**June 2020 – Issue 7 - THE LATEST NEWS IN COPYRIGHT FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS AND TAFE**

**Welcome to the first Copyright for Educators Update from the National Copyright Unit.**

The National Copyright Unit (NCU) is a specialised unit that provides copyright assistance and advice to all Australian government and non-government schools as well as TAFEs (excluding Victorian TAFEs) in Australia.

NCU is a small secretariat that acts on behalf of the Copyright Advisory Group (CAG) which reports to the COAG Education Council. CAG’s committee members are senior representatives from State and Territory Departments of Education, the Catholic and Independent school sectors, and TAFEs nationally (excluding Victorian TAFEs). The NCU was established in 2005 to:

* Provide specialist copyright assistance to schools and TAFEs;
* Negotiate and administer the School and TAFE sectors licences with Australian Collecting Societies and related copyright surveys; and
* Advocate for copyright law reform benefitting education.

For practical copyright advice, information on our National Copyright Seminar Series and Copyright for Educators (C4E) course please contact our team and see our [Smartcopying Website](http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/).

**Open Educational Resources (OER) and Creative Commons (CC)**

In recent years, there has been a significant trend towards OER and CC licensing. In this newsletter we look at OER and CC materials, the benefits of using them and some recent success stories.

A good place to start are our short explainers on OER and CC, see: <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons/short-explainers-on-cc-and-oer>

**What are OER?**

OER are teaching and learning materials that are freely available for everyone to use whether you are a teacher, student or self- learner and can be freely distributed, adapted, translated, remixed and improved. They can be in any format including hard copy and digital text, audio, video, images, interactive multimedia and combinations of these.

OER meet the ‘5Rs Framework,’ meaning that users are free to:

* **Retain**: Users have the right to make, archive, and "own" copies of the content;
* **Reuse**:  Content can be reused in its unaltered form;
* **Revise**: Content can be adapted, adjusted, modified or altered;
* **Remix**: The original or revised content can be combined with other content to create something new; and
* **Redistribute**: Copies of the content can be shared with others in its original, revised or remixed form.

For more information, see: <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/open-education-resources>.

**What is CC?**

OER resources are usually licensed under Creative Commons (CC). CC is a suite of licences that creates a **“some rights reserved”** model. The copyright owner retains copyright in their work while inviting certain uses of their work by the public. There are four primary elements which are mixed to create a licence:

**Attribution (BY) -** You must credit the creator, the title and the licence the work is under. This is compulsory for all Creative Commons licences. For more information on how to attribute a work, see our information guide: [‘How to Attribute Creative Commons Material’](http://smartcopying.edu.au/docs/default-source/creative-common-pdf/attribute.pdf?sfvrsn=2).
**Non-commercial** **(NC) -** Any use of the work must be for non-commercial purposes only.
**No Derivative Works (ND)** - The work can only be used exactly how it is. The work cannot be adapted or modified in any way without seeking further permission from the copyright owner.

**Share Alike** **(SA)** - Any new work produced using this material must be made available under the same licence as the original work.

For more information and for a summary of the 6 standard Creative Commons licences, see:

* <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons/creative-commons-information-pack-for-teachers-and-students/what-is-creative-commons->
* <https://creativecommons.org/>.

**The benefits of using OER/CC**

The current schools copyright licences do not allow for unrestricted use of material, adaptation, remixing or sharing of content with the community at large except in very limited circumstances.

By contrast, OER can provide the following benefits:

* **Safer**: OER are free to reuse, remix, redistribute and adapt for education resources without running the risk of breaching the complex copyright exceptions and copyright licence rules.
* **Internet compatible**: It is better adapted to the internet and the freedom which the internet provides to copy, distribute, adapt and remix resources. Materials can be shared across a wider audience using different platforms (e.g. Facebook, YouTube and other sites).
* **Enabler**: OER enables educators to reuse, remix and adapt resources since the copyright owner has already given permission to everyone.
* **Accessible**: There are over 1.8 billion CC-licensed works as of 2019 and many searchable online databases of CC-licensed work available.
* **Collaborative**: It encourages collaboration between educators and creates communities based on sharing of education resources which can increase the quality of materials and the development of ideas.
* **Cheaper**: It helps to save money on copyright fees and the administrative costs of seeking permission and allows education resources to be shared freely online with very low transaction costs.
* **Equitable**: It offers equal access to knowledge for everyone and allows for education resources to be adapted for minorities and those with disabilities.

