

Copyright law for lecturers – Easy Access regulations, 2017

In 2017, the PRO Foundation's Reader Agreement was replaced by the Easy Access regulations.

Please note: the PRO Foundation has not yet revised the summary of the Reader Agreement on its website. The agreement currently on the site does not apply to 2017.

Brief extracts

No prior permission required. No requirement to upload evidence.

a. Brief extracts: citation on paper or in digital form from a copyrighted publication to serve as a teaching aid.

(i) From a book: maximum of 10,000 words, no more than one third of the original publication [based on the number of pages].

(ii) From a journal: maximum of 8,000 words.

(iii) From literary works: maximum of 100 lines of poetry or 2,500 words of prose, no more than one tenth of the complete original publication.

(iv) Sheet music: maximum of one verse and one refrain for a song, maximum of five staves for musical notes and symbols.

(v) Images, graphs, tables, figures and similar: maximum of 25 from any single original publication/several publications by the same author.

Medium-length extracts (try to avoid)

For a medium-length extract, you may cite up to a maximum of 50 pages of a publication (book, journal), up to a maximum of 25% of that publication. Prior permission is not required, nor do you need to upload evidence.

Long extracts (try to avoid)

1. More than 25% but no more than 1/3: simply ask for and receive permission immediately through the portal.

2. More than 1/3 but no more than 50%: the PRO Foundation will negotiate directly with the publishing company on your behalf. If the publication is no longer in print, you can ask for permission through the PRO Foundation portal.

Prevent fines

The PRO Foundation carries out spot checks. Regulatory breaches are punishable by a fine. Please always ensure the following:

- Proper source references for both brief and long extracts.
- Correct user numbers: indicate how many students have access to the extracts, not how many students actually use them.

Long extracts always require prior permission.

Questions or advice?

If you have any further questions or need advice, please contact Willemien van Dijk at t.w.f.van.dijk@vu.nl or Sylvia Moes at s.moes@vu.nl