

COPYRIGHT

A copyright is a property right that protects you against others copying any of your “original works of authorship fixed in any tangible medium of expression.”

What can be copyright protected?

These can include literary works; computer programs; musical, pictorial, and graphical works; audiovisual works; and architectural works. A copyright does not protect an idea or subject matter of the writing, but only your specific expression of that idea.

A copyright gives the owner the exclusive right to do the following:

- Reproduce the work in copies
- Prepare derivative works based upon the work
- Distribute copies of the work to the public by sale or other transfer of ownership, or by rental, lease, or lending
- Perform the work publicly
- Display the work publicly
- Perform the work publicly by means of a digital audio transmission

Ownership of copyright?

Generally, copyright ownership vests in the author or authors of the work. The authors of a joint work are co-owners of copyright in the work.

LSU Bylaws, Section 7-4.a, state that LSU releases to the respective author(s) all of LSU’s interest in any copyright to a book, article, lecture, thesis, dissertation, work of art or any other literary work that would otherwise be LSU Work (defined in Section 7-2 of LSU Bylaws). However, LSU’s interest in LSU Work **shall not be released**:

- If LSU publishes the work itself
- If LSU publishes or produces a derivative work based on that work, where the derivative work is an audio, video, or digital production or broadcast, or
- If LSU is required to deliver the work to a third party under a research contract or other contract between LSU and the third party (i.e., work for hire)

The release of certain right to the author does not apply to LSU Software or to LSU Databases.

What is the life of a copyright?

Copyrights are in effect for the life of the last surviving author, plus 70 years. If the work is produced as a result of the author’s employment, the term is 95 years from the first publication, or 120 years after the creation of the work, whichever is shorter.

How do you protect copyrights?

Copyright status is automatically established by the creation of the work. It is recommended that copyright notices be conspicuously placed on a work. If you intend for Pennington to enforce your copyright, place the following statement on your published work: © [year first publish the work] **Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, represented by Pennington Biomedical Research Center. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

How should the copyright notice appear on computer software?

There is no set format. The first title screen should usually contain at least the following:

- Software's name and version
- Individual author's name(s) and/or Pennington Biomedical Research Center, as appropriate
- Publication year
- Copyright or ©

What does the symbol © mean? When should it be used?

The symbol © means "copyright." It is advisable, though not required, to use either the symbol © or the word "copyright" as part of the copyright notice described above.

Should copyrights be registered?

It is not mandatory to register copyrights, although registering copyrights within certain time frames has certain advantages.