creation and production of intellectual property. Copyright law imposes limitations on the use of copyrighted works, restriction on the use of copyrighted works, and prohibits the unauthorized use of copyrighted works. The protection of intellectual property is essential for the development of new ideas and the advancement of society. Copyright law is an example of the protection of intellectual property and the promotion of new ideas and innovations.
Except as otherwise provided in statute, the exclusive rights under this title are subject to the following limitations:

(a) The exclusive rights under this title are not limited to copies of works:

1. By applying the principles of law to the facts, reproduce the work;
2. Adapt the work into a new work;
3. Perform the work publicly;
4. Display the work publicly;
5. Make copies of the work for purposes of study, research, or criticism; and
6. Make copies of the work for purposes of preservation or control of the work.

(b) The exclusive rights under this title are subject to the following conditions:

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6. The exclusive rights under this title are subject to the following conditions:
copyright infringement when uploading/downloadng music, videos, photographs, etc. However, some countries do not consider copyright infringement in such cases. For example, the United States has exceptions for certain educational and research purposes.

As faculty, staff, and students learn to use new technologies such as the Internet, libraries and archives are making and distributing copies of copyrighted works for several purposes, subject to specific conditions. Libraries and archives are not required to obtain permission to make and distribute copies of copyrighted works for educational purposes if they do so for educational purposes and do not commercially exploit the copies.

Distance education exceptions under Title 17 USC §110 (a)(2) are expanded to include distance learning, distance education, and educational television. This exception applies to distance learning and educational television programs.

First Sale Doctrine of 17 USC § 109, 17 USC § 110(1). This exception applies to the sale of a copy of a copyrighted work to another person. The sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself.

In the case of computer programs, the sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself. The sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself. The sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself. The sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself. The sale of a copy of a copyrighted work does not transfer the copyright itself.
Additional Resources:


U.S. Code at 1 § 8, c. 8, amended.


Innovative ways to read a document, law and policy, and related links to such subject areas may appear on the United States Copyright Office website. The site offers basic copyright information with links to areas on copyright, copyright records, publications, licensing, pre-registration, how to register a work, how copyright law impacts government web sites, and more. Copyright, trademark, and trade secret issues are also addressed.


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