

Creative Commons

Creative Commons is a **set of legal tools, a nonprofit organization**, and at the same time a **global movement** — all inspired by people's willingness to share their creativity and knowledge, and enabled by a set of **open copyright licenses**.

Story of Creative Commons

Why it started

1

The story of Creative Commons begins with **copyright**.

It was founded firstly to address the tension between the restrictions of copyright law and unprecedented growing of internet. CC's founders recognized this divergence and provided an **alternative approach** for creators who want to share their work.



Cinthia Cypriano, Creative Commons - Slide2 - CC BY-SA 4.0, Wikimedia Commons

How it started

2

It started because of the **Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act** that extended copyright terms in the United States in 1998 for an additional 20 years (the life of the creator plus 70 years).

Lawrence Lessig, co-founder of Creative Commons, believed this new law was unconstitutional.

What did they do

3

Lessig and Eric Eldred (web publisher and lead petitioner,) decided to challenge the constitutionality of the Act.

The case, known as **Eldred v. Ashcroft**, went to the U.S. Supreme Court. Eldred lost: the Supreme Court of the United States upholding the constitutionality of the 1998 Sonny Bono

Absurd that the term of copyright had been continually extended over the years. Something had to be done.



Result

4

The birth of nonprofit organization called **Creative Commons** and the publishing of a set of free, public licenses

With its licenses CC for the first time has allowed **creators to keep their copyrights while sharing their works on more flexible terms** than the default "all rights reserved."



Joi, Lawrence Lessig (9) - CC BY 2.0, Wikimedia Commons



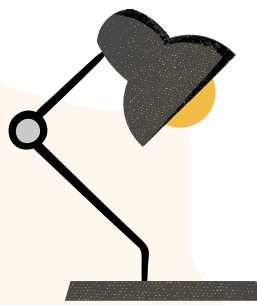
Creative Commons Today

Today CC licenses are prevalent across the web and **are used by creators around the world**. Creative Commons is the nonprofit organization that stewards the CC licenses and helps support the **open movement**.

CC-licensed

Today Creative Commons licenses are used on **nearly 2 billion works online across 5 million websites**

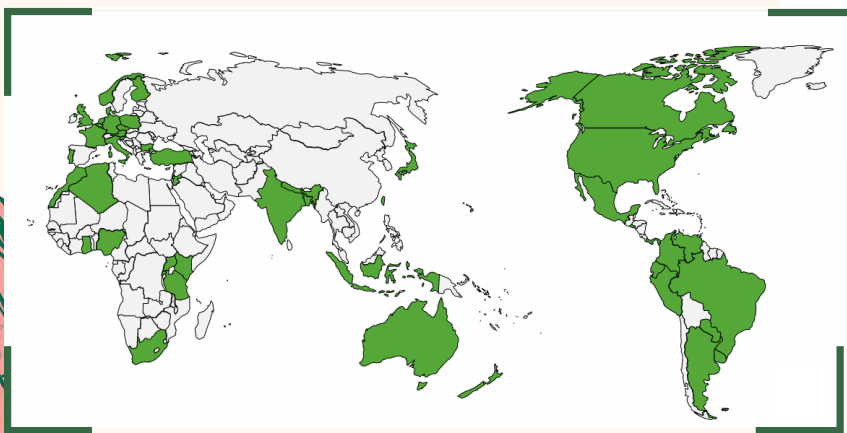
CC Licenses are used on different platforms, such as YouTube, Jamendo, Flickr and they are used by nonprofit open projects like Wikipedia and OpenStax. They are used also by some formal institutions and individual creators



The Movement

Since 2001, we can call it **movement**, i.e. a global coalition of people (activists working on copyright reform around the world, policymakers, institutions, lawyers, scholars, creators, and more) has formed **around** Creative Commons and open licensing.

The CC Global Network has today over **600 members, and over 40 Chapters around the world**. It is possible to get involved and contribute in different ways: CC's Network Platforms are open and include the **Open Education Platform, a Copyright Platform, and an Open GLAM Platform**.



Click on the map to easily obtain the CC website that provides the information on the current Chapters.

The CC Global Network is just one player in multiple larger open movements. More and more cultural heritage institutions are releasing public domain works, and openly licensing their online collections, becoming part of the **"Open GLAM"** movement (a global network on sharing cultural heritage)

Relations

Please note

Open source software is cited as the first domain where networked open sharing produced a tangible benefit as a movement that went much further than technology.

