Copyrighted Content in Learning Management Systems

To monitor or not? Exploring a third approach

University of Lethbridge

ABC Copyright Conference
Rumi Graham
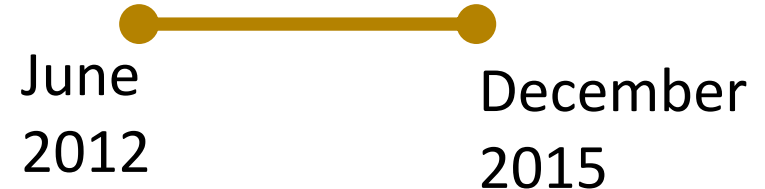June 2013

Collective License Timeline

Old License

April
1995

August
2011

Opt-Out Period   September 2011   June 2012

New License

June
2012

December
2015

Remain an Opt-Out?

Evidence on Hand

Library Reserves

Coursepacks

LMS

Why Open the Box?

- **Address evidence gap**

- **Enable more informed decision-making**

- **Identify educational needs**

Project Goals and Means

PROTECT

- academic freedom
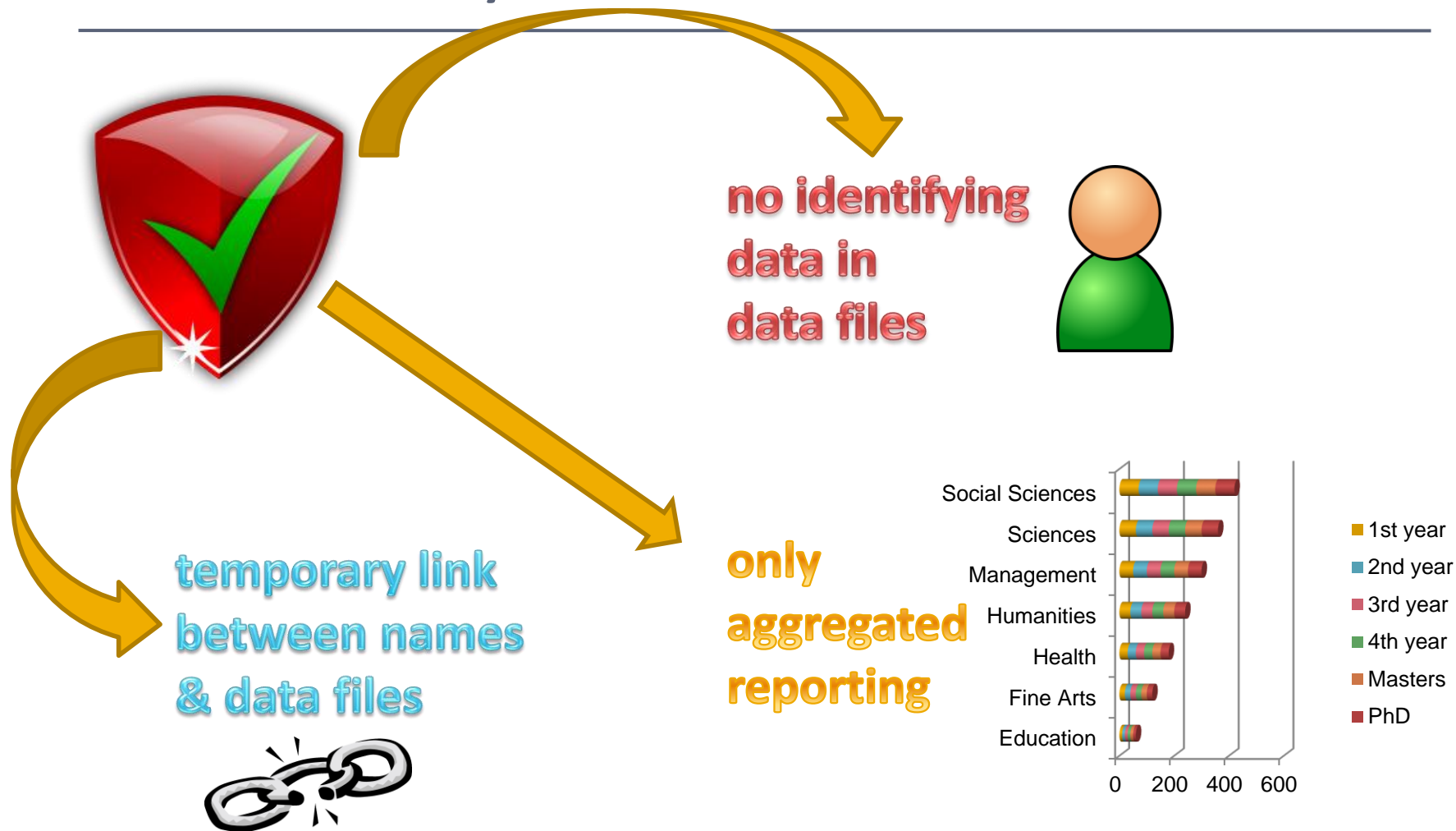- collective agreement provisions
- confidentiality
- anonymity

