

COPYRIGHT & WEB DESIGN

When posting materials, especially pictures, sound, and video, on a Web site you must first check to make sure you have the legal right to post the information.

It's important to remember copyright laws apply online. Just because its easy to copy text, images, audio clips, or videos from another Web site does not mean you can legally use those materials.

COPYRIGHT - TITLE 17 U.S. CODE

Copyrights are the legal protections provided to authors of "original works of authorship" that are "fixed in an tangible medium of expression."

Rights of a copyright holder include the right:

- to reproduce the copyrighted work
- to make derivative works
- to sell, rent, or lease the work
- to publicly perform or display the work

Copyright protection lasts the life of an author plus 70 years. In the case of corporate authorship copyright last 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation (which ever is shorter).

Works that do not have copyright protection are said to be in the public domain. Works in the public domain include works who's copyright has expired, works created by the U.S. government (for the most part), and works who's author has relinquished copyright.

The public domain and the Internet are NOT the same thing - works on the Internet still have copyright protection.

STAYING LEGAL IN WEB DESIGN

- **Images** - Use only images you have created, images you know to be in the public domain, or images you have permission to use.
- **Sound & Video** - only use or post sound and video recordings you have created, you know to be in the public domain, or you have obtained legal permission to use.

Some authors have made their work available for use on the Web, often with restrictions. To find out more check out the resources section on the back of this handout.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Looking for legal content to include in your Web site? Check out one of the following sites:

FreeFoto.com has a number of pictures you can use for free. But, they do have a few rules:

- The pictures are only available free for your own PERSONAL, NONCOMMERCIAL use and TEST or SAMPLE use, including COMPS and LAYOUTS.
- You must credit the FreeFoto.com web site on your home page. If you use one of the full screen images you must place a hypertext link with the line Supplied by FreeFoto.com in a conspicuous place. We also ask that you add a (c) FreeFoto.com to the image alt tag.
- You MAY NOT use the images to create your own photo gallery web site.

Firstgov.gov - You can also download pictures from the US Government. According to the government: "most of these images and graphics are available for use in the public domain; they may be used and reproduced without permission or fee. However, some images may be protected by license. Therefore we recommend you thoroughly read the disclaimers on each site before use." (firstgov.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml)

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