

# Serving VIU student access needs as we rapidly shift to alternate course delivery and assessment: Copyright considerations

*(Adapted for VIU from a guide by Ryerson University and with thanks to [The Canadian Association of Research Libraries \(CARL\)](#))*

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## Quick Copyright Tips for Digital Delivery

### Key points to remember:

1. Most of the legal issues are the same whether the teaching is done in person or online via a Learning Management System e.g. VIU Learn / D2L (LMS).
2. If it was okay to do in class, it is often okay to do online – especially when your online access is limited to the same enrolled students (for example via an LMS).
3. You can continue to apply these [fair dealing guidelines](#) (please scroll down for a quick guide)

### Additionally:

- Use your university password-protected [VIULearn tools](#) to make material available to your students, and to deliver lectures with copyrighted content.
- Post your in-class slides to [VIULearn](#). Slides provided by textbook publishers can be used according to their specific Terms of Use, which may or may not prohibit student downloading. Content that you have created and for which you are the copyright owner can always be shared.
  - [Consider the accessibility](#) of the learning resources you share.
- Course readings rules for print and online posting to [VIULearn](#) are similar. Either use the guideline of your [fair dealing guidelines](#), link to a resource within your [library collections](#), or link out to Internet content.
- Your [Subject/Liaison Librarian](#) may be able to help you find content in the [library's large collection](#) of online journals and ebooks to help support alternate format learning, including collections in accessible formats. Your librarian can also help you find openly licensed teaching materials like [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#) and [Open Access Databases](#).

- Use phone apps like [Genius Scan](#) or [Adobe Scan](#) to easily scan to post print materials to [VIULearn](#) within the limits allowed by the *Copyright Act* (including fair dealing – see [fair dealing guidelines](#). Make scanned PDF files more accessible for your students by using an [optical character recognition \(OCR\) online tool](#) to convert "non-selectable" text files into more accessible versions.
- Sharing audiovisual material like films and audio files is more complex. But remember you can still link to legally posted online content (from YouTube etc.). VIU library's collection includes [streaming video content](#) that you may link to. Standard commercial streaming options like Netflix, Crave or Disney Plus that students may also subscribe to can be an option – though some students may not have access to those services.
- Using copyrighted material in exams can be easy, as you can use the [fair dealing guidelines](#). If you need to use material beyond this, copyright exception [s. 30.01](#) can also apply; contact [copyright@viu.ca](mailto:copyright@viu.ca) if you need help to implement this copyright exception as there are rules that need to be followed to use it.

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