How to find Creative Commons materials using Mozilla Firefox for Teachers and Students

This information guide was jointly developed by the ARC Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation through Creative Commons Australia and the Copyright Advisory Group of the Ministerial Council of Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs.

You can find this and other Creative Commons fact sheets at http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go/pid/956. For further information contact Creative Commons Australia at info@creativecommons.org.au.

Mozilla’s Firefox web browser is a popular open-source program which includes a Creative Commons search option in its in-built search tools. Using Mozilla Firefox, you are able to search for CC material by keyword and refine your results to material available under certain CC licences.

This guide was created to help teachers, students and curriculum units find CC licensed material using Firefox’s search tool. It forms one part of an information pack on CC for the education sector. It is advised that you first read information guide ‘What is Creative Commons?’ at http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go/pid/956 for a simple and helpful introduction to CC.

Mozilla Firefox is not the only way to search for CC licensed materials. Creative Commons hosts its own search engine at http://search.creativecommons.org. You can also use the Google or Yahoo! search tool.

For information on how to use these different search engines, see the following information guides at http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go/pid/956:

‘How to find Creative Commons Material using the Creative Commons Search Portal’
‘How to find Creative Commons Material using Google’
‘How to find Creative Commons Material using Yahoo!’

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Finding CC materials using the Creative Commons Search in Firefox

Below is a step-by-step guide to using the search tool in Mozilla Firefox to find content released under Creative Commons licences.

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It is important to consider how you want to use any CC material before you begin your search. This is because different CC licences let you do different things. Knowing what you want to do with the material will help you choose the licence that is suitable for your use.

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**Step 1. Start a CC Search**

Firefox has a built in search tool on the right hand side of the address bar at the top of your browser page. If you have not changed it, it should be set to Google. To find CC material, you need to change the search provider to ‘Creative Commons’. To do this, click on the arrow next to the Google ‘G’ icon and select ‘Creative Commons’ from the drop down menu.

Once you have selected ‘Creative Commons’ as your default search provider, the icon will change to the Creative Commons ‘CC in a circle’ icon.

**Step 2. Search for keywords**

Enter your keyword in the Search Box and press enter, or the magnifying glass search symbol at the right of the box.

**Step 3. Returned results in CC Search Portal**

You will be taken automatically to the CC Search Portal (http://search.creativecommons.org) where your results will be displayed. From here you can filter the results based on the type of use you want to make using the check boxes provided (ie ‘works I can use for commercial purposes’ and ‘works I can modify, adapt, or build upon’). You can also use the tabs along the top of the page to move between different search services. You can choose Google or Yahoo! for general searches, or you can search the specific sites listed for specific types of content. For example, to find photos, use the Flickr search. To find video, try blip.tv.

For more information on using the CC Search Portal see information guide ‘How to find Creative Commons Material using the Creative Commons Search Portal’ at http://www.smartcopying.edu.au/scw/go/pid/956.