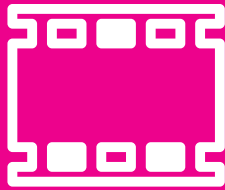
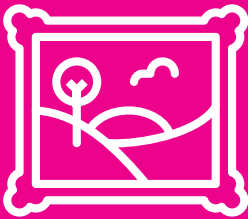


Safeguarding the Public Domain

Creative works are well-protected by law, and enter the public domain when their copyright expires, allowing us to share freely in our collective cultural heritage. Legal uncertainty and even cases of fraud surrounding the public domain create barriers to access to cultural heritage.



Copyright is a temporary right that balances the economic incentives of creators with access to knowledge and cultural heritage. Currently this balance is “life of the author plus 70 years”. After this period works become public domain and can freely be used.

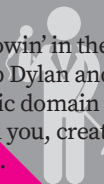


WIKIMEDIA

Who benefits from the Public Domain?

Authors

Whether you prefer listening to “Blowin’ in the wind” or watching “Romeo + Juliet”, both Bob Dylan and Baz Luhrmann borrowed from the public domain to create new works. As most authors will tell you, creativity always involves building on the past.



Users

Remixing content is how more and more people express themselves nowadays. Internet memes have become a form of expression and communication in themselves and almost always require well-known creations as base material to even work. To enjoy freedom of expression, we must also enjoy the freedom to re-use our cultural heritage.



Future Generations

The Herzogin Anna Amalia Library and the Central Library of Mosul are just two very sad examples of cultural heritage being lost forever. The public domain is one important building block to help organisations preserve culture for generations to come.



Entrepreneurs

A surprising amount of transformative re-use of public domain works is made by commercial users. 33% of all Kickstarter projects relied on public domain works in 2015, generating economic value that would have been impossible without the re-use of cultural heritage works.



Museums & Archives

Cultural heritage institutions are often prevented from digitising and exhibiting their collections, because they have to worry about financial risk due to unclear public domain status. This stifles their public mission to keep our heritage alive.



Educators

A substantial part of today’s educational materials are public domain. We can freely re-arrange and digitise rich heritage of libraries to ensure this sum of knowledge is passed on to the next generations.



Let’s protect our right to cultural heritage by safeguarding the public domain!

Licence Information

Film by Nanda Ririz from the Noun Project , painting by Ben Davis from the Noun Project, singer by Gan Khoon Lay from the Noun Project, connected by Gregor Cresnar from the Noun Project, Robot by Gan Khoon Lay from the Noun Project, Economy speech by Aldric Rodríguez from the Noun Project, Institution by Lorena Salagre from the Noun Project, manager by Creative Stall from the Noun Project