

Information Ethics

LIB 1201

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Copyright

- Legal protection for a creative work in fixed form (book, music, film, artwork, blueprint; NOT an idea)
- Holder has exclusive rights to reproduce, distribute, alter, perform work; others have to pay for the right
- Check with the [digital copyright slider](#) – is the work copyrighted or in the public domain?
- Does copyright provide incentive for innovation?
- Would we have inventions & innovations without it?
- Do strict copyright laws force content users to be pirates?

Creative Commons

- “Share, remix, reuse – legally.”
- The creation of a Digital Commons by users, for everyone
- Authors & creators – not publishers – assign rights to their works and distribute online (music, video, images, text)
- Browser add-on to search for CC content—try it!

Open Access

Under Current System

Access to research is not free; libraries pay for journal & ebook subscriptions

Universities pay twice: professors' salaries & annual subscription costs

New knowledge is behind a “paywall”

Taxpayers fund research yet cannot access it

In Open Access Environment

New knowledge is disseminated without access restrictions

Open educational resources, curriculum development, textbooks

Students founded the [Right to Research Coalition](#) – asserting that access to research is a student right

Ethical Considerations

“A wealth of new possibilities awaits those who employ the new digital tools for creating and delivering compelling new content, yet these same tools make it easier than ever to plagiarize and pirate content.”

(Pavlik, Media in the Digital Age, p. 234)

Fair Use and Higher Education

- Allows spontaneous use of a small portion of a work if it can be determined that obtaining permission would take too long, yields a social benefit, and that use does not damage the market for work
- There is no law; determined by courts on a case-by-case basis
- Guidelines are fairly straightforward for text & print; ambiguous for digital & time-based media
- Universities have been sued over Fair Use
 - Georgia State University sued by publishers over e-reserves posted without permission on an unsecured university website

Real World Plagiarists

- Maurice Isserman on Eugene Tobin at Hamilton College
- Kaavya Viswanathan ([interview](#) with Katie Couric on msnbc)
- Jayson Blair ([interview](#) with Katie Couric on msnbc)
- James Frey (fabricated and embellished his addiction memoir, an Oprah's Book Club selection)

For Wednesday, October 12

- *Discussion:* Metadata – information about information, taxonomies, folksonomies; metadata for non-text media; metadata challenges
- *Reading:* **Badke** Ch. 4, [Dye](#), [Harrod](#) (get your City Tech ID card activated at the circulation desk in the library for off-campus access or see off-campus instructions)
- *Assignment:* One reading response blog post; Comment on at least one blog post
- Monday, October 10: the college & library are closed. Enjoy the 3-day (4-day?) weekend!

COMMUNITY/LABOR MARCH TO WALL ST.

***against corporate greed and
the Big Banks.***



**It's time to stand together
and continue what started in
Wisconsin!**

Sponsored by: United NY, Strong Economy for All Coalition, Working Families Party, VOCAL-NY, Community Voices Heard, Alliance for Quality Education, New York Communities for Change, Coalition for the Homeless, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP), TWU Local 100 The Job Party, NYC Coalition for Educational Justice, The Mirabal Sisters Cultural and Community Center, The New Deal For New York Campaign, National People's Action, ALIGN, Human Services Council, Labor-Religion Coalition of New York State, Citizen Action of NY, MoveOn.org, SEIU 1199, CWA 1109, RWDSU, Communications Workers of America, Democracy for NYC, United Auto Workers, United Federation of Teachers, Professional Staff Congress/CUNY, National Nurses United, Common Cause NY, Writers Guild East, New York Students Rising

Union workers and community members impacted by the economic crisis have been demanding that Wall Street and the wealthiest New Yorkers pay their fair share of taxes.

Let's march down to Wall Street to welcome the protesters and show the face of New Yorkers hardest hit by corporate greed.

When: Wednesday,
Oct. 5th, 4:30 pm

Where: City Hall
250 Broadway
We will march to Zuccotti
Park.