

## What is Public Domain?

When material—images, music/audio, or movies—is old enough or when the creators don't renew the copyright, it falls into the Public Domain. Public Domain material doesn't have any intellectual property rights attached to it—anyone and everyone is free to reproduce and/or alter that material. For example, a symphony doesn't have to pay royalties (read: money) to the descendants of Beethoven to play "Für Elise" at a concert, but if you wanted to record that performance and use it in an internet video, you'd have to get permission and possibly pay for that right. The performance of the work becomes a separate copyrightable material.

When in doubt, check the **permissions**.

The University of California has a very useful FAQ on many of the issues that arise when dealing with material in the public domain. You can view it here: <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/copyright/publicdomain.html>.

## What is Creative Commons?

With the advent of digital media and collaboration, a different licensing system called **Creative Commons** has been developed by an international non-profit organization. Creative Commons allows people to share their work and use the work of others to foster and support a community of artistic cooperation.

Many websites, like Flickr, offer users the ability to search by Creative Commons license. It's a straightforward system, and you can find out more about it at <http://www.creativecommons.org>.

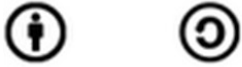
The different Creative Commons licenses are described below. When you see them online, you'll either see a combination of these images or a text description of them, usually linking to the license as worded by CreativeCommons.org.



◀ The person means you have to say where the work came from—you'll always see this symbol.



◀ The dollar sign with the line through it means you can't use the work to make money.



◀ The circular arrow means that whatever you make using the work has to be licensed Creative Commons.

## So Where Can I Find This Stuff?

There are several places on the web where you can find Creative Commons or Public Domain materials. Remember though, you should **always double check the license** to make sure that what you're using is okay.

**Images:** Your best bet for images is [Flickr.com](http://Flickr.com). People from all over the world post photos and art here, and much of it is licensed under Creative Commons. I'll show you how to search for a specific license. You can also find videos here, but they're harder to download in an easily usable format.

**Audio/Video:** The [Internet Archive \(archive.org\)](http://Internet Archive (archive.org)) has all kinds of stuff that is in the Public Domain, including old (and we're talking OLD) television shows, movies, and instructional films.

**Music:** A great site for Royalty Free music that is actually free is [Incompetech.com](http://Incompetech.com). Kevin MacLeod (the guy who owns and operates Incompetech) has made a lot of music that he allows anyone to use in anything, so long as they give him credit. You can also search [Jamendo.com](http://Jamendo.com) to find music from artists that are just starting out, but here you'll have to be careful about how things are licensed to make sure you follow the rules.

NO RIGHTS RESERVED



When searching in the Internet Archive for audio, images, or video, make sure whatever you want to use has one of these images in the left-hand information bar.



If the item has the second image, click on it to see what Creative Commons license described above has been chosen for the material.