**Intellectual Property**

Intellectual Property in the United States consists of patents, trademarks, and copyright. These can be valuable to entrepreneurs in a variety of ways such as helping develop and refine a product, providing protection for ideas, developing branding and marketing materials, and surveying competitors' activities.

**Spanish Language:** [Conociendo Sobre Propiedad Intellectual](https://sites.google.com/upr.edu/propiedad-intelectual/p%C3%A1gina-principal) - Universidad de Puerto Rico, Mayagüez (Spanish Language Resources)

**Patents**

Patents provide intellectual property protection for 20 years for inventions that are unique, useful, and non-obvious. In return for property rights, the inventor must provide detailed information about the invention in order "to promote the progress of science and useful arts" ([U.S. Const. art. I, sec. 8](http://www.senate.gov/civics/constitution_item/constitution.htm#a1_sec8)).

* [USPTO Introduction to Patent Protection](https://youtu.be/kVSsK6m3wn0) (video). An introduction to what a patent is, what a patent protects, and how a patent is obtained in the United States.
* [United States Patent and Trademark Office Patent Full-Text Databases](http://patft.uspto.gov/)
* Full text searchable from 1976-Present. Requires installation of TIFF viewer plug-in in order to view images.
* [Free Patents Online](http://www.freepatentsonline.com/).Easy to navigate and search. Provides linked categories to help explore patents in a particular area.
* [Google Patents](https://patents.google.com/).Full text searchable international patents.
* [Patentscope](http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/search/en/search.jsf).Search international and national patent applications from several countries. Maintained by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
* [Cornell's Legal Information Institute: Patent Overview](http://topics.law.cornell.edu/wex/Patent).Summary of the legal concepts with links to basic resources.

**Free Patent Help**

* [USPTO Pro Bono Website](http://www.uspto.gov/inventors/proseprobono/index.jsp): Find free legal help.
* [Mi Casa](https://micasaresourcecenter.org/what-we-do/business-development/pro-bono-patent/) The ProBoPat program connects low-income inventors with patent practitioners for patent preparation and prosecution legal services on a pro bono (free) basis as well as provides access to business consulting and training for bringing new ideas to market. Eligible applicants are residents of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming who have an annual income of three times the federal poverty guidelines or less and who, in ProBoPat’s sole discretion, would benefit from the program.
* [Wyoming Technology Transfer and Research Products Center](http://www.uwyo.edu/rpc/for-independent-inventors/): The Wyoming Technology Transfer and Research Products Center offers no-cost assistance to Wyoming inventors regarding patents, trademarks, copyright protection and commercialization. You can read more about our services for independent inventors here: [Independent Inventor Brochure](http://www.uwyo.edu/rpc/_files/docs/independent-inventors/independent-inventor-brochure-12-2016.pdf).
* [WSL Patent and Trademark Resource Center](https://library.wyo.gov/services/ptrc/). Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC) are designated state, academic, and public libraries dedicated to disseminating patent and trademark information and support the intellectual property needs of the public.

**Copyright**

Copyright provides intellectual property protection for intellectual works such as "literary, dramatic, musical, artistic, and certain other intellectual works". (United States Copyright Office, [Copyright Basics](http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf)) New works are protected for the life of the author plus 70 years.

* [United States Copyright Office](http://www.copyright.gov/). Website of the United States Copyright Office with information about registering a copyright and copyright searching.
* [United States Copyright Office, Copyright Basics](http://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ01.pdf). PDF of basic information about copyright.
* [Princeton University Copyright Information and Assistance](http://www.princeton.edu/copyright/). A joint effort of the Princeton University Library, The McGraw Center for Teaching & Learning, and the Office of the General Counsel.
* [Copyright and Related Rights](http://www.wipo.int/copyright/en/). The World Intellectual Property Organization's copyright resource page - covers international treaties and current news and events.
* [Copyright Crash Course](http://guides.lib.utexas.edu/copyright). (Office of the General Counsel at University of Texas)  
  This guide, maintained by University of Texas Libraries, is arranged into several sections that allow users to explore certain areas of copyright law individually or as a group. The Course was originally created with faculty in mind, but can be used by anyone who is interested in understanding and managing their copyrights.

**Trademarks**

Intellectual property rights granted by U.S. agencies do not extend to foreign countries. If you are interested in intellectual property rights such as patents, trademark, or copyright in foreign countries, applications must be submitted for those countries. The resources below provide information on seeking international intellectual property.

* [The United States Patent and Trademark Office](http://www.uspto.gov/) (USPTO) has made trademark resources available over the internet. The USPTO trademark database is called [TESS](http://tess2.uspto.gov/bin/gate.exe?f=login&p_lang=english&p_d=trmk) (Trademark Electronic Search System).
* [USPTO Basic Facts About Trademarks](https://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/uspto-videos/basic-facts-about-trademarks-what-every-small-business-should) video series
* [Secretary of State for Wyoming, Business Division](http://soswy.state.wy.us/Business/Default.aspx). Information needed to register a trademark in Wyoming, including forms and fees.
* [WIPO Global Brand Database](http://www.wipo.int/reference/en/branddb/). Contains 21,490,000 international and national records of trademarks, appellations of origin and emblems, including the US and WY.

