

Open Licensing

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What is an Open License?

- A license is a document that specifies what can and cannot be done with a work (whether sound, text, image or multimedia). It grants permissions and states restrictions.
- An open license is one which grants permission to access, re-use and redistribute a work with few or no restrictions.









Open Knowledge Definition 1.0

- A full set of conditions which must be met in order for a license to be open is available here https://opendefinition.org/od/1.0/en/
- Knowledge is:
 - Content such as music, films, books
 - o Data be it scientific, historical, geographic or otherwise
 - Government and other administrative information
- The term work will be used to denote the item of knowledge at issue.
- The term package may also be used to denote a collection of works. Of course such a package may be considered a work in itself.
- The term **license** refers to the legal license under which the work is made available. Where no license has been made this should be interpreted as referring to the resulting default legal conditions under which the work is available.







Open Knowledge Definition 1.0



A work is open if it satisfies the following:

- 1. Access work shall be available preferably via internet with no extra cost
- 2. **Redistribution** license shall not restrict any party from selling or giving away the work either on its own or as part of a package. It shall not require a royalty or other fee for such sale or distribution
- 3. Reuse license must allow for modifications and must allow them to be distributed under the terms of the original work
- 4. Absence of Technological Restriction work must must have no technological or monetary obstacles
- 5. **Attribution** license may require as a condition for redistribution of the contributors and creators to the work
- 6. **Integrity** license may require as a condition for the work being distributed in modified form that the resulting work carry a different name from the original work
- 7. No Discrimination Against Persons or Groups
- 8. **No Discrimination Against Fields of Endeavor** license must not restrict anyone from making use of the work in a specific field. Eg: it may not restrict the work from being used in a business, or from being used for military research.
- 9. **Distribution of License** rights attached to the work must apply to all to whom the work is redistributed without the need for execution of an additional license by those parties.
- 10. **License Must Not Be Specific to a Package** The rights attached to the work must not depend on the work being part of a particular package.
- 11. **License Must Not Restrict the Distribution of Other Works** license must not place restrictions on other works that are distributed along with the licensed work. Eg: license must not insist that all other works distributed on the same medium are open.



What is an Open License?



- print out and share,
- publish on another website or in print,
- make alterations or additions,
- incorporate, in part or in whole, into another piece of writing,
- use as the basis for a work in another medium such as an audio recording or a film,
- and do many other things ...

Openly licensed works are hence free to be shared, improved and built upon!









Different types of licenses

- The exact permissions granted depend on the full text of the open license that is applied.
 - Different projects may require slightly different sets of permissions, or restrictions
 - and there are a range of different licenses available to cater to these different purposes.
 - Some open licenses stipulate that the work may be freely re-used or re-distributed as long as the original author is appropriately credited.

Some licenses state that any derivative works - or works that incorporate all or parts of the original work - are made available under the same license as the original work.

A list of common licenses can be found here: http://opendefinition.org/licenses/







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Why use an Open License?



- The Works that are published without an explicit license are usually subject to the copyright laws of the jurisdiction they are published in by default.
- These laws typically give several exclusive rights to the copyright holder including the right to produce copies, and to produce derivative works.
 - These rights prohibit unauthorised re-distribution and re-use by third parties - and can remain in effect until the date of death of the author plus 70 years.
 - While the protections offered by copyright laws are appropriate in many circumstances, there are also circumstances in which these protections may be unnecessarily restrictive.







Benefits of Open Licenses



- allowing others to circulate the work freely potentially giving it a greater circulation than if a single group or individual retained an exclusive right to distribute
- not forcing users to apply for permission every time they wish to circulate a copy of the work in question - which can be a time consuming affair, especially if the work has many authors;
- encouraging others to continuously improve and add value to a work;
- encouraging others to create new works based on or derived from the original work - e.g. translations, adaptations, or works with a different scope or focus.







How to apply for an open license?



- 1. Get permission from all rightholders to openly license the work.
- 2. Decide which open license best suits your purposes.
- 3. Display a notice somewhere on your work stating that your work is made available under the open license you have chosen. Include a copy of, or a link to, the full text of your chosen license in your work.

More details can be found here: http://opendefinition.org/licenses/









How to apply for an open license to your data?

 Different because the monopoly rights in data are much more variable across different jurisdictions.

Logistical Steps are still the same:

- 1. choose a suitable open license
- 2. apply it to your work

Further information about open licensing for data can be found here:

https://opendefinition.org/guide/data/







Any Questions???





