Copyright For Teachers And Librarians In The 21st Century

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Rebecca P. Butler

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Synopsis
Here is a practical copyright handbook designed to help librarians, media specialists, technology coordinators and specialists, and teachers stay within copyright law while making copyrighted print, non-print, and Web sources available to students and others. Library educator Rebecca Butler explains fair use, public domain, documentation and licenses, permissions, violations and penalties, policies and ethics codes, citations, creation and ownership, how to register copyrights, and gives tips for staying out of trouble. She explains copyright considerations for the web, television, videos and DVDs, computer software, music, books, magazines, and journals--materials that can create a day-to-day challenge for educators and require this resource’s careful guidance. Up-to-date coverage includes: *iPods and other hand-held devices (including cell phones that access the Internet); blogs; wikis; Pod-casts; RSS feeds; Nings; *Second Life and other Internet world environments; Social Networks (FaceBook, MySpace, Twitter, etc; *Moodle, Skype, and similar digital communication tools; *Social bookmarking; web syndication; video streaming; TIVO and similar systems; *deep-linking *Computer/video games/gaming; and *Open-sourcing/Creative Commons. Butler also covers how to deal with those who would have you break the law; orphan works; file sharing; distance education; digital rights management; the law: classroom exemption, handicap exemption, library exemption, other important federal exemptions in the K-12 schools, parodies, and state laws; copyright lawsuits; relationship of plagiarism to copyright; and copyright and privacy. Both a self-education tool and a practical guide, the book makes clear just what teachers and librarians can and cannot do in the classroom or library. Essential background is provided for everything from the basic concepts of copyright law to specific applications of it for various types of media. Figures and flowcharts throughout make the book easy to follow and understand. Appendices feature U.S. copyright law excerpts and resources for further information.

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Customer Reviews

This is a handbook for teachers, librarians, and others who work or study in schools. It is designed to help them understand how to comply with the provisions of the copyright law. While the author says in many places this is aimed at K-12 schools, almost everything is equally applicable to post-secondary educational institutions. Since copyright law is open to interpretation, this book has many flowcharts (which are really decision trees) to help readers decide if an action complies with the law or not. I disagree with some of the author’s interpretations of a derivative work, but mostly the author does a good job of guiding readers to a good decision. The author has many questions and scenarios gathered from her copyright workshops. These are common questions and rather than give a firm yes or no answer, the author refers the reader to a flowchart for navigating the decision process. While this book was published in 2011, some of the sections seem to have been written in the 1980’s. Some of the references given in the text are weak; for an example a newspaper article as a sole source for information about a law suit. I also think the author should quote US Code Title 17, not the text of the 1976 law. Since this is a handbook, not an academic treatment of copyright, the chapters are written to answer the practical aspects of copyright compliance. The author is very conservative in her interpretation of “fair use.” Which means it is very hard to be 100% compliant. I hope the readers will understand that copyright is supposed to foster creativity and reward creators for their efforts and not create law breakers. This book is highly recommended for anyone who deals with copyright issues for any source, print, non-print and electronic sources.

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