**March 2022 – Issue 12 - THE LATEST NEWS IN COPYRIGHT FOR AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS AND TAFE**

**Using digital teaching materials in a hybrid learning environment**

Schools and teachers have done a great job adapting to new ways of learning over the past term. Most schools have adopted a hybrid approach, given there may be students learning from home at different times during the school year due to COVID-19.

Schools in NSW and QLD are also facing new challenges with closures due to the extensive flooding occurring in both states.

This newsletter outlines the key issues when using digital materials during this continued period of disruption.

**Key issues when using digital teaching materials during student isolations, natural disasters & day-to-day learning**

When preparing lessons for students, where some or all of your students are learning remotely, or you are from a school in NSW and QLD that has been forced to close due to the floods, follow these general principles:

* Use free legal sources of content (eg if you want students to access a news item, see if it is available for them to access from home on a catch-up TV service like ABC iView).
* Link where possible. Linking is not a copyright activity, it just provides a pathway to that material. For example, if teachers want students to read materials that are available online, send a link to the website rather than make copies.
* Use subscription services that are available from home (for example Reading Eggs or Hot Maths).
* Where possible, provide copies of materials to students via a password protected [digital teaching environment](https://smartcopying.edu.au/glossary/digital-teaching-environment-dte/) (DTE). What rules apply will depend on the type of content you are uploading. See [Part 2 – COVID-19 School Lockdown Copyright Guidance](https://smartcopying.edu.au/covid-19-school-lockdown-copyright-guidance/) for more information on how you can use different types of materials.
* When using Zoom or other video conferencing platforms to teach remotely, note that there is currently no clear permission in the Copyright Act allowing you to use copyright materials in the same way you would in a classroom. However, taking the seven steps set out under Part 1 of the [information sheet](https://smartcopying.edu.au/covid-19-school-lockdown-copyright-guidance/) mentioned above will lower (and in some cases eliminate) the risk of copyright infringement.

**Reading stories to students as part of virtual storytime, where students are affected by government stay-at-home-orders due to COVID-19 or natural disasters (NSW and QLD)**

In 2021, the Australian Society of Authors and the Australian Publishers Association agreed to revive the [Storytime Arrangement](https://smartcopying.edu.au/revival-of-storytime-arrangement-2/) that was in place during 2020. Teachers can read stories to students as part of virtual/recorded lessons during periods of remote learning. However, this only applies where students are affected by government ‘stay-at-home’ orders. In 2022, [this arrangement was updated](https://smartcopying.edu.au/storytime-arrangement-flood-emergency-in-nsw-and-queensland/) to apply to schools in NSW and QLD where teachers are unable to teach face-to-face due to flooding.

Outside these periods of remote learning, there is no clear permission yet in the Copyright Act that allows you to read stories to students as part of a virtual classroom, except in some circumstances. See [Part 2 Question 3 of ‘Remote and Digital Learning – ‘day-to-day’ teaching and learning’](https://smartcopying.edu.au/remote-and-digital-learning-day-to-day-teaching-and-learning/) for more information or contact the [National Copyright Unit](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/) (NCU).

**National Copyright Webinar Series**

The NCU is offering a series of free webinars to help teachers and educators navigate copyright while teaching.

To register for these webinars throughout the year, see the [link](https://smartcopying.edu.au/national-copyright-seminar-series/) on our Smartcopying website.

**Additional information**

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 [NCU](https://smartcopying.edu.au/contact-us/). For information about our [National Copyright Webinar Series](https://smartcopying.edu.au/national-copyright-seminar-series/) and [Copyright for Educators (C4E)](https://smartcopying.edu.au/copyright-4-educators-course/) course, please visit the [Smartcopying website](https://www.smartcopying.edu.au/).