There has been an explosion of interest in recent years regarding the origin and development of intellectual property law. The study of copyright history, in particular, has grown remarkably in the last twenty years, with a flurry of activity in the last ten. Crucial to this activity has been a burgeoning focus on unpublished primary sources, enabling new and stimulating insights. This Handbook takes stock of the field of copyright history as it stands today, as well as examining potential developments in the future.

‘Anyone remotely involved or interested in how the law of copyright has developed in our new IT age will find this book a magnificent journey through special parts of our common law history. . . Academics researching copyright law, authorship, art, and the book and music trades we know will find this title an invaluable resource for their work. It will also be of use to practitioners and the judiciary with an interest in the doctrinal history of copyright law which is so well set out here and another example of the excellent publications produced for lawyers from Elgar for their research handbooks in intellectual property series of legal works.’

– The Barrister Magazine

‘This Research Handbook is a great overview for readers new to the subject of copyright history.’

– Journal of Intellectual Property Law and Practice