

Copyright - Performance Rights for Videos

I. Videos for home & personal use:

Many of the DVDs and videos the library purchases are just like the ones available from a retail outlet such as Amazon, Walmart, Redbox, or Netflix: they are licensed for home use only. While copyright law makes an exception for showing films in a classroom situation, showing these movies for a public audience, with or without an admission charge, is a violation of copyright. The FBI warning at the beginning of a movie reflects this law.

Examples of non-public performances:

- A student privately views a film in dorm or apt. with a small group of friends
- An instructor shows a film to officially registered students in a classroom, where the content of the film is directly related to the course.

II. Videos with public performance rights

Some of the films the library purchases (documentaries, educational titles, and some feature films) come with public performance rights. These performance rights allow viewing by groups outside of a home viewing experience. It is a public performance if any of the following are true:

- the screening is open to the public
- the screening is in a public space- dorm lounge, library, auditorium, etc.
- access is not restricted
- persons attending are outside the normal circle of a family and acquaintances
- showing a foreign-language film to the community for cultural enrichment
- showing a film to your club or organization
- the instructor shows a film in the classroom for curriculum-related purposes, but invites persons outside the class to attend
- the instructor shows a film to the class for curriculum-related purposes, but in a public or unrestricted-access location

Library users can determine if a video held by EOU Library has public performance rights by clicking on the availability information link when viewing a search results list.

Here is a current list of the films with public performance rights, that are available from EOU Library. The list is sorted by title.

List of films link (to be inserted when list is available)

Not all films include public performance rights as an option when purchasing. However, if you would like us to investigate and consider such a purchase, please contact a librarian

III. Researching film and video copyright ownership

One may research film and video copyrights using the database at the Library of Congress. This database lists claimants and copyright ownership to works registered after 1978. To search for works registered before 1978, one must search in the Library of Congress online catalog, LOCIS, or in printed Copyright volumes.

References

"Copyright Law - Video Recordings and Public Performance Rights for Library Materials"

Williams College Library. 22 August 2006

http://www.williams.edu/library/guides/videos_copyright.php

"Public Performance Rights - the Basics". Johns Hopkins University Sheridan Library. 2004

<http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/film/ppr.html>

"Getting Permission" University of Texas System 17 November 2004

<http://www.utsystem.edu/OGC/Intellectualproperty/permisn.htm>

"Showing Films at Harvard - Public Performance Rights" Harvard College 2003

<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~scdiroff/movies/index.html>