

David Sutton
«Copyright issues in Archives»

In reviewing the major issues in copyright for European archivists, Dr David Sutton's paper gives both a historical perspective on copyright and some practical guidance for working archivists. The paper looks in particular at three key questions; "what is copyright for?"; "how long should copyright last?"; and "how can we establish international standards?"

In investigating "what is copyright for?", the paper reviews the conflicting Anglo-American and French-European traditions in copyright, and concludes that although the English word "copyright" has gained international acceptance and usage, it is the French tradition of *droits d'auteurs* which now dominates all legal and philosophical thinking about intellectual property.

In considering "how long should copyright last?", Dr Sutton argues that present laws and regulations give copyright protection for an excessive duration, and makes a case for specific copyright exemptions for some archival materials.

In discussing "how can we establish international standards?", the paper concludes that the days of national copyright rules must be ended, gives a number of examples of regrettable and eccentric national regulations, and argues for a move towards more international standards, with a key role for European archivists.

Στοιχεία επικοινωνίας:

E-mail: d.s.sutton@rdg.ac.uk