

Copyright, intellectual property and collecting agencies

Copyright is often referred to as the cornerstone of creativity. In simple terms it means ownership of your work.

When you write an original work or take a photograph, copyright is automatically created. The copyright is your intellectual property.

Copyright law is specific and covers all forms of creativity whether literary, dramatic, artistic or musical. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, is the principal legislation covering intellectual property rights in the United Kingdom and the work to which it applies.

The UK Copyright Service has the following information that may be useful:

- **Glossary of terms**
www.copyrightservice.co.uk/copyright/glossary
- **Intellectual property rights**
www.copyrightservice.co.uk/copyright/intellectual_property
- **Top 10 copyright myths**
www.copyrightservice.co.uk/copyright/copyright_myths

If you have a copyright or IP question or problem, your union may well be one of your first ports of call. Additionally, there are a number of organisations that deal with specific aspects of copyright as well as collecting fees on behalf of creators so it is worth signing up the relevant ones.

Some of the key organizations and collecting agencies in the UK are listed below. You may want to make a note of for future reference.

Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society

www.alcs.co.uk

ALCS is the British collecting society for all writers. It is a not-for-profit membership organisation for all writers working to protect and promote the rights of authors writing in all disciplines and ensure authors receive fair payment for the various uses of their work.



Copyright Licensing Agency

www.cla.co.uk

Copyright Licensing Agency licenses organisations for copying extracts from print and digital publications on behalf of authors, publishers and visual creators.

Design and Artists Copyright Society

www.dacs.org.uk

DACS is the UK's leading copyright and collecting society for artists and visual creators. It helps artists and visual creators receive recognition and reward for their work

We provide three rights management services for artists: Payback, Artist's Resale Right and Copyright Licensing.

Intellectual Property Office

www.ipo.gov.uk/copy.htm

IPO is the official government body responsible for Intellectual Property (IP) rights in the UK. These rights include patents, designs, trade marks, and copyright.

Intellectual Property (IP) results from the expression of an idea. So IP might be a brand, an invention, a design, a song or another intellectual creation. IP can be owned, bought and sold.

Own-it

www.own-it.org

Own-it offers intellectual property (IP) advice and support for creative businesses. It offers a range of services, from basic to specialist support, through online and face-to-face seminars, workshops and, where appropriate, surgeries with IP lawyers.

Own-it aims provide creative practitioners and businesses with relevant knowledge, advice and support, so that they can protect, exploit and value their IP.

Own-it can answer your IP questions through its IP advice service (<http://www.own-it.org/advice>) or you can find answers to common queries in its knowledge bank. To get access to services, you need to register with Own-it.



THE FEDERATION of
ENTERTAINMENT UNIONS

Performing Rights Society for Music

www.prsformusic.com/Pages/default.aspx

PRS for Music is for music writers, composers and publishers. Formed as The MCPS-PRS Alliance in 1997 with the PRS for Music brand adopted in 2009, the organisation brings together two royalty collection societies; MCPS and PRS. It collects and pays royalties to its members when their music is exploited in one of a number of ways – when it is recorded onto any format and distributed to the public, performed or played in public, broadcast or made publicly available online.

UK Copyright Service and British Library Business and IP Centre

Offers free online courses on intellectual property. If you have an idea that you are looking to commercialise, these free courses from the British Library (www.bl.uk) will help you understand how to protect your idea and how it might be developed.

For online Intellectual property information (www.bl.uk/bipc/dbandpubs/intpropres/index.html)

To access the online e-courses (www.copyrightservice.co.uk/3p/bl/) (www.bl.uk/bipc) you need to register with a username and password.

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