chapter 11, “Zine Preservation,” Jeremy Brett addresses the ramifications of preserving zines and whether the library’s mission aligns with the creators’ original intentions. Some creators may not respond well to efforts to create enduring access for their creations, which certainly complicates efforts such as digitization. Respecting the creators’ wishes when developing a zine collection is clearly the ethical solution, as evidenced in this chapter and throughout the rest of the book.

In chapter 12, “Our Zine Futures: A Call for Accessible, Inclusive, and Diverse Zine Communities,” Ann Matsushima Chiu discusses the results of a survey specifically distributed to zinesters where they were asked their opinion on the future of zines and calls upon zinesters to “challenge the elitist, racist, gatekeeping, patriarchal, capitalist and other oppressive forces” (150) as a critical component to ensuring a thriving zine community. Chiu writes, “zines are the platform for the underrepresented voice, so the future of zines must continue to be so” (150).

This call is an apt conclusion. With the appropriate support, zines are clearly a practicable option for libraries exploring how to strengthen diversity, equity, and inclusion in their collection in a tangible, effective way that is not a perfunctory virtue signal. And for those who decide “yes, let’s try zines”—this book is for you.—Shay Beezley (sbeezley@uco.edu), University of Central Oklahoma


Anyone working in libraries, museums, or other similar organizations has more than likely encountered a scenario involving copyright. Knowing how to deal with these situations when they occur is key in today’s library landscape of electronic resources, emergency access to copyrighted materials, and online teaching and learning. This new publication provides a basic introduction to copyright in the United States to help address these questions.

Benson’s aim is to provide a foundational understanding of U.S. copyright law to make informed decisions. She has deep knowledge and expertise in copyright and holds both a JD and MSLIS. She has been a lecturer at the University of Illinois College of Law for ten years and has been actively involved in copyright conversations during that time. It is thanks to her expertise that she breaks down the legal jargon on copyright, providing an “easy-to-read” (ix) discussion on the laws.

Benson does this by similarly structuring each of the chapters, which can be read in or out of sequence. These sections are: the law, discussion of that law cited, common scenarios, and a final section on tools and resources. Her discussions explain and break down the law, while the common scenarios help to envision how to address day-to-day issues. She includes case studies and numerous illustrations to help readers better grasp concepts. Because copyright law and the questions we face are complex, the last section offers tools and resources to learn more about the law and where to find help. Lastly, Benson has included a checklist for fair use that can be used when faced with issues at work. As a result, this book is perfect for those with limited or no knowledge of copyright.

There are a number of engaging topics. This reviewer would like to highlight the following: legal advice, computer code and creative works, terms and duration of copyright acts, fair use, meaning of commercial use and market impact, electronic reserves, controlled digital lending, open educational resources (OER), and Creative Commons licenses. With regard to legal advice, this reviewer appreciated Benson’s clarity that she is not providing legal advice. “This book focuses on United States copyright law […]; however, nothing in this book constitutes legal advice. […] as such the aim of this book is to help readers make decisions that are more informed, and hopefully, less fraught with stress and uncertainty” (x). In her discussions on the law, she frequently emphasizes the need to reach out to general counsel at one’s institution. What this book helps with is to better understand the issue at hand, to know how to frame it, who to talk to at your institution, and where to get more information, if necessary.

The question of computer code as a creative work was thought-provoking. Not only do library technology staff often contribute coding efforts, but research data librarians, metadata specialists, or institutional repository staff may code as well. And of course, many faculty members and information technology specialists in many types of institutions write computer code as creative endeavors. Benson is clear that “copyright is about creativity” with it following that “copyright law even views computer code as a type of literary work and, as such, protects the work of authors in writing code language as well” (5). In this, she anticipated this reviewer’s next question on how creativity as seen through the lens of copyright differs from facts, trademarks, or patents.

