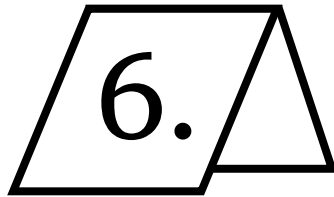
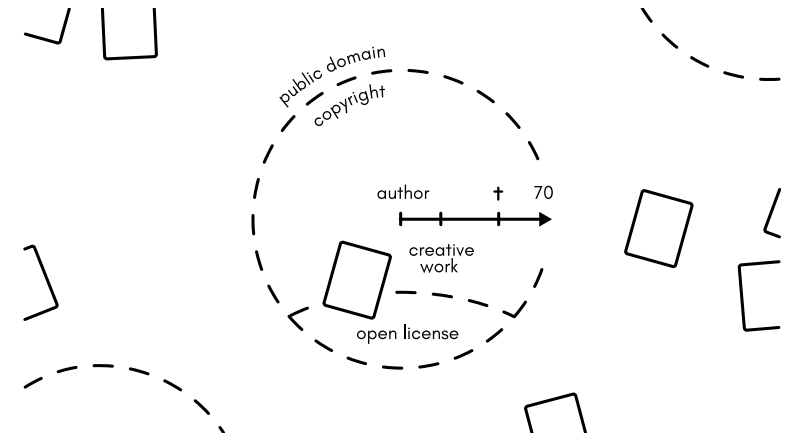


Copyright, the Community



6.1. No Known Restrictions: the Public Domain



You are an author, a very special kind of worker. What you make is the product of your singular personality and that is why you get a lot of control over how others can use the fruits of your labour. This is the theory of copyright. In practice, works and authors tend to drift apart. Once your work is out there and others have connected to it as a public, as researchers, as inspired artists, etc., how much control can and should you still exert? Then, eventually, you die. What happens, if your work has managed to find itself in an archive, a back catalogue, a collection and maybe even somewhere in the public consciousness? You were the author, that special someone who got to control the copies. What happens when you are no longer around?

Some of the influential early voices in copyright thought