Nourish the creative spirit: Respect copyright!
In general, the *Copyright Act* does not allow copyright protected works to be reproduced without the copyright owner's permission (although there are a few exceptions in the Act). As a result, professors who want to copy articles or excerpts from works for their students need permission from the publisher or author for every text copied. Managing those requests would obviously involve a lot of work for both the copyright owner and you as a user.

To streamline and speed up the permission process, copyright owners established Copibec, the Quebec copyright licensing agency that can issue comprehensive copying licences on their behalf. College level institutions – represented by the *Fédération des cégeps* and the *Association des collèges privés du Québec* – have signed an agreement with Copibec that gives them access to millions of Canadian and foreign works under certain conditions as long as they pay licence fees (royalties).
The 2011-2014 agreement governing the reproduction of works in college level institutions allows millions of works from about 25 countries to be copied in print or digital format. The copyright protected works covered by the agreement include books, newspaper and magazine articles and dramatic works (plays) as well as any artistic works (illustrations, diagrams, photographs, etc.) contained in those publications. The agreement also covers song lyrics appearing in CD liner notes. However, exercise books, sheet music, website excerpts, works in the public domain and works on Copibec’s Exclusions List (listed by category or rightsholder) are excluded from the agreement.

Users in college institutions are authorized to copy 10% of the total number of pages in a book, periodical issue or newspaper issue, up to a maximum of 25 pages, for the same course group during one semester. If those limits are respected, it is therefore possible to copy an entire chapter, periodical article, tale, short story, poem or song from a published work.

In addition to traditional print format copying methods that were allowed under previous agreements (photocopying or xerography, stencil duplicating or drawing), the 2011-2014 agreement now authorizes digital format copying. In other words, within the scope of the agreement’s limits and conditions, you can do the following:

- Scan a print format work to make a digital copy
- Print that digital copy
- Store digital copies of articles, excerpts from works or coursepacks on a secure network and make them accessible to students in a course
- Send a coursepack electronically to a student, provided the transmission is done by an authorized third party
- Present a print or digital format copy (made in compliance with the agreement) in class using a projector, computer or any other equivalent device
- Fax excerpts of works

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1 An excerpt from a website can be copied if it is the digital version of a publication registered in Copibec’s repertoire (magazine articles, excerpts from plays, etc.).
2 At the end of the 50th year following the author’s death (or the death of the last remaining contributor for a collaborative or translated work), the copyright for that work expires and it may be copied without permission.
3 The Exclusions List is available on the Copibec website at www.copibec.qc.ca.
The cost of the copying licence is $11.00 per student for the 2011-2012 academic year and will be $11.80 and $12.40 for the remaining years. The number of full time students per college institution is calculated by the Quebec Ministère de l’Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport according to a formula set out in the agreement between Copibec and the college institutions.
By respecting the college institution copying agreement, you are helping provide fair compensation to authors and publishers for their work.

Every year, nearly 2,000 authors and about 500 publishers in Quebec receive licence fees for their works that were copied by college institutions. In addition, agreements between Copibec and other copyright licensing agencies provide compensation to thousands of authors and publishers all over the world.

Together we can provide fair compensation to content creators who enhance the quality of education.

Respect copyright, encourage creativity.

How to contact us

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