

## **Project Description**

Understanding copyright is crucial for all members of the academic community. The University of Alberta's (U of A) "Use of Copyright Materials Policy" states "All individuals at the University of Alberta using copyright materials will comply with the federal legislated *Copyright Act* and related laws," and goes on to note, "All members of the University will endeavour to inform themselves of their legal duty and conduct their actions accordingly."<sup>i</sup> Knowledge of copyright is also a core competency for library and information studies (LIS) students,<sup>ii</sup> as well as a component of ethical foundations of the discipline and profession.<sup>iii</sup> To enhance education about copyright for LIS students at the University of Alberta (U of A), and to further understanding of copyright for the entire campus and broader public, this project aims to create a suite of Open Educational Resources (OER) on copyright. These OER would be for use directly in a variety of courses offered by the School of Library and Information Studies (SLIS), and also be used by the University's Copyright Office (CRO) to provide education about copyright to all U of A staff, students and faculty.

The project aims to create a total of 26 OER modules on copyright. These modules will be for use in a number of SLIS classes that deal with copyright (LIS 501 Foundations of LIS; LIS 526 Instructional Practices in LIS; LIS 531 Collections Management; LIS 591 Publishing; LIS 598 Information Policy; LIS 598 Emerging and Evolving Technology; LIS 598 Cultural Memory Organizations in the Global Information Society; LIS 598 Library Governance; LIS 598 Information and Libraries in the International Context). The modules will also be used by the CRO as part of its objective of educating the U of A community about copyright. Additional modules may be developed as needed to address any potential gaps. As a proof of concept, the CRO, working with Dr. McNally (SLIS) and Technologies in Education, developed two copyright OER in 2016 as part of the University of Alberta's Open Education week initiative.<sup>iv</sup> Building on this previous work, the project will develop a complete set of modules to address both SLIS instructional needs and the needs of the CRO. Because of the open nature of OER, instructors and staff across campus (and around the globe) will be able to use and modify the resources for further use within any U of A context. The project hopes to leverage the benefits of openness and develop not only a community of users (at SLIS, in the U of A and across Canada), but also a community of contributions from these constituencies. In addition to providing information on a range of subjects in copyright, the modules will include assessment mechanisms that will allow for the measurement of student learning.

The project will result in several important outcomes. The modules for use in SLIS courses will ensure greater consistency in copyright instruction for LIS students, and built-in assessment will help ensure that the modules increase student understanding. The resources will provide these students with the required depth of copyright knowledge for their academic career, and will serve as a resource for their use in professional capacities as well. In addition, the development of the modules will allow greater breadth and depth of copyright instruction at SLIS, as lectures within classes can deal with more specialized and nuanced topics in copyright with the modules serving

as introductory materials. The CRO will be able to use these modules for copyright instruction for all U of A staff, students and faculty, which aligns with the CRO's mandate.<sup>v</sup> Enhanced understanding of copyright by the U of A community will benefit the entire campus and help ensure compliance with the university's own Copyright Policy. Finally, because the project aims to develop OER, the resources can be used and modified by learners and educators across Canada (and the world), and thus will mark a significant contribution by U of A to academic community and general public. In this regard, the project is strongly aligned with *For the Public Good*, specifically Objective 8, which underscores extracurricular learning experiences, Objective 10, which aims to facilitate lifelong learning, and Objective 12(iii), that stresses knowledge transfer for societal benefit. The project is also timely, as in 2017 the Government of Canada will begin a statutorily required review of the Copyright Act, which may lead to changes to Canadian copyright law and practice that the modules can reflect.<sup>vi</sup>

## Endnotes/References

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- i University of Alberta. 2016. "Use of Copyright Materials Policy."  
<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Use-of-Copyright-Materials-Policy.pdf>.
- ii American Library Association (ALA). 2009. *ALA's Core Competences of Librarianship*.  
<http://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/careers/corecomp/corecompetences/finalcorecompstat09.pdf>. (Note that the American Library Association is the body responsible for the professional accreditation of Masters of Library and Information Studies program offered by the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Alberta).
- iii International Federal of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). 2012. *IFLA Code of Ethics for Librarians and other Information Workers (full version)*.  
<http://www.ifla.org/news/ifla-code-of-ethics-for-librarians-and-other-information-workers-full-version#openaccess>
- iv University of Alberta. 2016. "OER Copyright Considerations in Practice."  
<https://www2.library.ualberta.ca/tutorials/copyright/oer-copyright-practice-output/story.html>;  
and, University of Alberta. 2016. "Open Educational Resources Copyright Considerations: An Introduction."  
<https://www2.library.ualberta.ca/tutorials/copyright/oer-copyright-introduction-output/story.html>.
- v The mission for the Copyright Office is as follows: "The mission of the University of Alberta Copyright Office is to educate and support U of A students, faculty and staff on all issues related to copyright as those issues relate to teaching and learning, research, and scholarly communications, and to develop and implement "best practices" to promote access to and use of information in accordance with the University's *Use of Copyright Materials Policy*."
- vi Copyright Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. C-42, s. 92.