

Video Script Chapter 5: Open Copyright License

Video 5.1

Here is a situation one of our church partners encountered.

A Mayan Native Mexican language group approached us and asked us to help them update a previously published Bible in their heart language.

We talked to the publisher and were told no; we couldn't use the Bible as a source text since the publisher owns the copyright on it. Instead, we're required to start the translation from an open copyright, non-all rights reserved source.

Copyright shows legal ownership of a document or work of art.

If you own a copyright, you have the legal right to keep others from...

- Making copies
- Printing
- Distributing
- Making changes
- Translating
- Posting online, even on social media
- Digital sharing

Anyone who wants to use a copyrighted Bible must get permission in writing to use what someone else owns. This can be difficult, expensive, and sometimes impossible to obtain.

Copyright keeps us and you from...

- Making the translation accessible to everyone
- Updating the translation when needed
- Legally using a translation as a source text

Copyright is not bad. It protects writers and artists. But WA doesn't believe that a copyright belongs on the Word of God.

Instead, WA uses Creative Commons Licensing, also known as CC BY-SA.

CC stands for Creative Commons. CC is the organization that helps people license their work which gives permission to anyone to legally copy, change, and distribute it.

BY stands for attribution. It means people may distribute or adapt the work if they give credit to the creator of the work.

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“You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use.”—from Creative Commons website.

SA stands for Share Alike. This means when you or others remake and share something based on an original work, the same kind of license must be used for the new work. This gives permission to others to copy, adapt, and share your work.

Everyone who works on the translation team must give permission to use and share their work to the translation. This shows that you can legally publish it. It also guarantees that your language group will always have access to print and revise as needed.

Jesus told His disciples to “freely give” as they had “freely received” (Matthew 10:8b NIV). This licensing allows us to model that command of Christ.

Wycliffe Associates wants to see source text easily available, used legally, and translations easily shared and easily revised and reprinted by future generations.

In summary, under CC BY-SA, anyone may copy, distribute, translate or adapt the material without asking permission or paying fees.

At the same time, CC BY-SA also prevents others from taking the work and copying it as their own.

So what does all this mean to you and your team?

As leaders of the translation project, you’ll need to:

First, be sure that everyone who works on the translation understands that they’re giving permission to anyone who wants to use and share their work.

Secondly, make sure that EVERYONE who works on the translation shows their understanding by signing the online document at <https://cobt.ck.page/ccbysa> or a physical document (provided in your own Trainer Guide when you are training a team).

Third, any time you print even a portion of the Bible, you must include copyright information. Wycliffe Associates will help you with the exact words you need to include.

Before beginning translation work, you must receive written permission from all the translators to use their work in your published Bible. If you choose to use physical signatures instead of the link above, you will need to keep track of these signatures. We will also have you sign this form during this training. For simplicity, we have combined the agreements to the Statement of Faith and the open license into one form.

You have a summary of the license printed on p. 20 in your Workbook.