Responsible Use of Technology Resources

The ease of access provided by modern technology may result in the use of works without a full understanding of the user's rights and responsibilities. Creating and using unauthorized copies of audio, written, and visual works in either digital or non-digital format are not appropriate and may be illegal.

Facts about Copyrights

A work, in whatever medium, is protected by copyright law unless it has been placed in the public domain. Owners of copyrights hold exclusive right to the reproduction and distribution of their work. Unauthorized use and distribution of copyrighted works is a criminal offense.
The unauthorized use and distribution of copyrighted works can harm the entire academic community. The institution may incur a legal liability or may find it difficult to negotiate agreements that would make copyrighted products available to the academic community.

Unauthorized use and distribution of copyrighted works can deprive creators and publishers of a fair return on their work and inhibit the creation of new work.

Acceptable Use

Use of a copyrighted work is only permissible if (a) permission of the copyright owner has been obtained or (b) the use qualifies for a legal exception such as fair use.

Fair use as discussed in the U/S Copyright Act, is judged on a case-by-case basis using the following criteria:

- Purpose and character of the use
- Nature of the copyrighted work
- Amount and substantiality use
- Effect on the potential market for or value of the work

Computing resources shall be used in a manner consistent with the instructional, public service, research, and administrative objectives of the University. Use should be consistent with the specific objectives of the project or task for which the use was authorized.

Acceptable use includes:

- Instructional use in classes
- Faculty research
- Student research
- Class assignments

Official work of students, faculty administration, staff, recognized student and campus organizations, and agencies of the University.

Electronic communication that supports instruction, research, or official work of students, faculty, administration, and staff.

Personal use by authorized users that does not interrupt or diminish access to resources for other users

Unacceptable Use

Examples of unacceptable use:

Downloading copyrighted audio, video, graphic or text materials from the Internet without proof of proper licensing agreements.

Using a computer to violate the principals of academic honesty.

Commercial for-profit activities.

Generating excessive network traffic or consuming excessive network resources apart from educational use.

Distributing computer viruses, worms or bulk email

Distributing any kind of obscene materials.

Threatening harm by harassing, stalking, transmitting obscenities, or other criminal offenses.

Attempting to gain access to an individual's account or to nonpublic parts of the campus network.

Attempting to intercept data transmissions on the campus network.

Misusing information accessed while performing work as a University employee.

Using or distributing any part of administrative resources that are accessed unintentionally.

The sharing of copyrighted material inappropriately using technologies such as peer-to-peer file sharing.

Engaging in any electronic activities that violate any local, state, national, or international law

User responsibilities:

To respect the privacy of other users.
To respect the rights of other users.
To respect that legal protection provided by copyright and licensing of programs and data.
To respect the intended use of resources.
To respect the shared nature of resources.
To respect the intended use of systems for electronic exchange.
To respect the integrity of a system or network.
To respect the financial structure of a computing or networking system.
To adhere to all general University policies and procedures.

University responsibilities:

To offer service in the most effective, reliable, and secure manner while considering the needs of the total user community.
To initiate an investigation for any violations they become aware of.
To act in accordance with privacy policies of user information.

Violation Guidelines

Using a computer to copy or store any copyrighted material (text, images, music, movies, etc.) is illegal. Individuals violating the law may be liable for monetary payment and may also be subject to civil or criminal proceedings under State and Federal statues.

The University is not responsible for policing user activity however an investigation will be conducted based on any reported violations. The University will remove or disable access to the infringing material from any website using UIC resources until the complaint has been resolved.

In accordance with University policies and procedures, inappropriate use of technology resources may result in immediate denial of services and sanctions which may include the loss of computer privileges, referral to the student judicial system, or other disciplinary actions.

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