What is Copyright?
Copyright is a bundle of "exclusive rights", given to authors and creators to protect their original works (i.e. literary, musical and artistic works, cinematograph films, sound recordings, published editions and computer programs).

These include the right to:
- Reproduce the work in any manner or form
- Publish the work if it has not been published before
- Perform the work in public
- Broadcast the work
- Cause the work to be transmitted in a diffusion service
- Make an adaptation of the work

Copyright Law in South Africa
SA Copyright Act No. 98 of 1978 (as amended) with Regulations.

Copyright term of protection
Subject to exceptions, depending on the category, works in South Africa are protected for the lifetime of the author plus 50 years from the end of the year in which the author dies. Publishers also have copyright in published editions for 50 years from the end of the year in which the edition is first published.

Why copyright compliance is important
- By law, we are obliged to comply with the SA Copyright Act No. 98 of 1978 (as amended)
- The University's policy ensures that we respect the rights of authors and publishers and pay reasonable licence fees, where required by law.
- Copyright Infringement could result in legal action and possible awards of damages.
- The viability of local publishers depends on compliance with the Copyright law.

You may copy from copyright works as follows:
All use is governed by the principle of "Fair Dealing" in Section 12(1) of the Copyright Act.
"Fair Dealing" permits the making of copies, without permission for the following purposes:
- research or private study;
- personal or private use;
- criticism or review;
- reporting current events (e.g. in a newspaper, broadcast, etc.)

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Copyright exceptions for educational purposes under Section 13 (Regulations)
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- A student may make a single copy for a lecturer (at his/her request), for research, teaching or preparation for teaching in a class, within certain parameters set out in the Copyright Regulations (Section 13).
- A single copy of a 'reasonable' portion per student per course may be made by or for a lecturer for classroom use or discussion, without permission (Regs. 2 & 7), as follows:-
  - Not more than 1 short poem, article, story or essay or 2 excerpts copied from the same author, or more than three short poems, articles, stories or essays from the same collective work or periodical volume for the purpose of instructing a particular class during any 1 term; and,
  - Not more than 9 instances of such multiple copying for 1 course of instruction to a particular class during any 1 term.

This means that a student may, at the end of the term, be in possession of:
- Copies of 9 poems, articles, stories or essays by 9 different authors;
- Copies of 18 excerpts from the works of 9 different authors (two excerpts per author);
- Copies of 27 poems, articles, stories or essays from 9 different collective works or periodical volumes, with the provision that all of the 27 works must have been written by different authors. (Source: DALRO's document on "Reprographic Reproduction of Copyright Material for Educational Purposes", pg.5)

Permission is required before you –
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- Show full length films, videos/DVDs for educational and/or entertainment purposes, unless the licences permit this.

How to apply for copyright permission
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