
*Imagine a world in which every
single human being can freely
share in the sum of all knowledge.
That's our commitment.*

WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION

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WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY OPEN CONTENT?

CONTENT THAT CAN BE USED
FREELY.

OPEN CONTENT is content that is open and freely accessible – by default, not only after an author has given individual permission. This is not a matter of course. Copyright law assumes that content may only be distributed and used when the owner of these rights explicitly allows it. However, to use this ground rule in the digital age is becoming more and more questionable. Human culture has always been shaped by the drive to enhance the existing. Everyone builds on that which others have created.

Digital content can be reproduced and used as easily as never before. Therefore, that which is technically possible should be rendered possible by law. The ideal of free knowledge, always accessible to everybody, needs a legal basis that applies smoothly to the context of the Internet. Scientists in particular have highlighted the large potential of the Internet and the free exchange of knowledge. In 2003, German scientific organizations demanded in the Declaration of Berlin free access to scientific works:

“Our mission of disseminating knowledge is only half complete if the information is not made widely and readily available to society.