

The Statute of Anne 1710

Anno Octavo
Annæ Regiæ.

An Act for the Encouragement of Learning, by Vesting the Copies of Printed Books in the Authors or Purchasers of such Copies, during the Times therein mentioned.

Whereas Printers, Booksellers, and other Persons, have of late frequently taken the Liberty of Printing, Reprinting, and Publishing, or causing to be Printed, Reprinted, and Published Books, and other Writings, without the Consent of the Authors or Proprietors of such Books and Writings, to their very great Detriment, and too often to the Ruin of them and their Families: For Preventing therefore such Practices for the future, and for the Encouragement of Learned Men to Compose and Write useful Books;

May it please Your Majesty, that it may be Enacted, and be it Enacted by the Queens most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Tenth Day of April, One thousand seven hundred and ten, the Author of any Book or Books already Printed, who hath not Transferred to any other the Copy or Copies of such Book or Books, Share or Shares thereof, or the Bookseller or Booksellers, Printer or Printers, or other Person or Persons, who hath or have Purchased or Acquired the Copy or Copies of any Book or Books, in order to Print or Reprint the same, shall have the sole Right and Liberty of Printing such Book and Books for the Term of One and twenty Years, to Commence from the said Tenth Day of April, and no longer; and that the Author of any Book or Books already Composed and not Printed and Published, or that shall hereafter be Composed, and his Assignee, or Assigns, shall have the sole Liberty of Printing and Reprinting such Book and Books for the Term of fourteen Years, to Commence from the Day of the First Publishing the same, and no longer; ...

The Statute of Anne effectively

- Removed the monopoly on the right to copy from the Stationers' Company
- Previously the work of dead authors were held perpetually in copyright, with John Locke campaigning against this
- Set up a legal deposit system
- A copyright term of 14 years, renewable for a further 14 years if author still alive

A court case in 1767 (Miller v Taylor) argued that (perpetual) copyright existed in the common law, and the King's Bench ruled it did, but this was overturned by the House of Lords in a later case (Donaldson v Beckett).

Generally regarded as the foundation of modern copyright law.

Copyright 302 years later in the digital age 2012

- What is the purpose of having copyright legislation?
- What rights should content creators have?
- What rights should content users have?
- What rights are absolute and what rights should be shared?

Below is a draft matrix which has started to list some of the “rights” that copyright deals with. Think about what other rights there are, what the impact is of them on creators and users, and what incentives are generated by these rights.

The sessions is not intended to reach a conclusion on what should be the major principles behind copyright legislation, but instead the beginning of a conversation about identifying the principles and issues that New Zealanders hold important.

	Creator Right	Shared Right	User Right
Sale	X		
Re-sale		X	
Format Shifting			X
Academic Use			
Fair Use			
Parody/Satire			
Time Shifting			
Rights after death			
Licensing			
Non-commercial sharing/lending			
Criticism			