Formal Research Ethics Approval

DESIRED DATA

- works used in LMS
- permissions status
- one-semester complete snapshot

Data Security

no identifying data in data files

temporary link between names & data files

only aggregated reporting

	1st year
	2nd year
	3rd year
	4th year
	Masters
	PhD

Social Sciences
Sciences
Management
Humanities
Health
Fine Arts
Education

0   200   400   600

Ethics Approval

Review Committee

"The researcher is . . . asked to address what she will do if copyright violations are detected."

Response

- high consent rate needed **BUT**
- perceived threat of infringement consequences will likely suppress consent, **THUS**
- no steps taken if potential infringements detected

Project Timeline

Ethics Protocol Approval

August
2012

October
2012

Faculty Consent

October
2012

December
2012

Data Gathering & Coding

November
2012

March
2013

Data Analysis
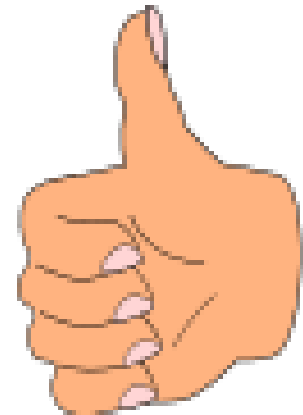
March
2013

Faculty Consent

Steps Taken

- research ethics committee approval
- faculty association executive council endorsement
- privacy office coordinator support
- Provost's office distribution of project purpose memo
- faculty association newsletter publication of project purpose memo

Data Gathering

Data Log Elements

- work title
- work author
- source title
- source author
- work format
- publisher
- year

- length of excerpt
- length of work
- library availability
- copyright status
- potential permission sources
- persistent link availability
- . . .

Data Coding

Coding Form

Response Rate

Consent Request Results (n = 530)

Did Not Respond, 17.2%

Used LMS, Granted Access, 44.0%

Did Not Use LMS, 33.4%

Used LMS, No Copyright Works, 2.1%

Used LMS, Denied Access, 3.4%
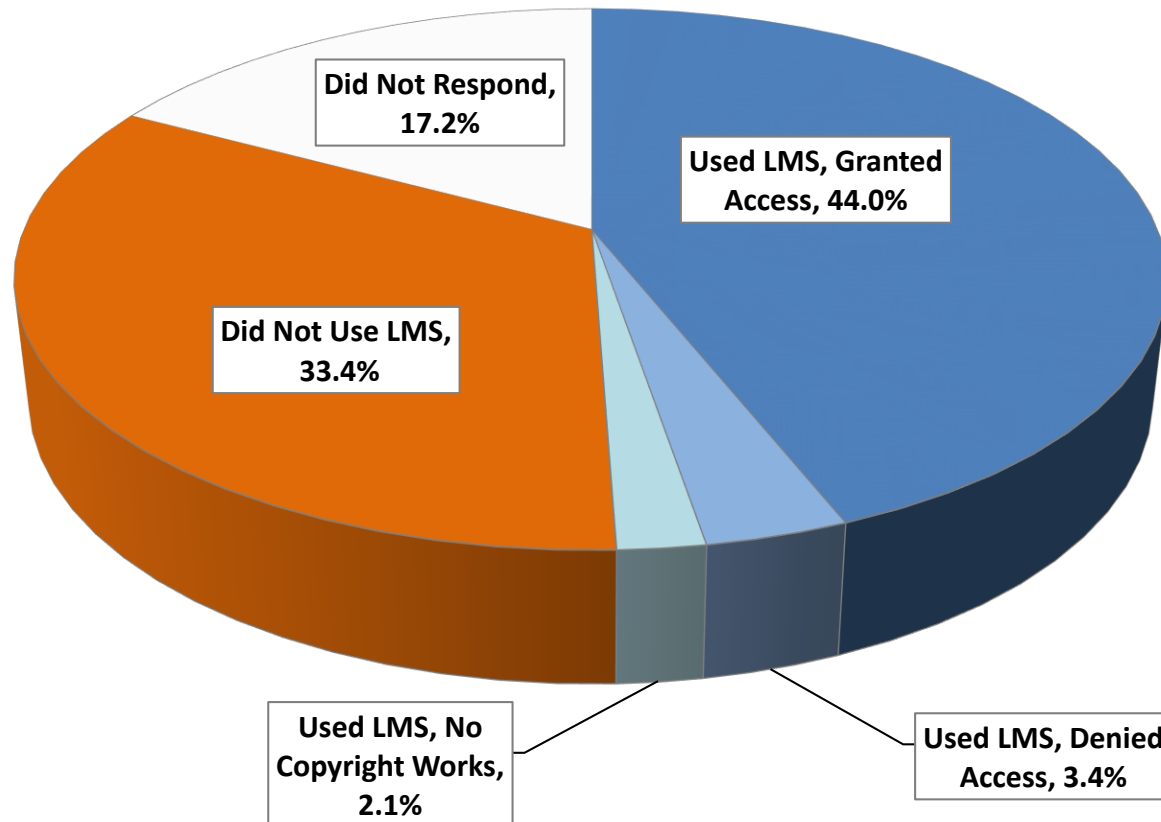
LMS Courses

