

The Professional Development Fund - Advanced Copyright training sessions

By Dana Stoddart

Copyright is an area of the library profession that I'm particularly interested in, especially in regards to how it affects learning and teaching. As a 2020 Library & Information Studies graduate, working in a college library, I was keen to back up the copyright knowledge gained from my MSc with further training and CPD. I was very fortunate to be awarded CILIPS funding in order to attend the extremely engaging Advanced Copyright training sessions, organised by [Naomi Korn Associates](#) and CILIP in May 2021.

Naomi Korn is one of the UK's experts in copyright and her company, Naomi Korn Associates, works with various organisations to provide useful strategies and expertise around copyright, data protection, and licensing. Naomi Korn Associates also develop and provide [freely available resources](#) for professionals working in cultural heritage, educational, and publishing contexts. These are wide-ranging, developed to a high standard, and frequently updated.

My fellow attendees were working in all areas of librarianship, so the course provided a fantastic opportunity to see how copyright concerns are dealt with in other areas – as well as to see which different issues crop up in daily work. Group work with other delegates was an integral part of the two sessions, so shared issues and questions quickly came to the fore. One aspect of copyright that was discussed in detail was Exceptions to Copyright. This created stimulating discussion, and drew everyone's attention to the full range of exceptions available, not just the more "obvious" ones that appeared in your own duties.

Of course, we couldn't be attending any type of library training in 2021 without COVID and Brexit being referenced! These are unilaterally important concerns within most topics but due to the rapid changes brought about by the pandemic to the service delivery of heritage sites and libraries, and the incoming EU Copyright laws, it was vital to discuss the impact these two points have had on – and will have – on copyright in the UK.

The two sessions were incredibly stimulating, and the in-depth discussion within wee groups (regarding previously provided scenarios) created space for thoughtful contemplation. Taking our discussions back to the main group allowed for lively communication and clarifications with Naomi.

Copyright can be a complex issue, and it can be tempting to look for black and white answers when facing a tricky situation, however Naomi drew our attention to the importance of nuanced thinking and risk management. There will rarely be a one-size-fits-all approach to copyright, rather a thoughtful consideration of individual

situations will be required, and the emphasis on this was refreshing. While the lack of clear-cut answers within copyright can be daunting at times, it is comforting to know that there is a plethora of information available on the subject – and a community of information professionals out there keen to discuss copyright!

I would like to again thank [CILIPS](#) for granting me the funding to attend these training sessions, which have been invaluable to my copyright confidence.