

# COPYRIGHT 101



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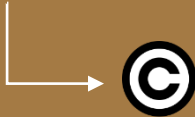


# WHAT IS COPYRIGHT

Copyright is a type of intellectual property that gives its owner the exclusive right to copy and distribute a creative work, usually for a limited time.

The creative work may be in a literary, artistic, educational, or musical form.

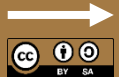
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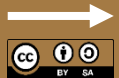


# WHY COPYRIGHT EXISTS: UTILITARIAN REASONS

Historically, copyright laws are based on two main rationales.

In common law tradition countries the utilitarian approach sees copyright as an incentive to creators: as far as your work is protected, you will be encouraged to create and share with people.

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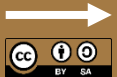


# AND MORAL ONES

In civil law tradition countries, author's rights are put in the first place. Copyright is designed to protect the connection between authors and their works.

Despite international treaties being in use, copyright laws vary depending on the country where works are released to the public.

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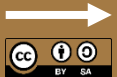


# ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Utilitarian and author's right approaches prioritize different kinds of right.

The first focus on the economic rights which copyright grants to creators or rights owner. Due to them, rights owner can earn money from the use of their works by others.

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# MORAL RIGHTS

Moral rights, instead, allow creators to take action to protect their works and to avoid controversial or offensive uses of them.

Economic and moral rights coexist, but while economic rights must end, moral rights could last forever.

## NOT FOR EVERYBODY

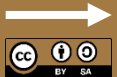
Not everything is copyrightable. The creation must be original, not a copy of something that already exists.

# TO REGISTER OR NOT TO?

Facts and ideas can't be protected by copyright, which only applies on the expressions of ideas (paintings, movies, songs, blog posts...).

As of today, you don't need to register your work to a copyright office. The protection is automatic, but in some countries, as the United States, you may be asked to fixate your creation on a tangible medium.

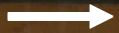
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# BEYOND COPYRIGHT



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# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Intellectual property is the notion that empower creators and inventors to restrict others from using their works.

Copyright mainly applies on artistic works such as books, films, translations, screenplays and so on.

Other kinds of intellectual property are trademark law and patent law.

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# TRADEMARK & PATENT

The first device protects the public from being confused about the source of goods and services they buy, helping firms to preserve their reputation.

The latter gives inventors a time-limited monopoly on their inventions, including exclusive rights on how these will be used and developed.

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# PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR GOOD



Treppenhus, by August Jernberg; Public domain,  
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# WHAT IS PUBLIC DOMAIN

Public domain is the place where works, set free from copyright, build together the sum of shared resources.

Even though copyright is applied automatically to every original work, it doesn't last forever.

No longer covered by copyright, paintings, novels, songs and pictures enter the public domain: everybody can use them and create upon them.

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# WHEN DOES IT START

Accordingly to the laws of the country where the work has been produced, copyright expires between 50 and 100 years after the death of the author. There starts the public domain.

As copyright, laws on public domain vary depending on territoriality. Something in the public domain in the USA could not be so in Europe – yet.

In countries where moral rights don't expire with copyright, author must always be credited.

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# HOW TO ENTER THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

Expiration of copyright aside, there are other ways a work could enter the public domain:

- it has never been copyrightable (like facts or ideas, but also text of laws);
- the author dedicates its work to the public domain by his own choice;
- the copyright holder failed to comply with formalities to acquire or maintain it.

# WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Somehow, public domain has always existed, even before copyright were invented.

Art works of the past has always inspired other artists and writers to create: citing, imitating, emulating, criticizing them.

That is the reason why it is important that works enter the public domain: to expand the commons everybody could benefit from.

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# BECAUSE WE NEED IT

Despite it could be easy to forget it exists at all, we need public domain because we need to share, in order to create new knowledge and culture.

For the same reason, when a work is still protected by copyright, it could be still used in certain cases, for public interest, respecting the law and without permission of the copyright owner.

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# EXCEPTIONS & LIMITATIONS TO COPYRIGHT

Generally speaking, over the world these exceptions include purposes of criticism and commentary, parody, education, access to knowledge, and support for the visually impaired.

As public domain, also exceptions and limitation to copyright depends on territoriality. Anyway, they help creating new works, harmonizing with copyright.

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CREATOR  
BASED IN  
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