The Librarian's Copyright Companion, 2nd Edition, by James S. Heller, Paul Hellyer, & Benjamin J. Keele

Allyson Mower


© 2013 by the author(s). This open access article is distributed under a Creative Commons Attribution License, which allows unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, providing the original author and source are credited.

JLSC is a quarterly journal sponsored and published by Pacific University Library | ISSN 2162-3309 | http://jlsc-pub.org
The chapter on fair use gives an excellent, brief history that explains the move from being solely defined by the judiciary for most of the 19th and 20th centuries to becoming part of the law in 1976. The authors also provide good definitions of the four factors and how they have been applied in different cases. I like the bottom-line reminder that fair use balances authors’ rights with the rights of users.

Beyond fair use, many of the other copyright exceptions are covered in detail, including those for libraries and archives and teachers. In particular, Chapter 8 helps the reader think through the complicated copyright questions surrounding videos and DVDs. The authors give exceptional guidelines on what constitutes a public performance within a library and also help reinforce the fact that there is not yet an industry-wide solution to streaming rights and permissions.

Finally, don’t miss the new chapter on library publishing, which discusses the difference between library as publisher and library as re-publisher. Nuanced treatments of copyright issues need to be considered depending on which activity the library engages in and this section provides practical guidance for readers.

Overall, the second edition of The Librarian’s Copyright Companion is a great addition to the personal collection of anyone working in libraries as well as to any general library collection.

Allyson Mower  University of Utah