

Creative Commons licensing: practices, tools and resources

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BOUNDARIES



Webinar: Libraries, Copyright and the Commons
25 September 2024



Outline

- Creative Commons licences and libraries: practices
- Typical use cases and tools
- Resources

Image: [Kristina Alexanderson](#), [Creative Commons](#), Flickr, [CC BY 2.0](#)

Creative Commons (CC) licences are everywhere

- Widely used in academia, government, and the arts.
- CC-licensed works in libraries, archives and museums help make their collections more accessible to the public.
- Teachers and educators use CC-licensed materials to create and share educational resources.
- CC licences are found in Wikipedia and other Wiki projects, Europeana, YouTube, etc.
- CC licences have a major role in the Open Science ecosystem.

Why are Creative Commons licences important for libraries?

All libraries

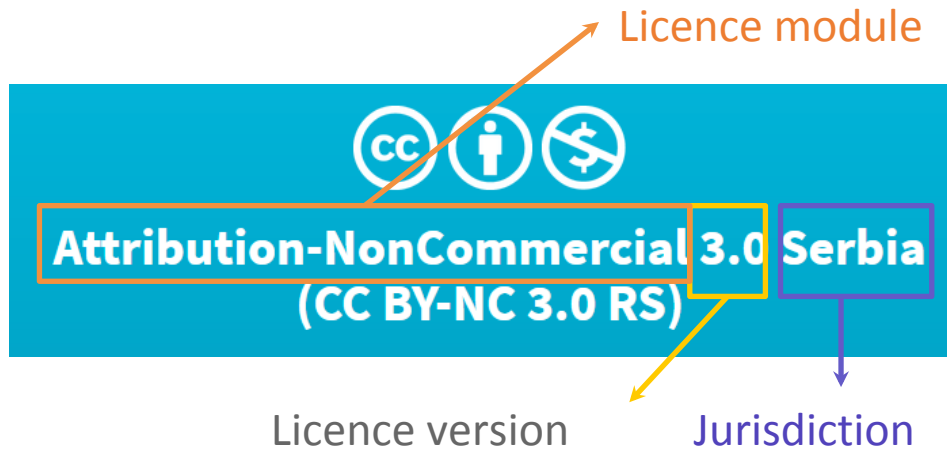
- Libraries increasingly have CC-licensed open access content in their holdings.
- CC licences facilitate the sharing of materials created by libraries (e.g. guides, training materials, etc.)
- Some libraries manage OA publishing units within their institution.

Academic and research libraries

- CC licences are widely used in scholarly publishing and repositories.
- In the context of Open Science, CC licences provide the legal framework to facilitate the sharing of research outputs (publications, data, protocols, etc.).
- CC licences are included in funder / national / institutional / publication policies.

Using Creative Commons licences: challenges

- Poor understanding of copyright and licences among stakeholders e.g. researchers, management, librarians.
- Misconceptions about copyright in the digital environment (e.g. online content can automatically be re-used without permission, CC licences only apply to printed content, etc.)
- Licenses are poorly applied e.g.
 - licence information is omitted or incomplete,
 - licence symbols and names are mismatched,
 - contradicting licences used for the same content.



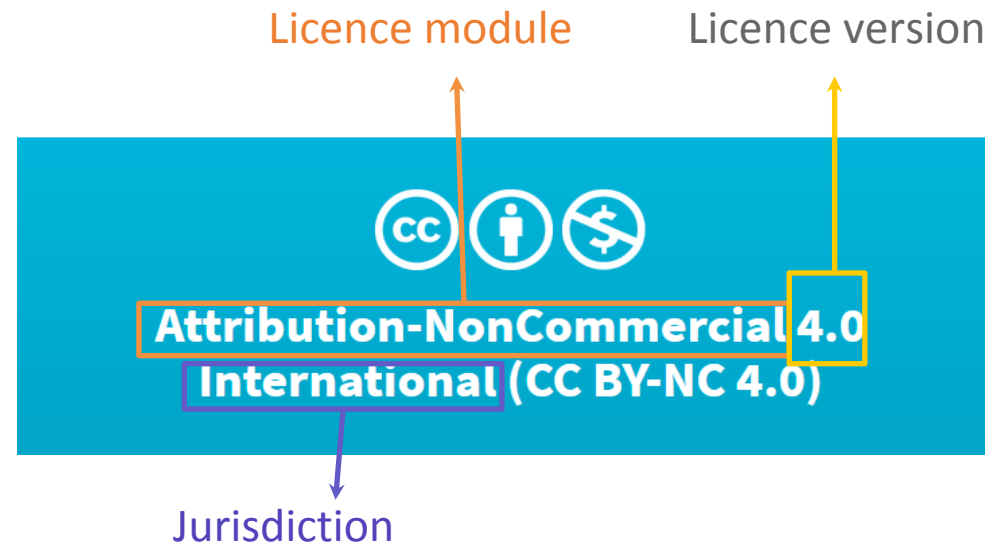
Example: some users believe that licence conditions are changed by changing the licence version.