Spring 2012 LMS Course Use (n = 1160)
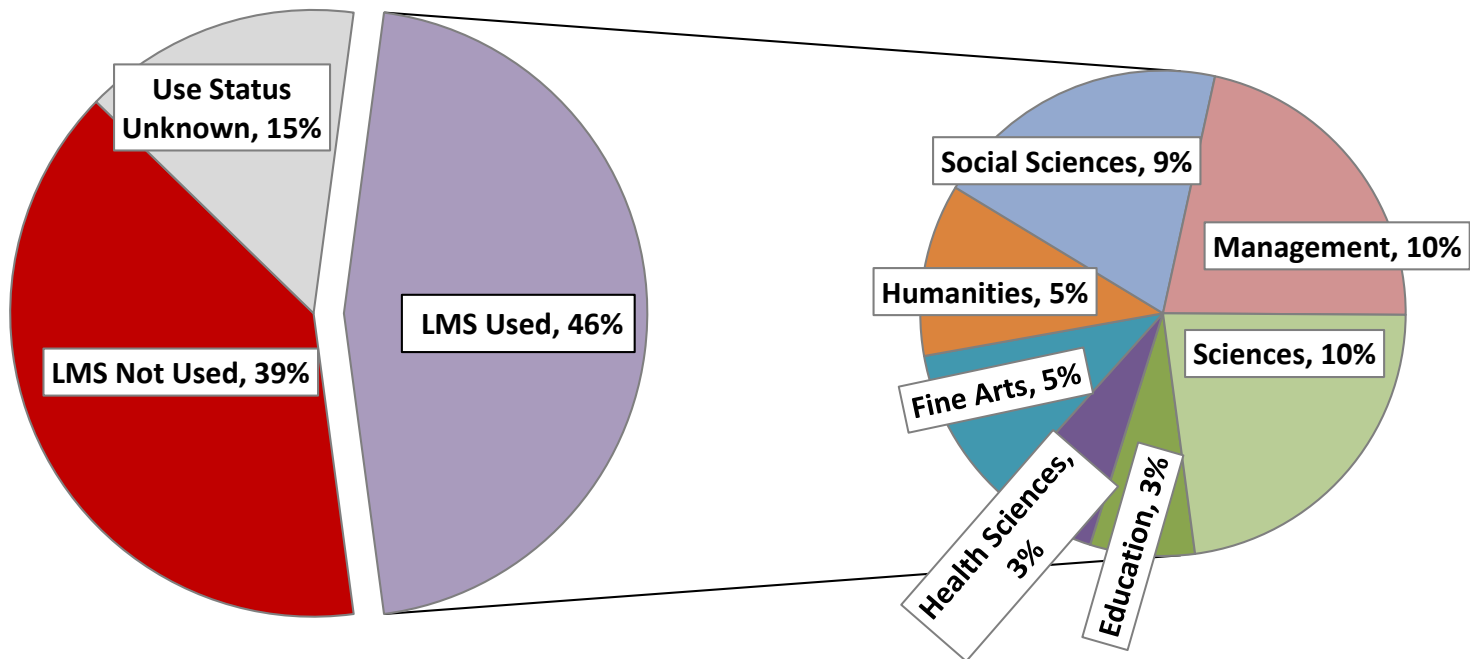
In Progress . . .

- **complete** data analysis
- **communicate** project results to faculty
- **deliver** copyright education workshops
- **develop** institutional copyright policy
- **collaborate** with faculty and other campus units to explore permissions, costs, and user preferences relating to different modes of delivering copyrighted course content