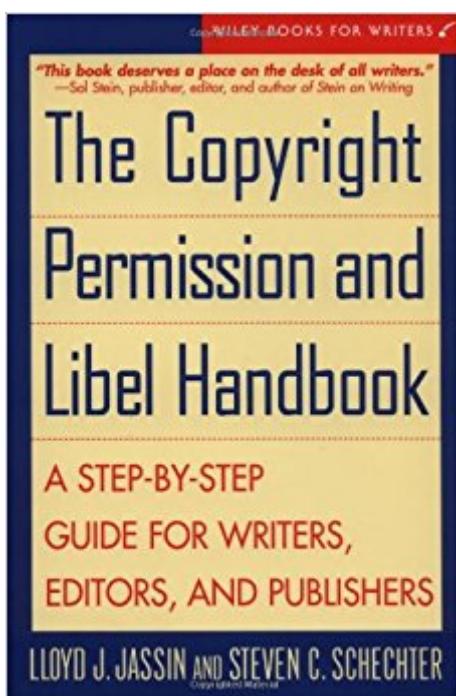


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# The Copyright Permission And Libel Handbook: A Step-by-Step Guide For Writers, Editors, And Publishers



## **Synopsis**

"A thoughtful, comprehensive, and invaluable guide for writers."--Bernard Lefkowitz, Professor, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism "Easy to read and understand . . . should be on every publisher's reference shelf."--Jan Nathan, Executive Director, Publishers Marketing Association For anyone who has ever faced the confusing web of copyright and libel laws, this practical, problem-solving guide is a godsend. In clear, jargon-free language, legal experts provide the information and techniques you need to prepare a manuscript or multimedia work for publication. You'll learn how to: \* Clear rights for all types of copyrighted materials, including quotations, photographs, fine art, motion picture stills, song lyrics, and more \* Protect yourself against libel suits \* Determine if a work is in the public domain \* Assess if quoting without permission qualifies as fair use \* Locate rights holders \* Negotiate clearances Includes library of sample forms: \* permission letter \* interview release \* model release \* work-made-for-hire agreement \* copyright assignment \* photograph license

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## **Customer Reviews**

Any writer or editor not concerned about copyright and libel ought to be. While the laws governing copyright are more straightforward than those regarding libel, disregarding either can land a writer or publication in a lot of hot water. Very hot. While the authors of *The Copyright Permission and Libel Handbook* state outright that their guide should not take the place of an attorney, they explain copyright and libel issues in great detail, so that, at the very least, you'll know when to be on the alert. Copyright is relatively simple. "If you intend to use someone's copyrighted work," say Jassin

and Schechter, "unless the use is considered a fair use, you must obtain that person's written permission." Of course, "fair use" gets tricky. One court determined that the Moral Majority's reproduction of a full ad from Hustler magazine was a fair use, while another ruled that The Nation's reproduction of 300 words from President Ford's 20,000-word unpublished memoirs was not. Libel is more complicated. Each state (and the District of Columbia) has its own libel laws. And, no, fiction is not exempt, even if you've changed the name and hair color of an otherwise identifiable person. "The best defense to libel," say the authors, "is verifiable truth." Included: detailed checklists--concerning fair use, copyright protection, copyright permission, libel, and "media perils" insurance--and sample forms for requesting permissions, obtaining releases, summarizing permissions, and writing libel disclaimers. --Jane Steinberg

This manual allays a fear among publishing, broadcast, and film folk: getting sued. Copyright infringement is a manageable risk, if one understands the fair use doctrine and the procedures for acquiring and buying the right to reproduce material others have created. Both authors are lawyers, with book publishing experience in Jassin's case, which inform their practical tips about permissions. Often one needn't even request permission (advice endorsed by this former permissions clerk, whose favorite office appliance was the "fair use" rubber stamp), because such material can be classified as falling within public domain laws by comparing copyright dates with the two copyright acts (of 1909 and 1976) that govern them. But in doubt one should obtain permission, for which this book provides sample letters and addresses. Libel is a more dangerous animal, as can be attested by anyone threatened with a defamation suit. The authors define the legal nuances of libel and urge using care and caution when writing about public figures--and calling a lawyer when a nasty letter arrives. Gilbert Taylor

Probably the most straightforward book about copyright law, permissions and libel. Compared to the other textbooks I've had on copyright law, this one broke everything down in simple language and had example templates in the back on communication and jargon. The "tip" boxes in every section also made the content more digestible and understanding.

My husband and I have a small publishing company. We received our copy of this book recently and have already turned to it when we have had a question about permissions. I have skimmed the chapters and know that it will be a useful book for us to have on our shelf. I found the recommendation from blogger, Janet Grant at her Books and Such blog. She is a literary agent and

I trust her judgement. I recommend it, too.

Written by two attorneys, this book is instructive on copyright and libel. It's organized in a outline form, which makes these legal topics easy to read. I did not give it five stars, however, because the book was written in 1998. A second edition of the book that discusses Internet and blog writing would be helpful. Nevertheless, I am satisfied with the book and recommend it to others.

It was written in a very clear and easy to understand language. It covered all the areas I needed help with.

This is a pretty well written book. There is a lot of very useful information in this book from the standpoint of both a person who has copyrights and from the standpoint of the person who wants to use copyright protected material. The information on Libel is most interesting and enlightening. This is an excellent book that can be very useful in avoiding a whole lot of unnecessary trouble that can result from not knowing this information.

Whether you are seeking to be published or self-publishing be sure to reference this book often and follow it's suggestions. You'll never regret it! Publishers require each manuscript submitted to have proper permissions. This book is one of the most important books to have in your writers library.

Nice read!

This book is extremely helpful. The forms are also worth the price of the book. Up to date information to keep writers out of trouble and within their first amendment rights.

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