Copyright and Creator Rights in DH Projects: A Checklist
by Vika Zafirin, Isabel Galina, Alex Gil, Padmini Ray Murray
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This checklist is an offering to the digital humanities community by participants of the Digital Humanities 2017 panel “Copyright, Digital Humanities, and Global Geographies of Knowledge”. Do you have suggestions for improving it? Please email vzafrin at bu edu.

I. Questions to Ask and Answer

We recommend creating a document, published as part of your project, that articulates answers to the following questions. This is not an exhaustive list — just the beginning. What would you add?

- What country’s/countries’ copyright laws apply to other people’s work(s) we use in our project? How do we justify our use(s)?
  - Public domain
  - Type of use is allowed within the limits of applicable law (e.g., Fair Use in the U.S.)
  - Payment of royalties
  - Author-provided license allows use
- Does our project incorporate knowledge created by historically vulnerable people(s)?
  - If yes: how do the affected people(s) benefit?
    - If they don’t: how do we remedy this?
  - If yes: is our work in accord with their culturally established acceptable methods of knowledge production and transmission?
    - If it isn’t: how do we remedy this?
  - If yes: what do we need to document, and how?
- What country’s/countries’ copyright laws apply to our original work?
- What contributors to our project have a copyright stake in it?
  - How will they be compensated? (Non-exhaustive possibilities: money; explicit credit and a voice in the disposition of the project)
- What contributors to our project do not have a copyright stake in it?
  - How will they be compensated/credited? What input, if any, will they have in the disposition of the project?
- Is student, contingent, or other vulnerable labor used in the creation of any part of this project?
  - If yes, how will these contributors be compensated?
  - How are the contributors credited?
II. Suggested Resources

- **Berne Convention**
- **Collaborators’ Bill of Rights**
- **A Student Collaborators’ Bill of Rights**
- **Stanford Copyright and Fair Use Center**
- Your local librarians knowledgeable about digital humanities and copyright/author rights
  - Having trouble finding someone? [ADHO Lib+DH SIG](https://www.adho.org/sig/dh) may be able to help