Quick Copyright Tips for Digital Delivery

Key points to remember:
1. Most of the legal issues are the same whether the teaching is done in person or online (via Blackboard).
2. If it was okay to do in class, it is often okay to do online – especially when your online access is limited to the same enrolled students (for example via Blackboard).
3. You can continue to apply Niagara College’s Copyright Compliance Policy.

Additionally:
• Use your Niagara College password-protected Blackboard to make material available to your students
• Post your in-class slides to Blackboard. Content that you have created can always be shared. Additionally, slides provided by textbook publishers can almost always be used, according to their Terms of Use.
• Course readings rules for print and online posting to Blackboard are similar. Either use the guidelines found within the school’s Copyright Compliance Policy, link to a resource from the library’s collection, or link out to Internet content.
• Your Library Liaison may be able to help you find alternative content, and ncLibraries has a large collection of online journals, ebooks and streaming videos that can help support online learning. Your library liaison can also help you find openly licensed teaching materials like Open Educational Resources (OER).
• Use phone apps like Genius Scan or Adobe Scan in order to post print materials to Blackboard (within the limits allowed by the Copyright Act). Make scanned PDF files more accessible for your students by using an optical character recognition (OCR) online tool to convert "non-selectable" text files into more accessible versions.
• Sharing audiovisual material like films and audio files is more complex. But remember you can still link to legally posted online content (from YouTube etc.). ncLibraries has streaming video databases that you may link to. Standard commercial streaming options like Netflix, Crave or Disney Plus that students may also subscribe to can be an option – though some students may not have access to those services.
• Email Jaclyn-Chambers Page at the DJP Campus, or Siscoe Boschman at the Welland Campus for further copyright assistance.