Notice on copyright
Additional information on Section 60a of the German Copyright Act

I. General

You may exceptionally reproduce, distribute, make available to the public or otherwise communicate publicly published and copyright-protected works or parts of works without the permission of the rightholder.

II. Definition according to Section 60a of the German Copyright Act

- “Reproduce” means to save, scan or make copies of other authors’ work files/works.
- “Distribute” means to put the workpiece in material form into circulation.
- “Make available to the public” means to upload workpieces to a server so that students and/or research assistants can view or download these workpieces.

III. Prerequisites and examples

1. Published, protected works

   - Scientific papers, statements, comments, books, articles
   - Illustrations of a scientific or technical nature, such as plans, sketches, maps, tables, drawings, photographs, figures
   - Material accompanying university lectures, talks, speeches, presentations, etc.
   - Works that are out of print, no matter for how long they have been out of print
   - Orphan works

Please note:

- Non-published, protected works, such as student theses, drafts, and working papers are not covered by Section 60a of the German Copyright Act. The rightholder must be asked for their consent.
- Literary works 70 years after the author’s death, published measurement data, scientific formula, and official legal texts are not protected.

2. Permissible extent to which works or parts of works may be used

The German Copyright Act defines the permissible extent of use as follows:

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In the case of text pages, up to 15 per cent of the complete work may be used (all pages that are not blank and that primarily contain text have to be taken into account), in the case of cinematographic works (2 years after premiere in German cinemas), educational videos and audio recordings, up to 15 per cent may be used.

Full use of out-of-commerce works

Full use of small-scale works:
- Figures; printed works with a maximum of 25 pages; musical works and cinematographic works with a maximum length of 5 minutes; music sheets with a maximum of 6 pages
- Isolated article from a professional journal
- Articles from popular magazines are not included. When using text extracts from such magazines, you may use up to 15 per cent of the complete work only or you must quote the work according to Section 51 of the German Copyright Act.

3. General prohibition of alteration of the work

- As a general principle, you may not alter other authors' works. Abridging or summarizing literary works is permitted by law, insofar as they serve illustrative purposes in teaching and such alterations are made clearly visible.
- Alterations such as translations, transpositions of songs into another key, rendering pictures into another size are permitted, insofar as they are necessary for their purpose of use.

4. Availability for a specific, defined group of participants of lectures

- The use of the learning platform L²P and other, comparable learning platforms is limited to the participants of individual lectures. The participants of a lecture are registered for the respective lecture (not all RWTH students or all students of a specific course of study have access).

Please note: When videos are uploaded to YouTube, for example, the viewers are not limited to a specific group of people. Recordings of lectures that are stored on the server of the Video AG I/1 team are available to the entire RWTH university and must be restricted to the participants of a lecture.
- These materials may be passed on to other lecturers and examiners that also teach at the RWTH university.
5. **Usage for illustrative purposes in teaching**

The material must be provided in timely proximity to the lecture, e.g. for preparation or wrap-up of the teaching content. Accessibility is limited to the duration of the lecture.

6. **Usage for non-commercial purposes**

Using other authors’ works for illustration in teaching at the RWTH university is not a commercial purpose.

7. **The author or rightholder and the source must be stated at all times.**

Please note:

- If you want to make works available based on Section 60a of the German Copyright Act, we recommend to use the L²P module “Literature”. Here, you can charge the university library with the digitalization and copyright examination of the required works at the touch of a button. If you have any questions about this, please contact Dr. Robert Eschenbach by phone (94487) or by email eschenbach@ub.rwth-aachen.de.

- The claim to remuneration of the collecting societies is covered by one-off payments from the federal states. Therefore, you can use other authors’ works under the provisions of Section 60a of the German Copyright Act for free.

**Please note that this notice can only provide you an overview of the copyright situation and that it cannot substitute for individual legal advice. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please don’t hesitate to contact Department 9.0 - Legal affairs at any time. Our employees will be happy to assist you.**

By order

signed Nadine Rüttgers