

## *Copyright Questions and Answers for Information Professionals*, by Laura N. Gasaway

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# Copyright Questions and Answers for Information Professionals

Laura N. Gasaway

2013 | Purdue University Press | 284 pages, softcover | ISBN: 978-1557536396 | U.S. \$24.95 (E-book \$11.99)

Copyright dos and don'ts have never been more complicated. With the rise of digital content and technologies such as ebooks, video streaming, file sharing and click-through licensing, librarians could hardly be blamed for throwing up their hands in desperation and conceding defeat. *Copyright Questions and Answers for Information Professionals* could just be the reference they need to continue the good fight.

The 284-page volume is a compilation of Laura "Lolly" N. Gasaway's fifteen years as "Copyright Questions and Answers" columnist for *Against the Grain*. Each chapter begins with a brief overview of the topic and then dives right into a number of related questions. Gasaway grounds her clear and concise responses in copyright law with a smattering of risk assessment strategies. When a librarian asks about using images found in early twentieth century Montgomery Ward catalogs, Gasaway deftly explains the complex rights issues due to the company's now defunct status, but also provides risk assessment reasoning for using the photographs without permission.

Librarians and other information professionals will appreciate Gasaway's ability to make the complex and often bewildering copyright environment relatively straightforward and uncomplicated. With more than 300 questions referring to typical copyright-related scenarios, those tasked with copyright responsibilities will find comfort in Gasaway's expert insights and well-conceived rationales.

Readers should be aware, however, that information could be dated due to a question's age or changes in the

educational use copyright landscape since the book's publication. For example, two separate questions deal with circumventing copyright protection measures, an activity the Librarian of Congress determined, in both 2010 and 2012, *is* permitted for some educational groups. One answer unequivocally states, "...removing copyright controls is an infringement," without any mention of the determination, while the second answer refers to the 2010 ruling allowing college and university professors and college and university film and media studies students to circumvent technological controls. The exception was further expanded to include K-12 teachers in 2012, most likely after *Copyright Questions and Answers for Information Professionals* went to press. Similar issues arise with answers referring to the Classroom Guidelines as well as those dealing with the use of images.

Despite these shortcomings, at a retail price of \$24.95, *Copyright Questions and Answers for Information Professionals* deserves a place on the desk of any librarian dealing with copyright issues, especially those at risk-averse institutions. Because the book is not intended as an in-depth analysis of copyright issues, information professionals would do well to add *Copyright Law for Librarians and Educators* (Crews, 2011) to their library.

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