

The Anatomy of a Creative Commons License

Alpha test: CC Certificate for GLAM
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The three layers of the CC licenses

Contains the terms and conditions of the licenses that are legally enforceable in court. It is **lawyer-readable**.

Contains the key freedoms and obligations of the licenses in a machine-readable way, so that applications and search engines can find them. It follows the [CC Rights Expression Language](#).

Contains the web pages that lay out the **key license terms** and summarizes the legal code. It is human-readable.



The four license elements

BY

Attribution or “BY.” Every CC license contains this condition.



SA

ShareAlike or “SA.” Only two CC licenses include this restriction, which does not allow works to be shared in a different license.



NC

NonCommercial or “NC.” Only three CC licenses include this restriction, which does not allow works to be used for commercial purposes.



ND

NoDerivatives or “ND.” Only two CC licenses include this restriction, which does not allow reusers to share adaptations of the work.



The six Creative Commons licenses + two Public Domain tools



Attribution
license or
"CC BY"

Attribution-
NonCommercial
-ShareAlike
license or
"BY-NC-SA"



Attribution-
ShareAlike
license or
"BY-SA"

Attribution-
NoDerivatives
license or
"BY-ND"



Attribution-
NonCommercial
license or
"BY-NC"

Attribution-
NonCommercial-
NoDerivatives
license or
"BY-NC-ND"



CC0 legal code
Equivalent to
Public Domain

Public Domain Mark
Free of copyright
restrictions



CC licenses *versus* CC public domain tools

CC LICENSES

The six Creative Commons licenses are part of the copyright. They are legal tools that build on copyright law. At the same time, they offer a set of options, conditions, and restrictions to guide and order the usage of copyright works, so they can be used openly and freely. They help creators to manage their copyright on terms they choose.

CC PUBLIC DOMAIN TOOLS

The CC public domain tools, on the other hand, allow creators who want to commit their works to the public domain to do it in an appropriate manner, respecting the copyright rules. In that sense, they also help to label and discover works that are already free of those copyright restrictions.

There's the **CC0** legal code, which is equivalent to Public Domain, and the proper **Public Domain Mark**, which marks works that are free of known copyright restrictions.

Exceptions and limitations to copyright

The Creative Commons-licensed works are affected by some limitations and exceptions to copyright, such as **fair use** or **fair dealing**, once the CC licenses are legal tools that build on copyright law.

At the same time, the CC licenses do not restrict, in any way or form, those same limitations and exceptions, as well as some provisions for people with disabilities, for example.

If a person makes usage of a CC-licensed work that is only allowed because of an exception or limitation, they do not need to rely on the CC licenses or follow their conditions, restrictions, and requirements.

Assignment 3 - Alpha test: [CC Certificate for GLAM](#)

By Giovanna Fontenelle, Program Officer, GLAM and Culture, at the Wikimedia Foundation.

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