



A2P2 ISSUE BRIEF: COVID-19, REMOTE EDUCATION, AND COPYRIGHT

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COVID-19, REMOTE EDUCATION, AND COPYRIGHT

As governments attempt to constrain the spread of COVID-19, 91% of students worldwide are affected by school closures. Educators, researchers, and learners are grappling with questions about how copyright law applies to activities associated with the transition to remote education. This issue brief collects resources that have been developed to answer these questions.

Read More: [COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response](#), UNESCO

FAIR USE AND EMERGENCY REMOTE TEACHING AND RESEARCH

A group of library copyright specialists recently released a *Public Statement on Fair Use & Emergency Remote Teaching & Research* to provide clarity for U.S. colleges and universities about how copyright law applies to remote teaching and research in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. In response to concerns that copyright may pose impediments to a rapid shift to remote instruction—or conversely, that copyright is not relevant—the statement authors review how fair use and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) apply to remote teaching. As they conclude, “[w]hile legal obligations do not automatically dissolve in the face of a public health crisis, U.S. copyright law is, thankfully, well equipped to provide the flexibility necessary for the vast majority of remote learning needed at this time.”

Read More: [Public Statement on Fair Use & Emergency Remote Teaching & Research](#)

COPYRIGHT AND DIGITAL TEACHING MATERIALS

The Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property has developed a series of webinars to help teachers navigate concerns around copyright when finding digital teaching materials. Webinars include:

- **Educational fair use in the COVID-19 emergency:** Yes you can scan (and more) for colleges and universities ([recording here](#))
- **Finding teaching materials for Fall 2020 and beyond:** Evaluating resilient digital teaching and learning materials from open and commercial sources for college and university teaching (including finding materials and evaluating licensing) (April 24, 3:00 PM ET; [register here](#))

- **Creating teaching materials for Fall 2020 and beyond:** Authoring and adapting Open Educational Resources for colleges and universities (strategies, systems, and sources for creating OER) (May 1, 3:00 PM ET; [register here](#))
- **Universal Design:** Ensuring equitable access to education in the transition to online teaching and learning for students with disabilities and vulnerable students (May 8, 12:00 PM ET; [register here](#))
- **Copyright in the U.S. and Canada compared:** Why taking advantage of fair use for education doesn't cause cross-border incompatibility (May 15, 1:00 PM ET; [register here](#))

Read More: [Best Practices for Open Educational Resources](#), Program on Information Justice and Intellectual Property, American University Washington College of Law

FAIR USE AND READING ALOUD

As many teachers face an abrupt shift to online teaching, there have been questions about how copyright law applies to the translation of classroom-based practices of reading aloud to students to the digital environment. *Reading Aloud: Fair Use Enables Translating Classroom Practices to Online Learning* examines how fair use applies to read-aloud activities online, concluding that “[w]hen researchers translate classroom practices of reading aloud to online student facing tools, such as distribution through a school website, learning management system, or live webcast, fair use enables most of the same practices online that take place in person.”

Read More: [Reading Aloud: Fair Use Enables Translating Classroom Practices to Online Learning](#), Meredith Jacob et al.

PUBLISHERS TEMPORARILY MAKE CONTENT FREELY AVAILABLE

In response to challenges created by COVID-19, Project MUSE has partnered with more than 60 publishers to temporarily make scholarly content freely available to assist with access for the many students, faculty, and researchers now working remotely. More than 15,000 books, and over 230 journal titles—comprising well over 10,000 issues and more than 185,000 articles—are available through this initiative.

Read More: [Free Resources on MUSE During COVID-19](#), Project MUSE