Introducing the Copyright Anxiety Scale (CAS)

Amanda Wakaruk and Céline Gareau-Brennan
University of Alberta

Presented at the Ontario Library Association Superconference on January 31st 2020

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Does copyright anxiety exist and, if so, to what extent?
Can a valid and reliable instrument be developed to measure copyright anxiety?
- How reliable is the scale?
- How many factors are measured by our questions?
- Which questions measure similar factors?
Is there a correlation between copyright anxiety and copyright chill?

THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATION

What is copyright anxiety?
Copyright anxiety refers to the measures and apprehensions associated with navigating copyright issues. This may result in copyright chill, where a legitimate user of copyright protected material is discouraged by the fear (real or perceived) of legal action.

Why study it?
Copyright anxiety and chill can prevent legitimate users from using copyright protected material, leading to a decrease in creative and scholarly activities. Understanding and addressing copyright anxiety can help reduce legal action and improve the use of copyrighted materials.

Why use a scale?
A rating scale allows for a more precise measurement of the scope and impact of copyright anxiety. The CAS is informed by Sharon Bostick’s Library Anxiety Scale and the Copyright Anxiety Alliance Scale for students, library staff, and faculty.

COPYRIGHT ANXIETY SCALE

1. I am familiar with copyright legislation and/or copyright case law.
2. I can identify exceptions to copyright infringement.
3. I frequently have concerns about copyright.
4. I get confused trying to navigate copyright issues.
5. I am comfortable performing actions that I think might be copyright infringements.
6. I am confident that the materials I create are protected by copyright.
7. I do not feel safe using copyright-protected materials that I do not hold the rights for.
8. I worry that I do not know enough about copyright.
9. I have access to good instructions and/or policies for using copyright-protected materials.
10. It is easy for me to get help or find information about copyright.
11. I feel hesitant to ask for help with copyright issues.
12. I worry about the consequences of copyright infringement.
13. I am confident that elected officials understand legal issues related to copyright.
14. I am worried about the amount of copyright infringement that goes on.
15. I often feel anxious in my day-to-day life.
16. I have had formal instruction related to copyright: Yes / No
17. Can you describe a time that concerns about copyright happened or prevented you from doing something? Yes / No
18. I have avoided activities or projects because of copyright issues: Yes / No
19. Any additional comments you would like to share?

PRELIMINARY DATA

POSSIBLE NEXT STEPS

- Continue data analysis
- Complete manuscripts
- Present at ABC Copyright 2020
- Encourage others to use scale
- Consider longitudinal studies?
- Explore partnerships?
  - Contact us: amanda.wakaruk@ualberta.ca & celine.gareau-brennan@ualberta.ca

CITATIONS

- University of Alberta Library for funding
- Professor Michael Waller and his LIS students for feedback
- Matthew Pierron for statistical consulting

See our citations at shorturl.at/kntAG or using our QR code

THANK YOU