What Do I Need to Know About Licensing?

A license is a contract negotiated between a copyright owner and a copyright user. The resulting contract outlines how the work can be used, how much the use will cost, and sets terms and conditions for the use of the work.

You may encounter 3 types of licenses in your college.

1. Library Licenses cover databases and ebooks. They normally allow for emailing content and linking content to the Learning Management System. Some may allow you to use the content as handouts or in course packs. Check with your college library to determine what you are allowed to do.

2. Collective society licenses (i.e. SOCAN and Access Copyright) issue licenses and collect royalties on behalf of copyright owners. If your college has an agreement with Access Copyright you will normally find posters near the photocopiers that outline the terms and conditions of the agreement.

If the work you want to use is not covered by a library license or collective license, you may consider a transactional license.

3. Transactional licenses grant permission to use a single copyright-protected piece of work, usually for a specific time period and sometimes for the payment of a fee to the copyright owner.

All licenses should be in writing and filed.

*Licenses that you enter into for yourself with Netflix or iTunes are for personal use, not for educational use.