

From: [Derek Simpson](#)
To: [CopyrightConsultation](#)
Subject: Comment on Copyright proposals
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I am a working freelance press photographer specialising in sport. My pictures are routinely used without credit, acknowledgement or any traceability in print press, major media outlets and of course the anti-social media known as facebook, twitter etc. In the case of the legitimate media I submit pictures for use : that is my business. When organizations such as the BBC strip out all traceable metadata and on occasion claim copyright for themselves then I know the legal situation is untenable. When web viewers copy my photographs and post them on facebook that business strips out all metadata by default even though the picture may have a large "watermark" stating "copyright2014 Derek Simpson". Such removal of copyright, ownership and contact details is I understand illegal yet one of the largest publishers in the world does it as routine and with impunity.

Newspapers were granted an exemption from publishing credits (otherwise required under the "moral rights" clauses in the 1988 act) in the days of film negatives and wet darkroom processing. At the time they argued pressures of tight deadlines - this no longer applies. When digital photographs are submitted properly captioned and identified it is the work of a millisecond to transfer the copyright field to the printed copy - automatically ". The only realistic means of tracing and identifying usage for a photographer is via a text search: when the text has been purposely removed tracing is well nigh impossible.

From my perspective the removal of metadata (or publishing on the web photographs without metadata - which may already have been removed by person or persons unknown) should be subject to penalty. Paying the normal usage fee or removal after the act is not sufficient - publishers will be quite happy to take a chance on not being detected unless there are penalties in addition to usage fees. Some sites will remove pictures on receipt of proof of ownership - I have work to do - taking pictures - no one pays for my time arguing the toss with pirates.

Also from my perspective all printed journals should be required (again subject to sobering penalty) to credit every photograph published. My children have no hope of finding uses or abuses after my death without clearly stated credits.

There is much talk of the benefits of "the creative industries" and "the creative economy" at present. Not being discussed are the "creators" - people like myself (and I have worked in theatre at a high level under another name) who go out with expensive equipment and using years and years of experience and technique produce pictures which are only used because they are very good but which are habitually pirated for gain by publishers who are determined not to acknowledge their value. Without me and my like the newspapers are dull and the web which relies on visual stimulus would wither and die tomorrow,

Yours very sincerely Derek Simpson BPPA

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