**Additional Resources**

* [Creative Commons](https://creativecommons.org/). Provides alternative intellectual property management tools meant to enable sharing and reuse.
* [Intellectual Property videos from the University of Michigan](http://ipvideos.engin.umich.edu/intellectual-property/about/). Videos from Professor Bryce Pilz from the University of Michigan Law School covering different aspects of patents, copyright, trademarks, and trade secrets.
* [USPTO Inventor and Entrepreneur Resources](http://www.uspto.gov/learning-and-resources/inventors-entrepreneurs-resources). Resources for inventors and entrepreneurs from the United States Patent and Trademark Office

**Fair Use – Resources for Librarians**

* ACRL [Fair Use Tool Kit](https://acrl.libguides.com/scholcomm/toolkit/fairuse)
* ACRL [Fair Use Tutorial](https://youtu.be/e6vwkuSH1cQ). (video)
* [Fair Use Week](http://fairuseweek.org/). Fair Use Week is an annual celebration held the last week of February. Various resources, including handouts, images, and a calendar of events by participating institutions are available at the Fair Use Week website.
* [U.S. Copyright Office Fair Use Index](http://copyright.gov/fair-use/). The Fair Use Index tracks a variety of judicial decisions to help both lawyers and non-lawyers better understand the types of uses courts have previously determined to be fair—or not fair. The decisions span multiple federal jurisdictions, including the U.S. Supreme Court, circuit courts of appeal, and district courts. For each decision, there is a brief summary of the facts, the relevant question(s) presented, and the court’s determination as to whether the contested use was fair.
* [Code of Best Practices in Fair Use for Academic and Research Libraries](http://www.arl.org/storage/documents/publications/code-of-best-practices-fair-use.pdf). This Code of Best Practices identifies eight scenarios identified by the academic and research library community where fair use principles commonly apply and steps libraries should take to help assure fair use. Additional Codes of Best Practices in Fair Use for other communities can be found at http://archive.cmsimpact.org/fair-use/best-practices
* [ARL "The Good News about Library Fair Use" Infographic](http://www.arl.org/publications-resources/2875#.V8uKp5grKhd). Infographic about fair use and libraries, based upon the Code of Best Practices.
* [Fair Use Evaluator](http://librarycopyright.net/resources/fairuse/). A tool developed by the ALA Copyright Advisory Network to assist libraries in evaluating whether a proposed use is fair.
* [Fair Use Quiz](http://libraries.mit.edu/files/ospcl/fair-use-quiz/). The quiz, created by MIT Libraries, is designed to help users better understand the core concepts of copyright law’s “fair use” provision.
* [Fair Use Checklist](https://copyright.columbia.edu/basics/fair-use/fair-use-checklist.html). Fair use checklists exist in several variations used by libraries. This version was created by the Copyright Advisory Office at Columbia University.
* [Thinking Through Fair Use](https://www.lib.umn.edu/copyright/fairthoughts). Interactive fair use checklist, from the University of Minnesota, to assist with fair use analysis.

[Copyright Tips for Programming Librarians](http://programminglibrarian.org/articles/copyright-tips-programming-librarians-storytimes) – Carrie Russell, author (ALA Programming Office)

**Print Resources at WSL**

Call Number: Z 649 .L53 R877 2004

Title: [Complete copyright : an everyday guide for librarians](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:1161900/ada?qu=copyright+librarians&lm=WSL)

Author: [Russell, Carrie.](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal.detail.mainpanel.fielddisplay.linktonewsearch?qu=Russell%2C+Carrie.&lm=WSL&rt=false|||AUTHOR|||Author)

Call Number: Z 649 .F35 B874 2011

Title: [Copyright for teachers & librarians in the 21st century](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:1760820/ada?qu=copyright+librarians&lm=WSL)

Author: [Butler, Rebecca P.](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal.detail.mainpanel.fielddisplay.linktonewsearch?qu=Butler%2C+Rebecca+P.&lm=WSL&rt=false|||AUTHOR|||Author)

Call Number: PTDL KF 2995 .R87 2012

Title: [Complete copyright for K-12 librarians and educators](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:1837909/ada?qu=copyright+librarians&lm=WSL)

Author: [Russell, Carrie.](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal.detail.mainpanel.fielddisplay.linktonewsearch?qu=Russell%2C+Carrie.&lm=WSL&rt=false|||AUTHOR|||Author)

Call Number: Z 649 .G375 2013

Title: [Copyright questions and answers for information professionals : from the columns of Against the Grain](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fSD_ILS$002f0$002fSD_ILS:1921707/ada?qu=copyright+librarians&lm=WSL)

Author: [Gasaway, Laura N.](https://wyld.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/wsl/search/detailnonmodal.detail.mainpanel.fielddisplay.linktonewsearch?qu=Gasaway%2C+Laura+N.&lm=WSL&rt=false|||AUTHOR|||Author" \o "Gasaway, Laura N.)

**DCS**

[Wyoming Inventors Database](https://inventors.wyo.gov/): This database includes all United States patents issued to inventors within the present-day boundaries of Wyoming. The first patent was issued in 1867 in Fort Bridger, Utah Territory. Fort Bridger is currently located in Uinta County, Wyoming. [Search Tutorial](https://youtu.be/Dm-0kboljrM)

[Wyoming Trademarks Database](https://trademarks.wyo.gov/) This database indexes Wyoming state trademarks. Each record includes a scanned copy of the application file at the Wyoming Secretary of State's Office or the Wyoming State Archives.