

**COPYRIGHTS IN DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL SPACE:  
THE CURRENT STATE AND THE PROPOSALS FOR THE REFORMATION  
(ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS)**

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*Copyrighting in digital educational space is considered in the article. We have studied the current state and the problems of copyrighting in the digital educational space in a rapidly developing society. The article analyzes the current legislation of the Republic of Belarus regulating the relations in the sphere of creation and use of scientific works, literature or art, resulting of creative activity of people in these areas. Some suggestions are made in order to improve legal regulations in the field of copyrighting in digital educational space. The article also gives some conclusions concerning the topic studied.*

Our society is constantly developing and is undergoing considerable changes on the way of its development. Internet has changed all scopes of human life. This can be seen quite well in the 21st century – the century of new technologies and of various discoveries in all spheres of human activities. Modern generations can no longer imagine their lives without such global network because it is much easier and faster to access information. Thanks to the Internet we have, for the first time, an open educational space. Digital educational space is becoming a central tool while getting knowledge.

"Digital technologies have also changed pedagogical approaches to education and learning processes, redirecting the priorities from learning the educational material to developing information networks and critical thinking skills," and in such a way the Internet has changed the requirements for professional activities of teachers. Teachers' participation in creating educational digital content is becoming more popular and is now, in demand. Teachers and students of different universities develop online contents widely used in distance learning system, and even reliable systems that allow testing, assessment and evaluation of knowledge. The introduction of new forms of education, using electronic educational resources makes it possible to create new educational processes on a fairly high quality level.

Currently the Republic of Belarus has the national educational portal (<http://adu.by>) which is a modern informational and educational resource that:

- has been created to provide comprehensive (informational, scientific, educational, and consulting) support to all participants in the educational process for preschool, General secondary, and Special educational establishments;

- it is intended to provide students and their legal representatives, as well as teachers, education management specialists, and other participants of the educational process, with equal access to reliable educational information and high-quality educational services;

- is aimed at creating conditions for multi-vectored communication for all participants of the educational process.

The implementation of this project is aimed at:

- improving the efficiency processes of accumulation, using and exchanging information between participants of the educational process at preschool, General secondary and Special education establishments;

- integration of information, technological and educational resources and services into a single informational and educational environment;

- organizing interactive network communication between all participants of the educational process [1].

Copyrighting is the term used to describe the rights that authors have for the works in the field of science, literature, and art. However, because of the digitalization of the educational space the concept of copyrighting has changed significantly compared to the copyrights that existed initially, so we can say that there is a transformation of copyrights in our modern society. Copyrighting also applies to works that exist in digital form. The use of digitally formatted works is not possible without compliance with copyright law. Article 36 of the law of the Republic of Belarus on "copyrighting and related rights " provides that it is lawful to use already published works only with the obligatory indication of the author of the work and the source of its borrowing, being the same principles applicable to illustrations in publications, radio and TV programs, sound recordings, etc.- articles and other low-volume works that are lawfully published in collections, as well as Newspapers, magazines and other printed media, excerpts from lawfully published literature and other works, may be for citation and reproduction

for educational and research purposes [2]. It should be emphasized that the free use of texts, audios and audiovisual works for the educational process (without the copyright holder's consent) is allowed only in the form of quotations or illustrations, justified by the goal, that is - in the form of fragments. If a work (a play, a song, a movie, etc.) is intended to be used entirely (during performances, competitions, concerts, etc.) the exceptions to the General rules of copyrighting cannot be applied.

In the educational process there is a constant need to update/create new didactic and methodological materials or training tools. In a digital school they can be created by individuals of the educational process. A modern teacher has ever-growing technical possibilities for this. In this case it is often not considered that the rights to use files placed on the Internet (graphics, photos, audio, video) may be restricted by a copyright holder. As a result a number of educational resources have been created with the violation of copyrighting, and this number is growing. For example, in Australia the Department of Education, grants schools with the right to copy and share materials from schools' websites for free if it is for the educational purpose (<https://www.smartcopying.edu.au>), grounded on the national educational license (NEALS — National Educational Access License). The license is a kind of permission to copy educational materials and use this kind of materials for educational and professional purposes [3].

The risks associated with copyright violations, plagiarism, and piracy - when the results of a creative work are used without the authors' knowledge for other purposes and without instructions, or with misrepresentations about authors - have been discussed and written for years. However, even today we often see software and methodological materials that differ only in the author's name and school number on the title page — such "cloned" texts can be found abundantly, including official websites of educational organizations. The usage of the result of someone else's creative work (for example, a photo) in your own work (for example, a presentation) without specifying information about the author is also a violation of copyrights, which can be interpreted as plagiarism [4]. At present, checking term papers for plagiarism is very relevant in many universities in Belarus and is one of the main requirements while grading students.

Intellectual property is at the center of a modern innovation system, and its implementation is a necessary condition for achieving national goals and strategic objectives for the development of the Belarusian education system. In order to increase the quality and accessibility of educational content and to control its legitimate use, it is advisable to take into account foreign experience in creating information and analytical systems for registering, recording and distributing innovative educational technologies, methodological materials, pedagogical practices, and multimedia teaching tools — objects of copyright. Such a system can include a tool for centralized regulation of copyright objects (illustrative material, audio and video files) for educational non-commercial purposes, destined to reduce the financial and labor costs, minimize the risks of copyright infringement, and will provide informational, educational and organizational as well as legal support for the development of "digital education".

Currently, the use of information technologies in various processes, including educational ones, is essential, as our modern society requires a high level of informational culture of the population. In this regard the educational system also aims to form a personality that is proficient and able to operate in the developing informational environment. One of the innovative and non-traditional ways to get education is to get it through a blogging system. It should be noted that Article 17 of the Code of the Republic of Belarus on education establishes such a form of education as distance education, which is a type of part-time education, when education is carried out mainly through modern communicational and informational technologies. On the Internet sphere the following definition of this social network service is accepted. Blog (eng. blog (from weblog) is an online event log, an online diary where the main content is regularly added in the form of texts, images, or multimedia [5]. There is no official and generally accepted definition of an educational blog in the official literature and on the Internet, but it is usually understood as a kind of blog in the field of education. The advantage of using an educational blog is the simplicity and flexibility of its usage that is fitted both for home and for the context of educational institutions. Currently there are the following types of educational blogs:

- Teacher's blog;
- training project blogs;
- network community blogs;
- subject Association blogs;
- group blogs;
- blogs dedicated to a specific topic.

However, this method of learning is not a formal (traditional) way of getting education, as it has no reflection in law and accordingly is additional, serving the purpose of providing students with increased knowledge in specific areas.

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