



Swings and Roundabouts: The Impact of Legal Drafting on the Language and Understanding of Copyright Law and the Need for Educational Materials

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In drafting of statutory law, the priority of the legislator and drafter is that the wording of the law represents the intended policy meaning. Copyright policy making involves striking a delicate balance between various stakeholder perspectives whilst ensuring that the law that is created is technologically accurate. This can be a challenging task and has a direct impact on the language of the law. In other words, whilst the law may be 'fit for purpose' the wording of the law may appear to be archaic and obscure to a layperson.

However, for the law to retain its value and importance it is essential that the law is accessible to the layman to ensure that people are aware of the law, when they behave unlawfully. The importance of making the law accessible at grassroots level is further emphasised by research, which suggests that copyright understanding is particularly important in younger people.

This paper explores the challenges of drafting copyright legislation, its implications for the language of the law and highlights the need for educational resources in order to make the law accessible to the layman, students and teachers.

The authors argue that there is a need for supplementary documentation to inform the public about copyright law. Moreover, research suggests that the need for copyright understanding is particularly significant for younger people and therefore copyright education in schools and colleges is required.

In highlighting the above points, the paper concludes by considering the challenges of creating educational resources for copyright law and presents an A Level Media Studies Education Resource as a case study example of implementing copyright law within the A Level curriculum in England and Wales.