Different modules = different usage rights

Different versions ≠ different usage rights

Before version 4.0 local adaptations were developed to make sure that licences are aligned with the local legislation.

Different jurisdictions ≠ different usage rights



Typical use cases and tools



Use case 1: A user finds content on the internet labelled with a CC licence, and doesn't know how it can be used.

- Find the information about licences (short descriptions and legal code) on the website of Creative Commons):
<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>
- Read FAQ:
<https://creativecommons.org/faq/>


ABOUT CC LICENSES


Creative Commons licenses give everyone from individual creators to large institutions a standardized way to grant the public permission to use their creative work under copyright law. From the reuser's perspective, the presence of a Creative Commons license on a copyrighted work answers the question, *What can I do with this work?*

The CC License options


There are six different license types, listed from most to least permissive here:

CC BY

This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator.  The license allows for commercial use. CC BY includes the following elements:

 BY: credit must be given to the creator.

CC BY-SA

This license enables reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, so long as attribution is given to the creator. 

The license allows for commercial use. If you remix, adapt, or build upon the material, you

Use case 2: A user wants to find CC-licensed content

Search the CC Search Portal:
<https://search.creativecommons.org/>

The screenshot displays the CC Search Portal interface. At the top left is the CC logo followed by the text "search portal". Below this is the tagline "Find content you can share, use, and remix." To the right of the tagline is a search input field with the placeholder text "Enter your search query" and a black "Search" button. Underneath the search bar, the text "Search using:" is followed by a grid of search engine options. Each option is presented in a rounded rectangular box with the engine name in bold and its category below it. The "Openverse" option is highlighted with a light blue background. The options are: ccMixer (Music), Europeana (Media), Flickr (Media), Google (Web), Google Images (Image), Jamendo (Music), Nappy (Image), Open Clip Art (Image), OpenGameArt (Media), Openverse (Media), Sketchfab (3D Model), SoundCloud (Music), Thingiverse (3D Model), Vimeo (Video), and Wikipedia Commons (Media). A YouTube option (Video) is located at the bottom left of the grid.

Search Engine	Category
ccMixer	Music
Europeana	Media
Flickr	Media
Google	Web
Google Images	Image
Jamendo	Music
Nappy	Image
Open Clip Art	Image
OpenGameArt	Media
Openverse	Media
Sketchfab	3D Model
SoundCloud	Music
Thingiverse	3D Model
Vimeo	Video
Wikipedia Commons	Media
YouTube	Video

- Search individual platforms listed on CC Portal (Europeana, Wikimedia Commons, YouTube etc.)
- [Google Advanced Search](#)
- Some search engines and aggregators support searching and filtering by licence (e.g. BASE)



Terms of Re-use/Licences

- All
- Creative Commons
 - CC-BY
 - CC-BY-ND
 - CC-BY-NC-SA
 - CC-BY-SA
 - CC-BY-NC
 - CC-BY-NC-ND
- Public Domain
 - CC0
 - Public Domain Mark (PDM)
- Software Licences
 - GPL
 - BSD
 - MIT

<https://base-search.net/Search/Advanced>

not filtered by licence

not filtered by licence

free to use or share

free to use or share, even commercially

free to use share or modify

free to use, share or modify, even commercially

Select rights statements ▾

- Public Domain Mark (12,100,091)
- In Copyright (10,397,789)
- CC0 (7,766,587)
- CC BY (7,624,574)
- CC BY-SA (4,469,973)



Any license ▾ SafeSearch on ▾

Any license

- All creative commons
- Commercial use allowed
- Modifications allowed
- Commercial use & mods allowed
- No known copyright restrictions
- U.S. Government works

<https://www.flickr.com/search/?text=>

Pages in category "Creative Commons licenses"

The following 18 pages are in this category, out of 18 total.



