



# Built-In Libraries vs. External Libraries

As we covered in an earlier course, the Python Standard Library comes as part of the Python installation for the most common tasks you can do with Python. But there's tons of other things you might want to do, and not all of them are in the standard library. This is where external modules come into play. When a developer creates a module that they think others might find useful, they publish it in **PyPI** -- also known as the **Python Package Index** (<https://pypi.org>). We can browse this repository of Python modules to find the module we need. Modules are often projects, which are classified by different categories, like topic, development status, and intended audience.

In this module, we're going to be **transforming** and **converting** images. To do that, we'll be using image manipulation: the **Python Imaging Library (PIL)**. The original PIL library hasn't been updated since Python 2.7. Fortunately, there's a current *fork* of PIL called **Pillow**, that properly supports Python 3. The Pillow library is packaged with the name **pillow**, but the module name in Python is still **PIL**.

If you try to import the PIL module on a computer that doesn't have pillow (or PIL) installed, you'll get an error:

```
1 >>> import PIL
2 Traceback (most recent call last):
3   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
4   ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'PIL'
5
```

Okay, looks like I don't have that module yet! As we covered in an earlier course, there are several ways to install modules to your Python environment. PIL is a pretty common library, and on Linux it's usually available as a package.

```
1 user@ubuntu:~$ sudo apt install python3-pil
2 Reading package lists... Done
3 Building dependency tree
4 (...)
5 Unpacking python3-pil:amd64 (4.3.0-2) ...
6 Setting up python3-pil:amd64 (4.3.0-2) ...
7
```

For other environments, you should use Python's package installer, **pip3**. Like this:

```
1 $ pip3 install pillow
2 Collecting pillow
3   Downloading https://files.pythonhosted.org/packages/85/28/2c72ba965b52884a0bc
4   |████████████████████████████████████████| 3.9MB 1.7MB/s
5 Installing collected packages: pillow
6 Successfully installed pillow-6.2.1
7
```