

# 33+ Tips, Tricks & Resources for Copyright Beginners

## Avoiding Infringement Disputes



*Murky copyright laws have contributed to the problem.*

*Some people infringe because of an honest mistake.*

*But others do so with deliberate intent.*

*And many cases are outrageous.*

**Starting a Pinterest account convinced me that I'd better learn more about copyright rules. Especially, when I couldn't easily find the answer to the question: Is it permissible to use an image with a pin symbol found on the Web on my blog post?**

The topic was not clearly addressed online as far as I could see.

And studying the copyright issue in-depth revealed an endless supply of stories worthy of a reality TV show.

Theft, infringement, piracy, pilfering or plagiarizing of someone

else's creative work is a practice that has been around for centuries.

From Romeo and Juliet to 1.5 million copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin pirated in the 1850's.

But pick any century and examples are plentiful.

Today, the Internet has amplified the problem and created a large club.

For instance, in 2010, copyright protection service estimated 75,000 sites had infringed more than 100,000 times in a particular month.

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- Bob Krist, an award-winning freelance photographer, has traveled the world for publications, such as *National*

*Geographic* and the Smithsonian

and routinely has found his photographic paintings plastered over the Internet.

“...Most sites just pilfer the photos and very few...actually ask for permission, and even fewer, like just about nobody, ask permission to use them and offer to pay for using them,” Krist reveals.

- Take the story of marketing consultant Linda Carlson, author of *Advertising with Small Budgets for Big Results*. While reading a weekly paper that published her Q & A column, she noticed an ad for a pamphlet. It was her material, an entire chapter from one of her books stolen and repackaged...word...for...word. The publication refused to run more ads for the pamphlet killing sales, writes Carlson, who notes the incident, took place in the pre-Internet era.



Source: Linda Carlson.com

***Carlson's Copyright Tip:* “Another excellent way to track such piracy is with Google Alerts. Set up an alert for something in your content that may be a little offbeat, and Google will report whenever it finds that—say, reprinted on someone’s website.”:**

- Consider the account of a veteran educator Shelley Heisler owner of The Teaching Bank: “I was burned pretty badly by [a

company I had an eight-year relationship with], and I was unable to sue because I didn't have my units [teaching materials] registered. I wish I could go back in time and register so I could have sued and found justice in their violation of my work."

And there is my case: Back in 2008, I contacted an official and sent him 25 pages of a revised version of *Finding Your Niche*...

He later began calling and wanted to see the entire book and encouraged me to complete what was a time-consuming long-delayed project.

He agreed to review the entire work and offer feedback. When the project was completed, I sent a gift certificate for the eBook from a large Independent bookstore, but he called to say that he had spent hours with the download and customer service, but could not download the title. Horrified that he had wasted so much time, I immediately ordered a custom bound copy, sent via FedEx, and followed up a week later with a phone call...Never heard from him again.

Apparently, what he wanted was the manuscript.

My original work was registered with the copyright office, but what a nightmare. Since he was quoted in the book, I had to pull it offline and pay to revise and remove all references.

I could not risk someone else contacting him because of my book.

In retrospect, without adding more details about the person, I don't know what I could have done differently. The Gentleman, in a reputable position, seemed above reproach.

The lesson here is that no one is above reproach and theft of creative property may come from some faceless person on the Web or from someone who you believe is trustworthy.

## Quick Quiz

### Do you know the answers?

1. When the copyright violator is a non-profit, accountability is lessened. T or F?
2. Images or creative content prior to 1921 is public domain material T or F
3. Federal and State government material is in the public domain Tor F?
4. "Out of print" is synonymous with "public domain" T or F
5. Which of the items a-g have been involved in copyright conflicts?

### *Circle the answers you believe are correct.*

- a. Unpublished manuscript
- b. Tree
- c. Cow
- d. Footprints
- e. Unpublished diaries
- f. Old newspaper photos

### Answer Key

*Note:* This is the strangest answer key I've ever posted, but it illustrates how confusing the subject can be at times.

1. F
2. True and False, The content in question may be restricted in some manner.
3. True or False. The documents may include photographs or other literary work prepared by a subcontractor who holds the copyright.
4. F
4. Technically, a-b, d-g.

And the answer to the Pinterest stumper is yes and no...  
Pinterest cannot grant rights outside their domain,  
but if the copyright holder agrees then...

## References

Independent Book Publishers Association

[ibpa-online.org](http://ibpa-online.org)

<http://www.ibpa-online.org/>

**Summary:** Do you know who's using your content?

Tactics for finding out

February 2010, Linda Carlson.

Independent Book Publishers Association-Online

**Summary:** Has your copyright escaped notice? Six questions  
you probably never thought to ask.

<http://tinyurl.com/kv3oqfj>

Image Cascade.com

Janet Lambert

<http://www.imagecascade.com/janet-lambert-books.html>

Independent Book Publishers Association-Online (ibpa)

**Summary:** Republishing Realities: Advice from the trenches.

Article Includes details about Image Cascade Press and their  
struggle, along with the legal owner of the rights, to stop  
unauthorized publishing of a series of books penned by the  
copyright holder's mother, now deceased, actress and military  
wife Jane Lambert.

March 2014.

Linda Carlson.com

<http://www.lindacarlson.com/>

Shelley Heisler's Blog

[TheTeachingbank.blogspot.com](http://TheTeachingbank.blogspot.com)

**Summary:** The importance of protecting Intellectual Property

<http://tinyurl.com/lz2u49m>

BobKrist.com

<http://bobkrist.com/>

**Summary:** Site includes a montage of jaw-dropping shots from around the world

Tuscan town tries to copyright landscapes

<http://bobkrist.com/tuscan-town-tries-to-copyright-its-landscapes/>

USA Today Article

**Summary:** Contests seek unfair intellectual property rights

<http://bobkrist.com/usa-today-doing-the-right-thing/>

Ironies About The Photo Biz

Photo Fragging\*\*\*.

