



Factsheet No. 2

Open Licences



What are Open Licences?

Open licences are used to facilitate access to and use of copyright works.

An open licence is a licence that can be placed on a work, whether it is a journal article, book, book chapter, website, dataset, or other research or creative output. It allows others to make use of your work under the conditions outlined in the licence. An open licence may allow your works to be shared, reused, and adapted. The licence gives permission for others to make certain uses of your work whilst preserving your (the creator's) intellectual property rights. Uses may include the right to reproduce, copy, adapt and communicate the work. Authors can choose the licence that reflects what use they allow others to make of their work. The licence states what uses are permitted and what conditions others must follow to legally make use of the content.

Although there are other open/public licences available, Creative Commons (CC) are the licences that are accepted internationally.



About Creative Commons

Creative Commons International is a not-for-profit organisation. CC's mission is to provide free licences and tools that copyright owners can use to allow others to share, reuse and remix their material, legally. CC aims to '...build a vibrant, usable commons, powered by collaboration and gratitude.' - [Ryan Merkley, CEO Creative Commons](#).

There are affiliate networks around the world, including Creative Commons Australia (CCAU) and Creative Commons Aotearoa New Zealand (CCANZ) which support and advocate for CC licences in this region.

The Creative Commons Licences

The CC licences were developed by CC International and are used all around the world. All CC licences are human and machine readable in addition to being legally enforceable. There are six standard CC licences which allow content to be used in various ways.

Each of the CC licences grants the user 'baseline' permissions. These baseline permissions include the ability to copy, distribute, display and perform the material, provided they comply with core conditions, as well as other general terms in the licence.

			
Attribution BY	NonCommercial NC	No Derivative Works ND	Share Alike SA

The core condition that applies to all six of the CC licences is the requirement that the author of the work is attributed – the Attribution condition.

The other core conditions are: NonCommercial (NC) No Derivatives (ND) and Share Alike (SA)



CC has also developed one further option which involves a dedication of the work to the public domain, CC0. CC0 is more commonly referred to as a 'waiver' as opposed to a licence as it seeks to waive a copyright holder's right to the content (to the extent that it can be waived).

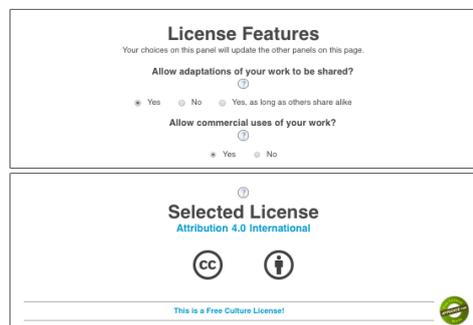
If a creator has chosen to use a CC0 licence, any person who use the content is not required to acknowledge or credit the copyright holder. CC0 does encourage others to cite the copyright holder, however unlike the CC licences there is no legal requirement to do this. More information on the CC0 see CC 'public domain Zero 1.0':

<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/>

How to Choose a Licence

CC Intentional has developed an easy interactive licence chooser: <https://creativecommons.org/choose/>

This interactive licence chooser allows users to input what types of uses they want to allow other people to make with their work. This includes use for reproduction, commercial benefit or modifications.



Based on the selection, the licence chooser will provide guidance on the most appropriate licence to use. There are also helpful tools such as code and images that you can put on your website and content to incorporate a CC licence.

Public Domain mark can also be applied to works where they are known to be in the public domain. Caution is recommended when dealing with the public domain mark as the duration of copyright varies between jurisdictions, as such content may be outside of copyright protection in some jurisdictions and not in others.

Creative Commons Australia also has a resource available online and as a poster, called "Know Your Rights, aimed at both authors and readers. http://creativecommons.org.au/content/LicencePoster_Sep20151.pdf

Further Readings / References:

The Open Definition: <http://opendefinition.org/>

CC International: <https://creativecommons.org/>

CC Australia: <http://creativecommons.org.au/>

CC Aotearoa New Zealand: <http://creativecommons.org.nz/>

Open Source Licences: <https://opensource.org/licences>

Licence conditions	Author can:	User can:	User can:	User can:	User can:	User can:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> generally retain copyright grant a non-exclusive licence enter into other publishing agreements archive in an institutional repository, subject archive or personal website 	quote and cite in research	Share copies of articles with attribution	create modified versions including abridgments, annotated versions, excerpts and figures	Redistribute commercially	Release modified versions under terms of their choosing including CC licence
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

