

text

books, blogs + essays

content creators

Do you want people to redistribute your stories, articles and web writing, as long as they give you credit?

Do you mind if people copy your work, so long as they don't make money off of it?

Do you like the idea of other people making new works based on yours - provided they offer those new works back to the public on the same terms?

Do you want to help create and have access to a pool of royalty-free writing?

Creative Commons offers a free and flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors and artists. It helps you publish your text online while letting others know exactly what they can and cannot do with your work. Creative Commons can also help you find writing to share and transform.

looking for content? find a range of licensed writings at <http://creativecommons.org/getcontent>

Want to maximise distribution of your written work while keeping control of other uses? Want to encourage other writers to build new works from yours, provided they don't resell them? Want to invite a wide range of re-uses, provided you get credit as the original author?

Mix and match from an intuitive menu that helps you express the terms you want your work shared under. Creative Commons has licences to suit all sorts of situations.

select a licence that is suited to your needs at <http://creativecommons.org/license>

writers + copyright

Copyright protects a range of creative material including artistic works (such as paintings, drawings, maps and photographs), written material (such as journal articles, novels and reports), musical works and films.

In Australia registration of copyright is not required. So novels, poems, prose and newspaper articles are automatically protected by copyright the moment they are written. However, it is a good idea to include a copyright notice on material as it notifies people that the work is protected and identifies the copyright owner.
for example © John Citizen 2005

basic types of licences



attribution

others must give you credit as the original creator



non-commercial

others may not use your work for commercial purposes



no derivative works

others may not alter, transform, or build upon your work



share alike

others may alter, transform, or build upon your work, but they are encouraged to distribute the resulting work only under another Share Alike licence

text

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www.creativecommons.org/text

education

text

video

images

audio

info.pack v1.1

embedding Creative Commons licences

Creative Commons is able to be embedded into a broad range of electronic file formats. The popular perl-based weblog package, Movable Type, features built-in Creative Commons licence options. Manila, a sever-side weblog management system, provides licensing options for the user from administration pages.

Creative Commons has recently offered an XMP (Extensible Metadata Platform) template which can be used to embed the licences into PDF files.

Other developments include HTML tagging for websites and embedding capabilities for files such as MP3s, RRS files and SMIL. Also, Creative Commons has developed plug-ins for some web browsers.

for more information on metadata embedding see <http://creativecommons.org/technology>

more information for writers

Looking for more information on copyright? The Australian Copyright Council has produced a series of fact sheets which are free to access online.

For copyright information that is specific to writers, see Information Sheet G13 – *Writers and Copyright*. See also Information Sheet G81 – *Journalists and Copyright* and Information Sheet G57 – *Websites: creating and publishing on the internet*.

for more information on the Australian Copyright Council see www.copyright.org.au

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text case studies

Free Culture by Lawrence Lessig

Professor Lawrence Lessig released his book *Free Culture: How big media uses technology and the law to lock down culture and control creativity* under a Creative Commons licence. Since its release the book has been redistributed, copied and otherwise reused/remixed.

for more information on Free Culture, see www.free-culture.org

Peter Wayner

When Peter Wayner released his book *Free for All: How Linux and The Free Software Movement Undercut the High Tech Titans*, under a Creative Commons licence, the price for used books at Amazon.com went up by 40%. *The New Yorker* called *Free for All* “an entertaining, unabashedly partisan chronicle of the movement.”

for more information on Peter Wayner, see www.wayner.org

Ferenc Gyurcsany, acting Prime Minister of Hungary

The acting Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr Ferenc Gyurcsany, and his publisher Napvilag released the Prime Minister's book 'Utkozben' (In transit) under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives license. The book summarises the political credo of Mr. Gyurcsany and his new hungarian social democratic program.

for more information on Utkozben, see www.napvilag.hu

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