

Annual Copyright Licence for law firms

It's easy to breach copyright laws by inadvertently copying and sharing content without permission. Most text and visual works are covered by copyright. If your Partners and employees copy and share text and/or images that were created by others, they'll usually need permission from the copyright owner to do so.

Text and images protected by copyright may include:

- Hard copy and online journal articles
- Hard copy and online newspaper and magazine articles
- Annotated case law

Research conducted by independent market research agency FiftyFive5* shows that:



Our Annual Copyright Licence is a blanket licence that protects your firm from the risk of copyright infringement by providing your Partners and employees with rights to:

- Upload articles from Australian newspaper publishers into AI tools or use them as prompts,
- copy, share and store third-party text and images (including from publishers such as Thomson Reuters and LexisNexis, and publications such as The Australian Law Journal, Lawyers Weekly, and Australasian Lawyer; plus annotated case law, survey plans and maps, graphs, tables, research papers, market research data, competitive analysis), and
- share selected content externally.

Adhere to AI tools terms and conditions

AI tools have terms and conditions requiring you to hold a licence for any third-party material that is input whether by cutting and pasting or uploading documents. Holding a Copyright Agency Annual Business Licence gives your firm the required permission to use content from Australian newspaper publishers in GenAI tools and applications.

About the Annual Copyright Licence

- **Covers your entire firm** for copying and internal sharing rights for digital, online and hard copy resources, including newspapers, magazines, journals, books and other published works.
- **Provides rights to use Australian newspaper articles in GenAI tools.** Staff can upload or input articles as prompts, and share GenAI-generated outputs internally or externally, including on websites and social media**.
- **External communication rights for Australian newspaper articles** - email externally; post to websites, extranets and social media; use in annual reports and submissions.
- **Complements the Downstream Licence** provided by media monitoring organisations. The annual licence provides additional rights to your Downstream Licence and covers newspaper content not received via a media monitoring organisation and copying directly from websites.
- **Saves you from having to negotiate licence fees with individual copyright owners.** A single, cost-effective annual licence allows your Partners and employees to copy and share content from a vast amount of sources.
- **Use third-party materials** in all structured and unstructured staff training activities and programmes.
- **Regulatory approval and compliance** requires evidence from published sources in many industries. A copyright licence covers the making of copies, providing them to regulators or regulatory advisors and the storage of copies as a record.
- **Provides real compliance.** Relying on fair dealing and library exceptions leaves considerable copyright compliance gaps and gives a false sense of compliance.
- **Reduces your risk of being brought into copyright dispute.** Avoid potential litigation expenses. FiftyFive5* research identified 124 potential copyright violations per employee each year.
- **Reputation management.** With increased use of Generative AI and associated governance concerns, ethical AI use reinforces your reputation as a responsible and forward-thinking firm.

Key benefits to your firm

Speed and efficiency – Covers most common workflow activities, including use of Australian newspaper articles in AI tool prompts

Fits with ESG frameworks – Copyright licensing promotes good governance in business practices

Flexibility – One licence covers copyright material from millions of sources

Peace of mind – Avoid litigation, costly infringement claims and reputational risk

Learning and innovation – We provide copyright training and an online Knowledge Hub

Copyright Agency is an Australian not-for-profit representing over 40,000 creators, including publishers, authors, and artists. It provides licensing solutions that allow businesses to legally copy, share and store content while ensuring creators are fairly paid.

**Getting a licence is easy –
contact us [for a quote today.](#)**

*FiftyFive5 Research on Risky Business

**This fact sheet is a guide only. Limitations apply to website and social media use of outputs. Refer to the licence agreement for full terms and conditions. For independent information on copyright please visit the Australian Copyright Council website copyright.org.au