Trying to understand the terms and duration of copyright seems at times a byzantine task. Benson visually delineates the different copyright acts such as the Copyright Act of 1909 or the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, distinguishing the beginning and end date of each
respective act as well as their overlapping terms. She adds information on how to understand copyright for unpublished works in relation to whether copyright was renewed or registered. At the end of chapter 3, she cites two sources to search copyright that are worth mentioning: the online Catalogue of Copyright Entries (CCE) and the Stanford Copyright Renewal Database (30).

In Benson’s discussion on fair use, she clarifies the meaning of the heart of the work, market-value impact, and what constitutes commercial use. Her common scenarios deal predominately with questions around electronic reserves such as professors asking to make available copies of a section or an entire book, DVD, or other resource for their course. Benson includes a section on text mining and how we deal with it. She cites the HathiTrust Digital Library (HDL) case, where the Authors Guild sued HDL in 2012 because users could search words in copyrighted works. The audience might also remember when Google was sued for their snippet view, which Benson also mentions to underscore the concept of what makes a work transformative or not.

The explanation on controlled digital lending and Creative Commons licenses is worthwhile. Benson is clear that both of these topics are not related to specific laws but stem from the laws on fair use, first sale, and contract law. For controlled digital lending, she uses the Emergency Temporary Access Services (ETAS) for copyrighted works in the HDL during COVID-19 as an example. Benson’s visualization of Creative Commons licenses succinctly demonstrates how licenses differ in addition to whether those licenses are an OER. This is the first time that this reviewer has seen such a comparison and found it both timely and helpful.

This reviewer was able to gain a better understanding of U.S. copyright law and found the resources and tools practical. Though the section on the law itself can be difficult to read, Benson’s discussions are much easier as she deconstructs legal jargon and adds ample examples of how to understand that law. The addition of footnotes and references throughout the guide provide ample opportunity to learn more and the ability to find help from diverse sources. Benson’s guide will provide a foundation and a quick reference for anyone who encounters questions on copyright.—Jennifer M. Eustis (jeustis@umass.edu), University of Massachusetts Amherst


Grey literature contains valuable resources often overlooked by libraries because of the ambiguity surrounding the management and cataloging of these document types. This book examines the topic of grey literature to highlight its importance and to provide a holistic approach to integrating these materials into a collection. Throughout the six chapters, experts demystify grey literature, both showing a need to incorporate and how to successfully manage it, as well as addressing issues related to selecting, cataloging, marketing, and sustaining these materials.

The opening chapter discusses the historical origins and the definition of grey literature, explaining that the ambiguity of what grey literature is makes it difficult to identify these documents and to reach a consensus on a single definition other than unpublished materials. There is no standardized list for grey literature document types, but one attempt to compile a list is GreyNet. Despite efforts for GreyNet to be complete, some materials, like scientific reports, do not appear on the list, while some types, such as articles, may or may not be published. These materials prove difficult to catalog because there are no standardized rules. Additionally, who authored the material is generally unknown, except for theses or dissertations, so the issuing organization is the primary way to find the resource when searching. The informational value of grey literature is high because many scientific results within the reports or dissertations may never be published as detailed as in their original form. Digital technology provides quicker access to this information; however, copyright issues may arise when incorporating them into digital collections. The chapter identifies leading libraries and organizations that focus on grey literature to offer guidance in how they define and manage these materials. It concludes by iterating the importance of grey literature, briefly touching on the impact of the digital age on the supply and demand for content.

The middle four chapters provide case studies with key takeaways at the end of each chapter, offering ways to incorporate and manage grey literature within a library’s collection. Chapter 2 details the decision-making process for the collection development of grey literature. It presents the challenges faced while collecting or selecting, creating access, monitoring usage, and weeding these materials. It provides details on data collection and its use for the collection maintenance of grey literature. The chapter highlights a case study on weeding government documents and concludes with the argument that data usage practices can provide necessary information for the selection and weeding of grey literature, allowing libraries to build rich collections.

Chapter 3 focuses on cataloging grey literature, specifically the Institute for Development Anthropology (IDA)