- * [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/ar](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/de](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/en](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/en-ca](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/es](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/fr](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/hi](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/hu](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/id](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/it](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/ja](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/mk](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/ms](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/nl](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/pt](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/scn](#)
- [Commons:Creative Commons copyright tags/zh](#)

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Creative Commons licenses>

More licences ✕

Search for licences Q

- CC BY 4.0 (4,388,032)
- CC BY-NC 4.0 (1,046,727)
- CC BY + CC0 (498,324)
- In Copyright (241,225)
- All Rights Reserved (187,017)
- CC BY (137,558)
- CC0 (83,770)
- CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 (78,799)
- Copyright not evaluated (45,239)
- CC BY-NC-SA 4.0 (22,292)
- CQUniversity General 1.0 (19,013)
- All Rights Reserved (14,361)
- ICES Custom Licence (12,886)
- Copyright Undetermined (9,869)
- All rights reserved (9,853)
- CC BY-NC-SA 1.0 (9,486)
- All Rights Reserved (8,309)
- Author Retains Copyright (7,037)
- CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 (6,428)

Search OpenVerse: <https://openverse.org/>

openverse

About Licenses Sources Search help Get involved API Terms Privacy Feedback

Explore more than 800 million creative works

An extensive library of free stock photos, images, and audio, available for free use.

Search for content All content

All Openverse content is under a [Creative Commons license](#) or is in the public domain.



copyright



All

Images

News

Videos

Books

Maps

Flights

More

Tools

Symbol



Logo



Art



Design



Youtube



Trademark



Fair use

Size

Color

Creative Commons licenses

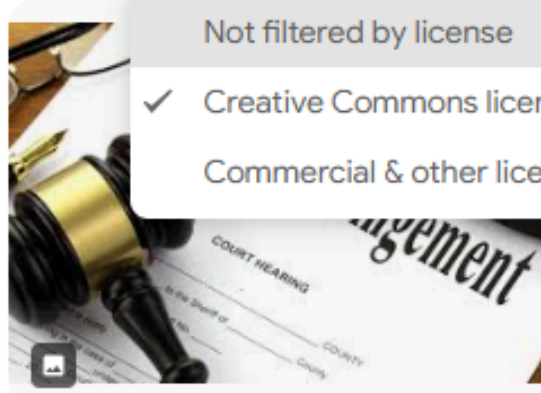
Type

Any time

Advanced Search

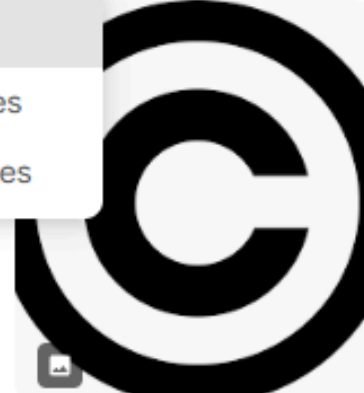


Law Translate —
Copyright Law of the PRC (2021 Vers...

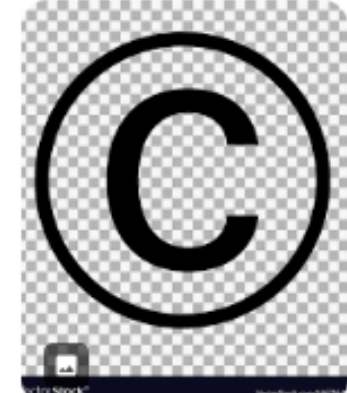


Centre for Intellectual Property and I...
Copyright Infringement and Socia...

- Not filtered by license
- Creative Commons licenses
- Commercial & other licenses



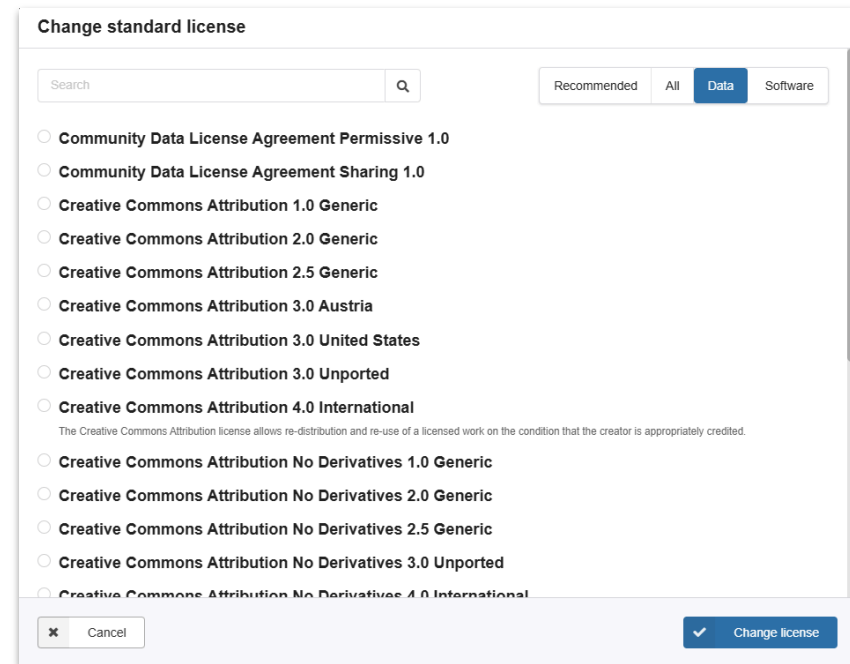
Needpix.com
Copyright,symbol,int...