The benefits of OER are being increasingly recognised. Government and Non-Government schools are strongly encouraged to use and create OER. All Australian Departments of Education support the use of OER by teachers and schools and have agreed to licence their websites and publications under CC BY 4.0 licences. They have also ensured that all teaching and learning resources created are OER. Many of the Departments of Education and non- government school sector are also licensing their learning resources under Creative Commons licenses to ensure wider sharing and building of knowledge.Applying a CC Licence to your educational resources will encourage greater access to valuable learning resources.

To learn how to apply a CC Licence, see: <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons/applying-a-creative-commons-licence>.

**How to find OER/CC licensed material**

It is surprisingly easy to find quality materials. Since most OER are licensed under CC, we’ll give guidance below on easy ways to find CC licensed resources.

By using the “CC Search” tool or equivalent function, many sites offer a wide range of CC Materials:

* [CC Search](https://ccsearch.creativecommons.org/) allows customised usage of Google and other well-known search engines by refining results down to resources that are licenced under creative commons.
* [Google](https://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en) allows searches for openly licensed resources by going to the advanced search page and setting “usage rights” parameters to “Free to use, share, or modify”.
* [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/) allows for access to CC licensed videos which can be found by typing in your search term followed by a comma and then “creativecommons”. A second method allows for a filtering of results by first typing in your search term and pressing Enter, then filtering the results by selecting “Creative Commons” under the ‘Features’ header.
* [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page) offers millions of pages of information licensed under CC BY SA.

For more information on how to find OER and CC licensed material, see:

* <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/open-education-resources/where-to-find-cc-licensed-material>
* <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/open-education-resources/where-to-find-oer-materials/oer-in-australia>​.

**CC Success Story – Partners in Learning**

An inspirational initiative that used CC licensing is the Partners in Learning program. In 2019, Partners in Learning, a Queensland Department of Education program, developed 25 videos aimed at non-teachers from 7 Schools of Distance Education with the goal of using only CC licensed material. All stakeholders, including publishers and child talent, were informed about CC licensing options and consented to a CC BY NC ND licence. This meant the videos could be shared across the schools sector with stakeholders being properly attributed and without content being exploited commercially without their permission. In addition, careful consideration was given to other types of material that could be used, including CC licensed books and ones that were © of the Department.

By using only CC content, the program avoided the traditional “stop at the school gate” issue, which ordinarily limits use and distribution of such material, and is now accessible to anyone across Australia and beyond that is helping a child learning to read. These resources are not only an incredibly valuable educational asset but also a wonderful example of just how beneficial CC licences can be.

To view the Partners in Learning videos, visit the Queensland Department of Education’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/DETQueensland/videos>.

For another CC success story, see: [https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons/carina-state-school-a-creative-commons-community!](https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons/carina-state-school-a-creative-commons-community%21).

*If you have any OER or CC success stories, we’d love to hear from you! You can call or send us an email (details below).*

For further information, see the Smartcopying website at:

* <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education>
* <https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/open-education/creative-commons>.

**Additional Information**NCU is always here to provide copyright assistance and advice to schools and TAFEs (excluding Victorian TAFEs). If you have any questions or need additional information, please visit the Smartcopying website (<http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/>) or you can contact us on Tel: 02 7814 3855 and at smartcopying@det.nsw.edu.au.

The purpose of this update is to provide a summary and general overview of selected copyright issues. It is not intended to be comprehensive nor does it constitute legal advice. If you need to know how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from the National Copyright Unit.