Copyright Decision Tree

nova scotia health Library Services

Start here:
Is the work protected by copyright?
Copyright does **not** protect:

- material in the public domain
- material lacking in creativity or originality such as data, facts or ideas.

No → **Use the work.**

Yes →

Are you the creator of the work?
If so:

- Are you the copyright owner?

or

- Have you retained the right to use it, or a different version of it, for this purpose?

Yes → **Use the work or the specific version allowed.**

No →

Is the work licensed for your intended use? For example, library license, open access, Creative Commons, Access Copyright license, stock image license.

Yes → **Use the work in compliance with license conditions.**

No →

Is there a licensing agreement or statement that specifically disallows this use of the work?
For example, website terms of use, library license restrictions.

Yes → **Find an alternative or go here.**

No →

Is the work protected by a technological protection measure (TPM)? For example, a password or download-blocker.

No →

Does Fair Dealing or another Copyright Act exception apply?

Questions?
Copyright@nshealth.ca

Yes → **Use the work in compliance with conditions in the Act.**

No →

Yes →

Find a different, legally accessible source for the same work without a TPM OR go here.

If you are unable to use this material, you could:

- ask the copyright owner for permission to use the work;
- provide a link to the work instead; or
- use a different work.

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