

How Does WIKISTIM Comply With Copyright Law?

Completion of a WIKISTIM data sheet results in a hyper-abstraction of primary data from a published scientific report. Such an activity falls under the "fair use" clause that limits the exclusivity of copyright. US courts use four factors to determine the fair use of copyrighted material. The first is the intended use of the copied material, and nonprofit educational purposes such as ours are allowed. The second is the nature of the work that is copied, and technical/scientific publications are more likely to be approved for this exemption than works of fiction. The third is the amount of material that is copied, but this lacks hard and fast general guidelines. The fourth is how copying the work affects it market value. Courts generally look for damage to value, and we believe that inclusion in WIKISITIM increases the value of a paper by making it more likely that a reader will want to access (purchase) the full-text. Notwithstanding our strong position vis-à-vis fair use, we also are careful to paraphrase whenever possible and to use quotation marks when paraphrasing is impossible. Every document is, of course, properly cited.