



Answers: Copyright Scenarios

Answers to the 4 copyright scenarios can be found below.

Scenario 1 – Copyright of Archived Data

Although the ISSP data are available for free to all researchers, this does not mean that the data can be published in another archive and made available to others. The data can be incorporated into a database and used for personal analysis. But, before this dataset can be deposited with another archive, permission must be sought from the owner of the original data.

Scenario 2 – Copyright of Data in the Public Domain

Even though the articles are publicly available, they are still under copyright. Whilst such information can be used for personal research purposes (e.g. in the UK this would be under the broad exemption of 'fair dealing'), the articles cannot be archived, unless permission is obtained from the newspapers; otherwise this would breach copyright.

Scenario 3 – Copyright of Survey Questions

The survey questions and instruments will be copyright protected, with copyright residing with the organisation who commissioned, designed or conducted the survey (unless the original creator / owner transfers all ownership rights). The researcher needs to contact the copyright holder directly for permission to reproduce the questionnaire text for any new use. Some questionnaires will contain measurement scales, batteries of questions or classifications. These instruments are again copyrighted. Therefore, to reproduce them the researcher will need permission.

Scenario 4 – Copyright of Interviews with Stay-at-Home Parents

In this case, the stay-at-home parents hold copyright in their own recorded words, whilst the researcher holds copyright over the transcribed interviews. Quoting large extracts of the data, either in publications or by archiving the transcripts, would breach the copyright of the interviewees in their recorded words. If the researcher wants to publish large extracts of data, or archive the transcripts, they need to request permission to do so from the interviewees or request that the interviewee transfers the copyright of the interview content to the researcher, which could be achieved through the use of a Recording Agreement.

