Copyright Literacy Strategy

2024-2029

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
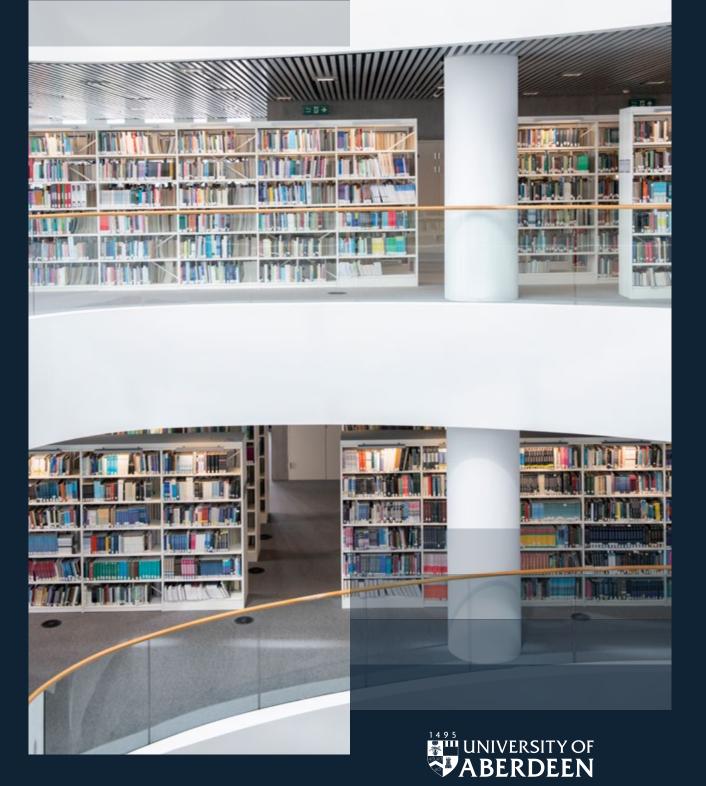
Our Vision

Our staff and students feel confident in making informed decisions about creating and using copyright material. They understand the role copyright plays in facilitating the pursuit of truth, innovation, and creation of new knowledge, and apply open licences wherever possible to support the University's foundational purpose of being 'open to all'.

Our Values

Open

Our approach to copyright fosters openness and the sharing and creation of knowledge. We use open licences where appropriate to maximise the reach and impact of our research and teaching.

Responsible

Our staff and students are expected to behave lawfully and ethically.

We balance our commitment to openness with appropriate protection of institutional copyright where required for commercialisation to help safeguard our financial sustainability.

International

Copyright law operates on an international basis, and good decision making requires an appreciation of different cultural and legal customs. We empower our community to use copyright works in a way which takes account of differences and commonalities as our members work, study, and collaborate across borders.

Empowered

Our staff and students are supported to make full use of the provisions allowing them to use copyright material, including fair dealing and statutory copyright exceptions in addition to licensed resources. They are also able to question assumptions about copyright law based on a broader understanding of cultural, economic, and other contextual factors.

Our staff and students are empowered to take a risk-managed approach to copyright, making informed judgements which reflect current best practice when working with copyright works.

Inclusive

We recognise that copyright cannot be looked at in isolation. There are related ethical, legal and compliance issues, such as information security, data protection and accessibility, which often need to be considered alongside copyright.

We are sensitive to the needs of our diverse staff and students and the different approaches required to respond to their individual needs and contexts.

Our Activities

The Directorate of Digital and Information Services will create a Copyright Literacy Steering Group to oversee progress with the strategy.

The Steering Group will:

- Review University policies relating to copyright law to ensure they reflect the institution's strategic objectives.
- Continually update and refine our copyright guidance to support staff and students, using user experience design principles. This will ensure guidance is concise, in plain English, and easy to access.
- Develop a tailored education and communication programme, supported by a network of staff whose roles involve advising on aspects of copyright.
- Contribute to sector-wide developments in defining and communicating good practice.
- Monitor developments in copyright law and consider whether these require a change to University strategies or policies.

Evaluation

This strategy will empower our staff and students to create, share, and use copyright works.

Evaluation of progress will use a range of measures, which may include:

- Analysis of the number and nature of enquiries sent to the copyright support team.

- Analysis of engagement with online guidance.

- Analysis of numbers of people attending copyright training sessions.
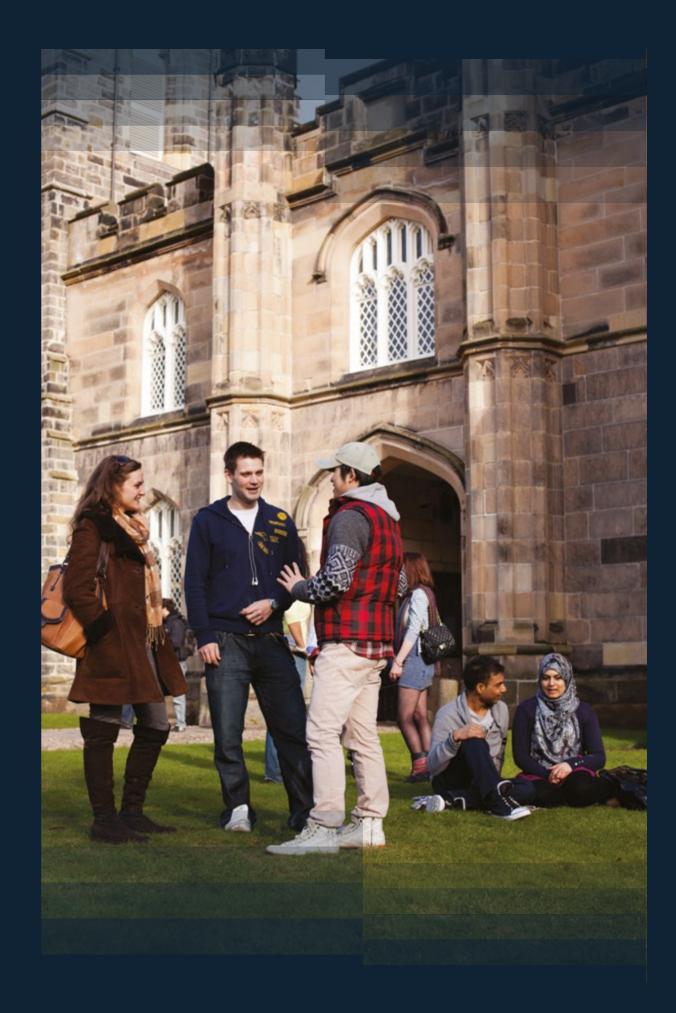
- Case studies demonstrating how the strategy is supporting teaching, research, and engagement at the University, and progress on our aim of openness regarding open educational resources, reading lists, cultural collections, and other areas of activity.

- Survey questions or focus groups measuring confidence in working with copyright

- The level of engagement with other institutions on the University of Aberdeen's approach.

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🌐 www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/copyright.php