

# Copyright in the Digital Environment

By Inba Kehoe.

Dr. Jean Dryden, a leading expert on Canadian copyright, presented a one-day workshop on March 14, 2009, at the City of Vancouver Archives. Dr. Dryden is Assistant Professor at the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland. Dr. Dryden's presentation was entitled Copyright in the Digital Environment.

We learnt that copyright is one aspect of the broader area of Intellectual Property law and that the law provides a balance of rights for creators of works to control the use of their work and to obtain a just reward, while at the same time providing access to the same work for the benefit of society, in furthering the growth of knowledge and culture.

She addressed the effect that digital and communication technologies have had on the copyright landscape. Jean then took the attendees through a step by step process of how the Canadian Copyright Act works. Much of the time was spent on discussions around ownership rules for different categories of works (e.g. photographs, crown works, posthumous works, anonymous works, sound recordings and more).

In the afternoon, we heard about author's rights, fair dealing and the exceptions provided for in the Act for Libraries, Archives and Museums. We concluded the session with a discussion on how to analyze a copyright problem. Jean suggests that we ask these questions in our quest to find a solution:

1. Is it protected?
2. What category of work is it?
3. Who owns copyright?
4. Has copyright expired?
5. Does my proposed use infringe copyright or the author's moral rights?
6. Are there any exceptions or license terms that permit my use?

Of note is Dr. Dryden's dissertation entitled [Copyright in the real world: making archival material available on the Internet](#) via the University of Toronto's institutional repository.

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