Since it was established in 1937 the UK School Library Association (SLA) has produced relevant, useful publications for primary and secondary schools to equip them for the efficient and effective management of school libraries. The range of materials published by the SLA is broad and covers online resources, quarterly journals, reading book lists, case studies and guidelines. The provision of regular, up-to-date publications dealing with a broad range of topics and areas of interest to those working in school libraries is in fact one of the SLA’s core services.

The current publication forms part of the SLA Guidelines series. Keeping it legal: Copyright guidance for school library staff is offered along with other current titles such as Effective partnerships: Creating and managing dual use libraries for schools and communities, Careful with cash: Managing the secondary school library and Creating readers: A reflective guide for school librarians and teachers. Collectively, this series of publications gives practical help for managing a school library and builds a set of useful reference resources. Most titles conclude with a case study, a further reading list and other useful sources of information.

Copyright is an issue affecting the whole school. Teacher librarians may have direct responsibility for ensuring copyright guidelines are not breached, but all school library staff require a clear working knowledge of copyright issues as they support students and teachers with using resources for research and information handling. In this revised edition of a key text, author and copyright expert Graham Cornish explains clearly the meaning of copyright, using copyright materials, educational copying, lending and licences and also provides some useful references and websites. His experience in the world of copyright is vast - he has run several hundred training courses on the topic, and has written a similar quantity of articles and papers for libraries and archives.

What’s covered? Set out in clear definitions with plenty of examples are sections on the rights of authors and owners, how to use copyright material legally, educational copying, library privilege, websites, emails and fair dealing. Licensing is also covered, and it is noted that many database services are sold or issued for subscription with very clear licensing conditions.

The author reassures the reader in his introduction that even though copyright can sound challenging, having ‘a clear head and logical mind will help unravel most problems’. He agrees that the rules can be complicated, but the guidelines are ‘intended to make life easier for anyone working in a school library of any size’.

Keeping it legal is a practical, useful set of guidelines. Having this work by Graham Cornish at hand to refer to when tackling copyright issues will help librarians and school staff understand and apply the rules correctly.

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