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The Official Guide to Copyright Issues for Australian Schools and TAFE

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Creative Commons

Welcome to another instalment of the National Copyright Unit (NCU) newsletter. Schools and teachers are now well into the swing of things in Term 3 and the end of the school year is just around the corner.

We know that many schools and teachers regularly use Creative Commons (CC) licensed materials in their learning resources. CC materials are a great option for schools as they promote collaboration and equity and reduce copyright costs.

This newsletter is designed to provide a refresher on where to find CC materials, and how to attribute these materials.

What is CC?

CC is the most common way of releasing materials under an open licence. It is a set of free licences for creators to use when making their work available to the public.

All CC licences permit educational uses of a work. Teachers and students can freely copy, share and sometimes modify and remix a CC work without having to seek the permission of the creator.

Where can I find CC licensed materials?

There are over 2 billion CC licensed works across millions of websites and databases. We've listed some sources below, sorted by type of material.

- Openverse is an open-source search engine for open content. It searches CC licensed and public domain content from dozens of different sources. Openverse was previously the CC Search function on the Creative Commons website.
- Openphoto is a moderated photo community with over 3000 CC licensed photos in different categories.
- Europeana contains digital resources of Europe's museums, libraries, archives and audio-visual collections including paintings, drawings, maps, photos and pictures of museum objects.
- Bugwood Image Database System has collections of openly licensed images relating to ecosystem health including forestry, invasive species, insects and weeds.
- Cleveland Museum of Art has images of artworks from their collection available under a Creative Commons Zero (CC0), equivalent to materials in the public domain (out of copyright).
- OpenMoji is a library of openly licensed emoji icons licensed under a Creative Commons BY Share Alike Licence (CC BY SA).
- Flickr has over 300 million CC licensed high quality images.

Databases

- The Queensland Curriculum & Assessment Authority (QCAA) has created an Open Education Resources (OER) database, with 300 records so far of different openly licensed resources (eg journals, textbooks, multimedia).

Sound clips or recordings

- filmmusic.io lets you search for CC licensed music and filter by genre.
- Jamendo is an active community offering more than 350,000 free music tracks that are CC licensed.
- Freesound is a good source of sound effects and background noises, all available for reuse.
- Art Song Central is an archive and directory of public domain sheet music for singers and voice teachers.
- The Mutopia Project provides sheet music in the public domain or licensed under CC.
- International Music Score Library Project (IMSLP) provides public domain music scores, and some music scores of contemporary composers made available under a CC BY SA licence.

Multimedia

- Librivox provides access to audiobooks in the public domain.
- Public domain files is a repository of various types of images and videos that are in the public domain.

For more places to search for CC licensed materials, see 'Where to find CC licensed material' on the Smartcopying website.

Attributing CC licensed materials

When using Creative Commons licensed materials in your resources, you must always attribute the copyright owner as this is a requirement of every CC licence.
If you are using CC licensed material in your resources, best practice attribution is TASL:

✓ **T**itle
✓ **A**uthor/copyright owner
✓ **S**ource
✓ **L**icence

Remember!

If you find a great CC or openly licensed resource that isn't on this list, feel free to email Smartcopying to let us know and we can add it to our website.

If you find a resource or website that isn't licensed under CC, but you think it should be, feel free to contact the NCU and we may be able to contact the copyright owner to discuss licensing their materials under a CC licence.

Additional information

The purpose of this update is to provide a summary and general overview of selected copyright issues. It is not intended to be comprehensive, nor does it constitute legal advice. If you need to know how the law applies in a particular situation, please get advice from the NCU. For information about our National Copyright Webinar Series and Copyright for Educators (C4E) course, please visit the Smartcopying website.

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