Wikimedia Commons
File:Copyright-sym...

Use case 3: An author publishes a work (in a journal, book, repository, preprint server) and should choose a licence (by selecting from a drop-down list or by informing the publisher).

- Check the CC website for information about licences (short descriptions and legal code)
<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>
- Note for publications, authors often have to choose the licence required by the national / funder / international / institutional policy.



The screenshot shows a 'Change standard license' dialog box. At the top, there is a search bar with a magnifying glass icon and a 'Q' button. To the right of the search bar are four tabs: 'Recommended', 'All', 'Data', and 'Software'. The 'Data' tab is currently selected. Below the tabs is a list of Creative Commons licenses, each with a radio button to its left. The licenses listed are:

- Community Data License Agreement Permissive 1.0
- Community Data License Agreement Sharing 1.0
- Creative Commons Attribution 1.0 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Austria
- Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States
- Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported
- Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International
- Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 1.0 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 2.0 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 2.5 Generic
- Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 3.0 Unported
- Creative Commons Attribution No Derivatives 4.0 International

Below the list, there is a small text note: 'The Creative Commons Attribution license allows re-distribution and re-use of a licensed work on the condition that the creator is appropriately credited.'

At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: 'Cancel' on the left and 'Change license' on the right.

1 License Expertise

I need help selecting a license.

2 Attribution

Anyone can use my work, even without giving me attribution.

3 Do you want to allow others to use your work commercially?

- Yes. Others can use my work, even for commercial purposes.
- No.** Others can not use my work for commercial purposes.

BACK

NEXT

4 Derivative Works

5 Sharing Requirements

6 Confirm that CC licensing is appropriate

7 Attribution Details

RECOMMENDED LICENSE

   **CC BY-NC 4.0**

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International

This license requires that reusers give credit to the creator. It allows reusers to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, for noncommercial purposes only.

BY: Credit must be given to you, the creator.

NC: Only noncommercial use of your work is permitted.

Noncommercial means not primarily intended for or directed towards commercial advantage or monetary compensation.

[See the License Deed](#) 





Use CC Licence chooser to make a decision


<https://chooser-beta.creativecommons.org/>

Use case 4: An author wants to self-archive an Author Accepted Manuscript (AAM) in a repository

Find the information about the licence required in the publisher's policy or in [Sherpa Romeo](#) and apply this licence when depositing AAM in the repository.

Accepted Version
[pathway c]

 24m  CC BY-NC-ND 
 Institutional Repository, Subject Repository

 Embargo

24 Months

 Licence

CC BY-NC-ND

 Location

Institutional Repository
Subject Repository

 Conditions

Must link to publisher version with DOI

Article (Accepted Version)



EIFL webinar: Creative Commons, repositories and versions of articles:
<https://eifl.net/resources/eifl-webinar-creative-commons-repositories-and-versions-articles>

Use case 5: A publisher wants to use CC licences in a journal or book

- Decide which licence(s) to use and include this information in publicly available policies.
- Make the licence information easily findable on the publishing platform and especially on article landing pages.
- Include the licence information in metadata.
- Include the licence information in PDF files.
- Always include a link to the licence home page.

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🔗 OPEN ACCESS

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The CC BY licence allows you to share and adapt these materials, as long as you properly credit the source. Proper attribution of the OLH must be given in the following manner:

Licence

Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 [🔗](#)

Guide:

https://wiki.creativecommons.org/images/6/61/Creativecommons-licensing-and-marking-your-content_eng.pdf

Use case 6: An institution establishes a repository and wants to make it possible to assign CC licences to deposited content

- Work with the IT team to enable licences in the repository.
- Include CC licences in the repository policy
- Ensure the licence information is properly displayed in human and machine-readable formats.
- Explain in user manuals how to choose licences.
- Provide training and support to IT staff, librarians and researchers.

