

Assessing Online Content

The *Copyright Act* includes an exception for educational institutions that permits the reproduction, performance, and communication of content that is publicly available on the Internet. The use of this content is conditional upon the content NOT being made available through the Internet without the consent of the copyright owner.

*Refer to Section 30.04(5) of the *Copyright Act*.

Here are some tips to help you determine whether the content was posted without the consent of the copyright owner and whether the content is potentially infringing copyright:

Is the online source:

- Authoritative
- Accurate
- Current
- Relevant

Consider the authoritative nature of the online source.

- Is the individual or organization that manages the website easily identifiable?
- Is the individual or organization that manages the website reputable?
- Would you or your college want to be associated with that individual, organization, or website?

Look for:

- Credit lines that acknowledge the copyright owner and/or granted permission.
- Notices that acknowledge the copyright owner and indicate permitted and/or prohibited uses.
- Usernames that identify the individual or organization who posted the content.
- Descriptions that identify the nature of the posted content.

Providing links and hyperlinks is a good alternative to reproducing online content.

For more information, please contact Meaghan Shannon, Copyright Services Officer at m_shannon2@fanshawec.ca or extension 4346.