**What is protected by copyright?**

The Copyright Act divides the materials protected into two categories: [works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/works/) and [other subject matter](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/subject-matter-other-than-works/). The rules applying to the two categories are different – for example, the length and scope of copyright protection differs for the two different categories. Examples of the two categories include:

**a. Works**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Artistic Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/artistic-works/) | [Literary Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/literary-works/) | [Musical Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/musical-works/) | [Dramatic Works](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/dramatic-works/) |
| paintings sculptures graphics cartoons etchings lithographs photography drawings plans maps diagrams charts buildings models of buildings moulds and casts for sculptures | novels text books newspaper articles magazine articles journals poems song lyrics timetables technical manuals instruction manuals computer software computer games anthologies directories databases | melodies song music pop songs advertising jingles [film](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/film/) score | plays screenplays mime choreography |

**b. Other Subject Matter**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| [Films](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/film/) | [Sound Recordings](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/sound-recordings/) | [Broadcasts](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/broadcast/) | [Published Editions](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/published-editions/) |
| films video recordings DVDs television programs advertisements music videos online films and videos | digital recordings vinyl CD DVD audio cassette tapes | radio television | typesetting (the layout and look of a publication) |