

Much of the following information was obtained from *The Copyright Handbook: How to Protect & Use Written Works 8th ed.*, by Stephen Fishman (Reference Desk KF 2995 .F53 2004).

Page numbers refer to this book.

### WHAT CAN BE COPYRIGHTED?

Anything that is a fixed, original expression of an idea.

1. Fixed, i.e. recorded in some way [p. 6/2].
2. Original, i.e. it (or part of it) owes its origin to the author [p. 6/4].
3. Minimal creativity, i.e. way an idea is expressed, a list such as the telephone directory would not be "creative" [p. 6/4-6/5].

### WHAT CANNOT BE COPYRIGHTED?

1. Ideas, facts, words, names, titles (titles might be protected by state law), slogans, quotations, and other short phrases [p. 6/6-6/12].
2. Blank forms [p. 6/12-6/13].
3. Most federal government works are not protected. State and local documents might be [p. 6/14].
4. Works in which copyright has expired or was never obtained [p. 6/14].

### GETTING PERMISSION TO USE PROTECTED MATERIAL

See Chapter 16 for detailed information.

Fee based permissions can be obtained through Copyright Clearance Center [p. 16/3-16/4].  
<http://www.copyright.com>

#### RECOMMENDED WEB SITES

To connect to recommended  
Copyright web sites:

- Go to the UNO Library Web page  
<http://library.unomaha.edu>
- Click on:
  - *Research Tools* Tab
  - *Search the Research Wizard*
  - Type "copyright" in the keyword search box
  - Click on "copyright" in any of the listings.

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