

DLP Copyright FAQs

Copyright myths

Myth: If there's no copyright notice, it's not covered by copyright.

Fact: Copyright automatically applies to works from the moment they're created. You don't have to 'do' anything to obtain copyright.

Myth: If it's on the internet, you can use it.

Fact: Copyright is not 'waived' when you publish text or images on the internet.

Myth: I don't need permission if I copy less than 10% or only 3 minutes out of a 2 hour movie.

Fact: Using even a very small part of someone else's work can require permission if that part is an important or integral part and was the result of skill and time.

Myth: I don't need permission if I make changes to it.

Fact: Making changes doesn't take away the need to get permission. You also need to be careful that you do not make changes to someone else's work that they may regard as derogatory.

Myth: I can use other people's content provided I credit them.

Fact: You have a legal obligation to credit the author when you use their work (even if you have purchased the work), unless the author has agreed not to be credited, or it is not 'reasonable' to credit them.

Myth: I can use other people's content without permission provided I don't make money out of it.

Fact: You usually need permission even if your use is non-commercial.

Myth: I can use a movie trailer because it's not the whole film

Fact: Wrong! A movie trailer would be an artistic work in and of itself, separate from the film.

Example sources

Free content:

- <https://archive.org> – Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, and more.
- Google Image search with usage rights search option.

Buy what you use:

- <https://www.shutterstock.com> – Shutterstock has a library of royalty-free images, stock footage clips, and music tracks that can be accessed for a fee.

Create your own!