

# *The transformation of copyright*



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# *Why is copyright important for libraries?*

- What libraries are
  - What is the purpose or 'mission' of libraries
  - What copyright is
  - What is the purpose of copyright
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## *Purpose, or mission, of libraries*

To make a wide range of published materials available to the public

- to encourage education
  - the pursuit of knowledge
  - the enjoyment of culture
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# *Copyright*

- A law restricting the use of all modern, written or recorded material, during a limited period of time
  - The restriction works by giving control of copying and distribution to the creator of the work
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## *Purpose of copyright*

- To be fair to authors and other creators by providing moral rights
  - To encourage artistic creativity and scholarship by providing economic benefit to creators – by a monopoly
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- The purpose of libraries and the purpose of copyright are quite similar
  - Copyright has become a problem for libraries because it has changed
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# *The transformation of copyright*

- It lasts longer
  - It covers not only copying but online distribution
  - New 'copyright-like' laws have been invented
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## *Copyright lasts longer*

- Originally 15 years (or so)
- 20th century standard: 50 years after the death of the author
- Now usually 70 years after author's death

## *New scope of copyright*

- Now covers 'communication to the public'
- This is fair, in general, but brings problems with 'orphan' works

# *New concepts, based on copyright*

- Database Right
- Public Lending Right

- The problem of 'orphan' works (work is still in copyright, but copyright owner cannot be found)
  - A special problem for libraries wishing to digitise their older collections
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## *Conclusion*

- Copyright is intended to stimulate creativity
- But its long duration, and new complexities, sometimes work against creativity