

COPYRIGHT

When may you download and share?

WHAT IS COPYRIGHT?

- Copyright, or authors' right, is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have in their literary, artistic and scientific works.
- Works covered range from books, music, paintings, sculpture, and films, to computer programs, databases, advertisements, maps, and technical drawings.
- Copyright is owned for a fixed number of years.
- It protects copyright owners and incentivises them to create and publish works and serve the public interest.
- Copyright may be assigned to a publisher.

WHY IS COPYRIGHT IMPORTANT ?

Copyright

- promotes creativity and development of knowledge.
- serves the public interest.
- allows copyright owners to earn an income from their work.
- protects the value of an author's work by prohibiting the unlawful or non-authorized use of the work.



WHEN DO I INFRINGE COPYRIGHT?

- Copyright infringement is theft – you reap where you have not sown.
- Both author and publisher suffer losses through copyright infringements.
- Material that is subject to copyright protection may not, without the permission of the copyright holder, be
 - downloaded from websites
 - shared, distributed or sold.
- Avoid groups that share copyright works illegally. This happens for example on WhatsApp, Telegram, Dropbox or Google Drive, even though these platforms are legal.
- There are exceptions and limitations to copyright owners' exclusive rights. Examples where restrictions do not apply are for
 - research and personal use for studies
 - non-commercial use in education and libraries
 - criticism and review
 - news reporting.
- With all these exceptions the source must be mentioned, as well as the name(s) of the author(s).



WHICH STEPS CAN BE TAKEN AGAINST INFRINGERS?

- Publishers and authors have the right to take the necessary action against copyright infringers and other freebooters.
- The Copyright Act makes provision for criminal penalties – a fine (a maximum of R5 000 per infringement) and/or imprisonment up to 3 years for a first conviction.
- Pirates can also be held accountable for damages.



DO THE RIGHT THING

- Respect the creator's rights.
- Allow the creator to earn an income – and support further creativity.
- If required, get permission to use copyright material.
- Resist illegal online materials.
- Report infringements to the author or publisher.



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