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 -
- To reproduce the work in any manner or form
- To publish the work if it has not been published before
- To perform the work in public
- To broadcast the work
- To cause the work to be transmitted in a diffusion service
- To 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

With some exceptions, in South Africa, works 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:-
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- personal or private use;
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