**Summary:** How dancing footprints triggered a lawsuit

<http://bobkrist.com/category/blog/ironies-about-the-photo-biz/>

Shepard Fairey

<http://wp.me/p3Kr4S-92>

### **Note: Pinterest Heads Up**

*Be aware that a pinterest symbol on any image found on a website does not automatically signify the owner wants his or her images pinned.*

It may mean they forgot to block or in some cases were unaware their images were showing as pinable.

### **7 Sites AIIP.org Experts Suggest**

[Wplift.com/freestock images](http://wplift.com/freestock-images)

**Summary:** Pixabay, one of several sites referenced in article listing

free stock photos sources.

<http://wplift.com/free-stock-images>

Note, some of the photographers request credit in return for use of their images.

[Unsplash.com](http://Unsplash.com)

<http://unsplash.com>

Stockphoto.com

**Summary:** Royalty free and low-cost

[www.iStockphoto.com](http://www.iStockphoto.com)

Fine Art America.com

**Summary:** "Pinterest enables copyright theft on a Global Scale."

Discussion of the downside of the Pinterest concept and love and hate attitude that many artists have about the platform.

<http://fineartamerica.com/pinterest-enables-copyright-theft-on-a-global-scale.html>

Google Images Advanced

Choose options from search usage rights, including "free to use" or share, even commercially."

**Note:** Place key words into the search box at

<https://images.google.com/>,

1. Go to the **gear wheel, upper right corner** of results page, click 2. Advanced Search, 3. scroll down to Usage Rights.

Also see [Support Google.com/images usage rights](https://support.google.com/images/usage-rights)

[https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/29508?p=ws\\_images\\_usagerights](https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/29508?p=ws_images_usagerights)

[www.ragan.com](http://www.ragan.com)

**Summary:** Using Google Images Can Cost You \$8,000

<http://tinyurl.com/lt26t8b>

Cnet.com

**Summary:** Piracy police hijack ads on copyright infringing websites.

<http://tinyurl.com/lf3c4b8>

Nolo Q & A

Dear Rich [blog.blogspot/2013](http://blog.blogspot/2013)

**Summary:** Can I use old newspapers articles and photos?



<http://tinyurl.com/qfedw5y>

Blog/Niche Creativity.com

When Someone Steals Your Great Business Idea

<http://wp.me/p3Kr4S-n>

Note: Non copyright issues

Arstechnica.com

**Summary:** Righthaven:

Saving the newspaper industry one lawsuit at a time

<http://tinyurl.com/n2k3d58>

Icopyright.com

<http://info.icopyright.com/>

Copyscape.com

<http://www.copyscape.com/>

Newsonomics.com

**Summary:** Attributors anti-piracy trial begins/February 2010

<http://tinyurl.com/kmj6cfc>

WordPress.com

**Summary:** Prevent content theft

<http://en.support.wordpress.com/prevent-content-theft/>

iparadigms.com

<http://www.iparadigms.com/>

Plagiarism today.com

**Summary:** 5 Reasons Plagiarism Detection Difficult/2013

<http://tinyurl.com/k4rl4cz>

Plagscan.com

<http://www.plagscan.com/>

Eff.org

**Summary:** Organizations

and businesses protest copyright proposals.

<http://tinyurl.com/penxm8m>

Trustrum.com

**Summary:** Popular copyright myths

<http://trustrum.com/copyright-myths/>

Public domain sherpa.com

<http://tinyurl.com/3ywm2dr>

Wall Street Journal.com/201

**Summary:** How to use Pinterest without breaking the law. Don't get stuck by Pinterest lawyers warn.

<http://tinyurl.com/o8qjpv5>

Copyrightlaw.org

<http://www.copylaw.org/>

Book/Amazon.com

Summary: The Public Domain:

How to find & use copyright-free writings, music, art & more, Stephen Fishman, J.D., 2012,

<http://tinyurl.com/nsqm5w2>

## **Update**

C-Span.....90 Min

*Information Doesn't Want's to Be Free.....Cory Doctorow*

**Summary:** Boing Boing associate editor and science fiction author discusses copyright conflicts and tech issues facing creative industries and solo artists in today's world. Interesting Q & A.

<http://tinyurl.com/nph8l53>

## **Locusmag.com/perspectives**

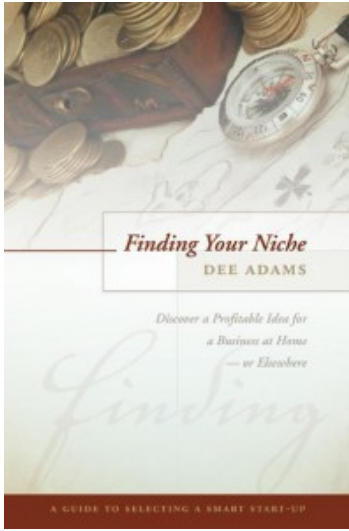
Cory Doctorow: A New Deal for Copyright

<http://tinyurl.com/omx6e8s>

**Dee Adams is the author of**

***Finding Your Niche: Discover...***

<http://wp.me/P3Kr4S-Uz>



***Finding Your Niche***  
DEE ADAMS

*Discover a Profitable Idea for  
a Business at Home  
— or Elsewhere*

*Finding*

A GUIDE TO SELECTING A SMART START-UP