

What is Public Domain?

- Works are in the Public Domain where it is more than 70 years since the death of the creator/author and copyright has not been renewed or re-assigned.
- Works may also be in the Public Domain at the discretion of their creator. The usual way of doing this is by releasing them under a *Creative Commons* license.

What's Creative Commons?

- Creative Commons is like *Open Source*, which is a term usually applied to software released under similar conditions. However, *Creative Commons*, as a term, is usually applied to created works such as images, music, and other creative art forms.
- Creative Commons is actually a nonprofit organization that facilitates legal sharing of knowledge, resources and creativity. As part of their mission they provide Creative Commons Licenses in 6 Categories, and Public Domain tools to help grant permissions, manage copyrights and safely use created works. For Information on the various kinds of licenses in use, see <https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/>
- The most frequently used is **Creative Commons 0 (CC0 or CC Zero)** – this is a public dedication tool, which allows creators to give up their copyright and put their works into the worldwide public domain. CC0 allows re-users to distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon the material in any medium or format, with no conditions.
- Many freeware or shareware websites such as **Unsplash, Pexels, BenSound**, etc. use one or more of these CC licenses in offering material for public use. These sites are great resources for many creatives – always check the Terms and Conditions to be sure you are compliant, and thus respecting the other creative people who provided the material.