The metadata are freely accessible to all, and freely reusable by all, under the terms of the [CC0 licence](#). At the same time, each item (content file) is individually tagged with appropriate licence. DAIS currently supports Creative Commons licences (all modules, version 4.0) for Open Access content. All rights reserved is available as an option for restricted content. In case such a need arises, other types of licences (e.g. software licences) may be integrated in the repository.

The licence assigned to a repository item is clearly indicated on the item's landing page using an interactive licence icon that links to the licence page.

Article (Published version)



```
<meta name="DC.rights" content="openAccess" />  
<meta name="DC.rights" content="https://  
creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/"  
scheme="DCTERMS.URI" />
```

Resources



CC Wiki

https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Main_Page

Marking your work with a CC license

You have chosen a CC license for your work. Now how do you go about letting the world know? Here are some examples of how to mark your work with the CC license. Note: If you want to know how to attribute other creators' CC licensed materials, go [here](#).

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- 2 [Example: Website](#)
- 3 [Example: Blog](#)
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- 12 [Adding a CC0 public domain notice to your work](#)
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- 13 [Other issues](#)
 - 13.1 [Adding a CC license to your derivative work](#)
 - 13.2 [Noting third-party content in your work](#)
 - 13.3 [Don't call it a CC license if it isn't](#)



Creative Commons case studies consist of a variety of articles ranging from Inspiration, to business models to entertainment and precedents. It's the perfect place to start your research. There are three ways you could contribute to this base:

1. Case Studies Evaluation

There is no perfect case study, and with your help you could highlight and point out different areas of a case study that needs revision. This will help improve the Creative Commons Case Studies a great deal. For more information on Evaluation kindly visit https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Case_Studies/Evaluation

2. Translating a Case Study

Creative Commons wikis are originally written in English. However, for the information may not be helpful/effective to others who don't understand English. If you feel comfortable with English and another native language, you could assist CC by adding a translation of any wiki in your own language. For details on how to go about this visit <https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/CCWiki:Translate>

3. Expanding the wanted list

Expanding the Wanted List There is a long list of completed case studies but CC is open to new fresh ideas. If you feel there is need for a particular Case Study to be represented, you could as well give us your idea and it could be considered and implemented. To find out more on how to contribute vibrant ideas to CC case studies follow this link: https://wiki.creativecommons.org/wiki/Talk:Case_Studies

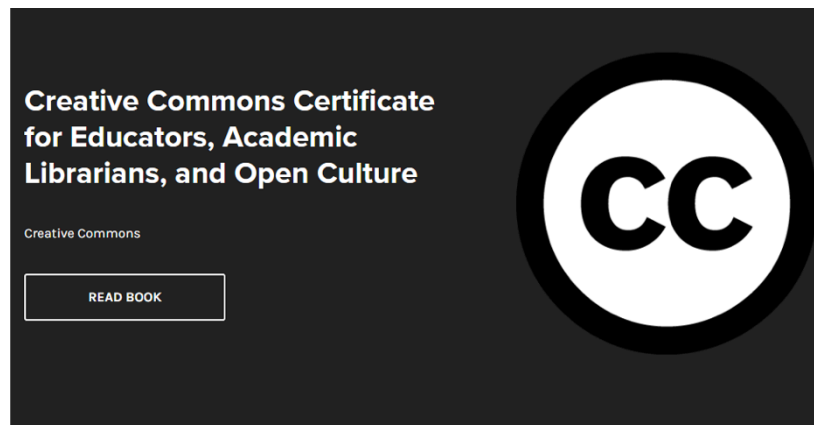
Creative Commons Case Studies Categories

- [Government Usage](#)
- [Open Educational Resources \(OER\)](#)
- [Data](#)
- [Photography](#)
- [GLAM: Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums](#)
- [Journalism](#)
- [Music](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Social Justice](#)

Creative Commons Certificate for Educators, Academic Librarians, and Open Culture

(online book)

[https://
certificates.creativecommons.or
g/cccertedu/](https://certificates.creativecommons.org/cccertedu/)



