

COPYRIGHT LAW RESEARCH GUIDE

Karen E. Kalnins

kkalnins@okcu.edu

Reference Librarian

Oklahoma City University Law Library

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Introduction and purpose

Intellectual property is defined as “products of the mind” which are created by authors, inventors, or other business people. (U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, retrieved on May 11, 2008, from <http://www.uspto.gov/main/glossary/index.html#i>). While there are four main ways to protect intellectual property, this guide will focus exclusively on copyright.

This guide will briefly define copyright, outline some print and electronic resources available in the Oklahoma City University Law Library, and mention freely-available electronic resources.

Defining copyright

As defined by the U.S. Copyright Office, copyright is “a form of protection grounded in the U.S. Constitution and granted by law for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression” (U.S. Copyright Office, retrieved on May 11, 2008, from <http://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/>). This means that copyright extends to literary, musical, and dramatic works.

Copyright research

The resources you use will depend on your specific issue. However, the U.S. Copyright Office Web site at <http://www.copyright.gov> can be an excellent starting point for general background about copyright. Also, you may want to consult a treatise if you are unfamiliar with this area of the law.

OCU Resources

Below is a sample list of materials you may find useful when conducting copyright research. These resources are available electronically or at the Oklahoma City University Law Library. **This list is not all-inclusive.**

Secondary Resources

***Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.**

Treatises/Casebooks

Treatises are written for practitioners and present background information about specific topics. Casebooks present similar information but are more general and cater to law students.

1. *Copyright* by Paul Goldstein is available at [KF2994 .G65 2005](#) and electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

2. *Copyright and Multimedia Products: a comparative analysis* by Stamatoudi is available at [K1441 .S73 2002](#).
3. *Copyright and Free Speech: Comparative and International Analyses* edited by Jonathan Griffiths and Uma Suthersanen is available at [K1420 .C67 2005](#).
4. *Copyright Book: A Practical Guide* by William S. Strong is available at [KF2994 .S75 1999](#).
5. *Copyright and consequences : Central European and U.S. perspectives* edited by Lee B. Becker, Tudor Vlad is available at [KJC2655 .C67 2003](#).
6. *Copyright : examples and explanations* by Stephen M. McJohn is on reserve at [KF2995 .M35 2006](#).
7. *The copyright guide : a friendly handbook to protecting and profiting from copyrights* by Lee Wilson is available at [KF2995 .W475 2003](#).
8. *Patry on copyright* by William F. Patry is available at [KF2991.5.P382](#).

Journals/Law Reviews

Journal and law review articles provide researchers with a useful starting point because the authors usually analyze an issue in-depth and give detailed citation information. The following are accessible either in print or in one of the subscription databases available from the Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lawlib/library_databases.php.

1. *Copyright law symposium* is available from volume 1 to volume 41 at [KF2994.A2 C6 date](#) and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
2. *Idea (Washington, D.C.)* is available from volume 8 to present in the library's periodicals wing and electronically via the subscription database Hein Online.
3. *Journal of the Copyright Society of the U.S.A.* is available from volume 29 to present in the library's periodicals wing.

Primary Materials

***Note-Check each title for specific holdings and availability.** The materials listed below are primary federal legal authority.

Federal Statutory Materials

1. *U.S.C.* is available in print at [KF62 1958 .A2](#) and electronically via various Web sites such as <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/>.
2. *U.S.C.A.* is available in print at [KF62.5 .W45](#) and electronically via the subscription database Westlaw.

3. *U.S.C.S.* is available in print at [KF48 .U54](#) and electronically via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.
4. *C.F.R.* is available in print at [KF70 .A3 date](#) and electronically via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely-available via the government sponsored Web site <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html> .

Federal Legislative History Materials

1. *Thomas* has legislative history materials freely available at <http://www.thomas.gov>.
2. *Lexis-Nexis Congressional* is a subscription database that contains legislative history materials. It is available from the OCU Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lib/libraries_databases.php.
3. *Hein Online* is a subscription database that contains compiled legislative histories and citations to compiled legislative histories. This database is available from the OCU Law Library's databases page at http://www.okcu.edu/law/lib/libraries_databases.php.
4. *USCCAN (U.S. Code Congressional and Administrative News)* is available in the library at [KF48 .U54 date](#) and in the subscription database Westlaw.
5. The OCU Law Library has legislative histories in print that you can access from the *Library Catalog* at <http://lawlibdb.okcu.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=First> .

Federal Administrative Materials

1. *C.F.R.* (Code of Federal Regulations) is available in print at [KF70 .A3 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html>.
2. *Federal Register* is available in print at [KF 70 .A2 date](#) and via the subscription databases Lexis-Nexis and Westlaw. The publication is also freely available via the government Web site <http://origin.www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>.

Federal Case Law

1. *U.S. Reports* are available at [KF101 .U54](#) and via the subscription database Hein Online.
2. *Supreme Court Reporter* is available at [KF101 .W4](#) and via the subscription database Westlaw.
3. *U.S. Supreme Court Reports, Lawyers' Edition* are available at [KF101 .U58](#) and via the subscription database Lexis-Nexis.

4. *Federal Reporter 1st, 2d, 3d* is available at [KF105 .F4](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

5. *Federal Supplement 1st and 2d* is available at [KF120 .F42](#) and via the subscription databases Westlaw and Lexis-Nexis.

Subscription Databases

To access materials in a subscription database, you will need a username and password.

1. Westlaw contains several sections that may be helpful for copyright law research. To find the appropriate section, go to the directory and search using the terms copyright or copyright law. You can also add the intellectual property tab by going to add/delete tabs.

2. Lexis-Nexis has a copyright law section that may be helpful. You can go to Find a Source and look for information topically under copyright.

Freely available resources

Governmental

1. <http://www.copyright.gov> –The U.S. Copyright Office explains the basics of copyright protection and how to apply for it.

Nongovernmental

1. <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/> -Copyright and fair use Web site sponsored by Stanford University.

2. <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/Intellectualproperty/cprtindx.htm> -Introductory and advanced materials related to copyright sponsored by the University of Texas system.

3. http://www.okcu.edu/library/OCU_Copyright_Policy.pdf -Oklahoma City University's copyright policy.

4. <http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Copyright> -Cornell University Law School summarizes and links to primary legal materials about U.S. copyright law.