

Copyright

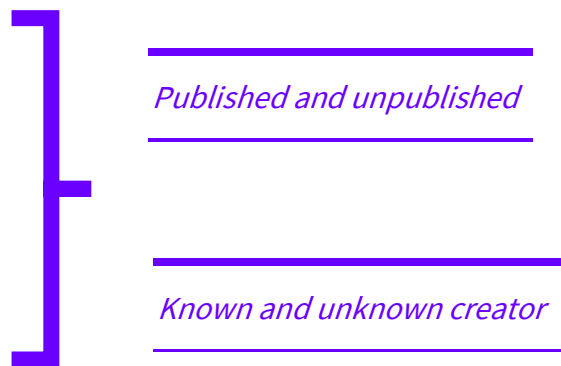
Heritage Collections and the law

What is copyright?

Copyright refers to the rights granted to the creator of any original work to permit or prevent other people from copying it. Heritage Collections could still be in copyright, and it is important not to use or re-use someone else's work illegally. Works can be in copyright whether they are published or unpublished. Even works with no known creator, called "orphan" works, can be in copyright.

What is covered by copyright?

- Literary works
- Dramatic Works
- Musical Works
- Artistic Works
- Broadcasts
- Sound Recordings
- Films
- Typographic Works



When does copyright not apply?

There are some exceptions to copyright:

- Private study and non-commercial research (copying of an in-copyright work for private use)
- Criticism, review, and quotation (an extract or perhaps a limited copy of an in-copyright work could be used if the work is being written about)
- Text and data mining (digital analysis of large amounts of copyright works to establish patterns, only for non-commercial research)
- Parody, caricature, and pastiche (copying of an in-copyright work for a new work satirising the original)
- Access for disabled users (copying for accessibility, if an accessible copy is not available and the copy is for private use)

How long does copyright last?

Usually works are in copyright until 70 years after the death of the creator. However, there are exceptions and complications, especially to do with orphan works. See page 15 of [this fact sheet](#) for a more in-depth diagram.

Do we copyright our images?

The University of Edinburgh has an Open by Default policy, which means we do not assert rights over the images we take of our collections. This means that, while the collections themselves may still be in copyright, we do not restrict re-use of [our own images](#) or charge licensing fees.

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How can you check copyright status?

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