

The STORY of Creative Commons from Copyright to Open GLAM

1998

Also known as
the Mickey
Mouse
Protection Act.



THE TENSION

Creative Commons was created as a solution to a problem: the tension between copyright and some creators' desire to share their works with everyone. Until CC, there was no other way. The creators had to follow copyright, even if they did not want to, and this conflict only grew after the internet.



THE LOCK

In 1998, the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act (CTEA) was enacted to extend copyright in the US for another 20 years, which would change the status of a work as public domain for the period of life of its creator + 70 years.



THE CASE

Lawrence Lessig, who would later be the creator of Creative Commons, believed this extension was inadmissible. At the time, he worked for a web publisher, Eric Eldred, who shared works online as they passed into the public domain. Both worked against the CTEA, but lost the case, which was known in the U.S. Supreme Court as "Eldred vs. Ashcroft".



THE COMMONS

In response to the lost case, in 2001, Lessig created the nonprofit Creative Commons as an alternative to copyright. From now on, people had the chance to keep their copyrights while also having different sharing options for the works they were creating.



THE LICENSES

In 2002, came the Creative Commons licenses, which were free, public, and made sharing content much more accessible, easier, and flexible, but still allowed within the copyright law. Since then, there were many versions of the licenses. The current generation is the 4.0 CC license suite.



THE USAGE

Nowadays, the Creative Commons licenses are used by nearly 2 billion works across 9 million websites, like Wikipedia and YouTube. They are also already adopted by governments and many institutions and are seen "as the global standard for open copyright licenses".

"1.1 The Story of Creative Commons"
(certificates.creativecommons.org/cccertedu/chapter/1-1-the-story-of-creative-commons) by Creative Commons. CC BY 4.0.



THE MOVEMENT

More than legal tools and a non-profit, Creative Commons is a movement, formed by activists, policymakers, creators, and institutions. One of the ways to get involved is through the chapters, the CC Global Network, which has more than 600 members, or the thematic platforms: Open Education, Copyright, and Open GLAM.



THE KNOWLEDGE

Open GLAM is an area of the CC movement. Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums have the mission of making knowledge more accessible to all, which is also the same objective of CC. When these institutions allow access to public domain works and open license their online collections, they are making the world more culturally linked and the heritage and knowledge they keep more **interconnected**.

Assignment 1 - Alpha test: [CC Certificate for GLAM](#)

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