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- [1. What Is Creative Commons?](#)
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- [1.2 Creative Commons Today](#)
- [1.3 Creative Commons and Open Culture](#)
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- [5.3 Finding, Evaluating, and Adapting Resources](#)
- [5.4 Creating and Sharing OER](#)
- [5.5 Opening up Your Institution](#)
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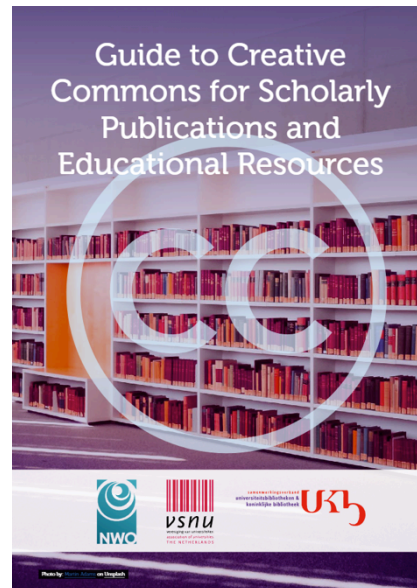
Unit 5: CC for Open Culture

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Guide to Creative Commons for Scholarly Publications and Educational Resources

Pascal Braak, Hans de Jonge, Giulia Trentacosti, Irene Verhagen, & Saskia Woutersen-Windhouwer. (2024). Guide to Creative Commons for Scholarly Publications and Educational Resources. Zenodo.

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13691572>



6.2 Should I apply a Creative Commons license to research data?

In the case of open data, the application of CC licenses to research data is useful to indicate which reuse is permitted. For data that requires restricted access some repositories have a specific license available. Applying a CC license is, however, not as straightforward as in the case of scholarly publications, as factual data is not protected by copyright. Although copyright may in some cases be applicable, there are more issues to consider before depositing research data:

- Rights of (human) participants in a study;
- Confidentiality of data;
- Intellectual property on assets in the dataset (e.g., patents, software code);
- Copyright protection of (parts of) the contents in the dataset;
- Contractual obligations set out in agreements with partner organisations;
- Legislation concerning databases and ownership of rights and/or contents.

OpenAIRE offers [guidance](#) on the protection of research data. Repositories for research software and/or code may offer their own discipline-specific set of licenses. Please note that not all research data repositories offer the possibility to apply a CC license to a dataset.

6.3 Will Creative Commons licences encourage plagiarism?

Plagiarism may affect all forms of publishing rather than specifically CC-licensed works. All CC licenses require that the original author is attributed, meaning that any plagiaristic use is unacceptable; failure to attribute constitutes copyright infringement. It is important to stress that plagiarism is primarily an issue of academic ethics rather than the law. It has some crossover with copyright, but content can be plagiarised regardless of how it is licensed, even after it is out of copyright. Plagiarism is considered an instance of serious academic misconduct by [The Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Integrity](#) and is sanctioned accordingly.

6.4 What can I do if somebody is using my work without complying with the conditions of the applied Creative Commons licence?

For example, if a reuser of CC-licensed material does not provide the attribution required when sharing the work, then the user no longer has the right to continue using the material and may be liable for copyright infringement. The licence is terminated for the user who violated the licence. However, all other users still need to comply with the terms of use of the CC-licensed material in question. In case of violation of a CC licence, the licensor can contact the reuser directly to ask to rectify the situation or begin legal proceedings for copyright infringement.

6.5 Are there special circumstances in some disciplines leading to specific licence demands?

Although CC licences have been used extensively in scientific open access publishing, they have been developed to cover a much broader area including data, databases, arts, music, photography and the written word, regardless of discipline. CC licences can therefore be of use in all disciplines.

It is true though that there is more sensitivity towards more liberal forms of reuse in the humanities. The possibility to translate scholarly works without the copyright holder's permission, which is possible under some CC licences, tends not to be viewed favorably by humanities scholars. The ability to control the quality of the translation is deemed important because of the linguistic nature of much humanities research. The CC BY-ND licence can accommodate these concerns, while still allowing the work to be distributed and reused widely.

Regardless of any licence, authors can always have to deal with the issue of wilful misrepresentation. These can also happen with citations. That cannot be prevented by choosing a specific licence.

More resources

- Creative Commons for researchers:
<https://www.kb.se/samverkan-och-utveckling/oppn-tillgang-och-bibsamkonsortiet/open-access-and-bibsam-consortium/open-access/creative-commons-faq-for-researchers.html>
- Creative Commons for Researchers: a Practical Guide:
<https://subjectguides.york.ac.uk/creative-commons>
- Check also available LibGuides
- Check national CC chapters for non-English resources:
<https://network.creativecommons.org/chapter/>

Questions?

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