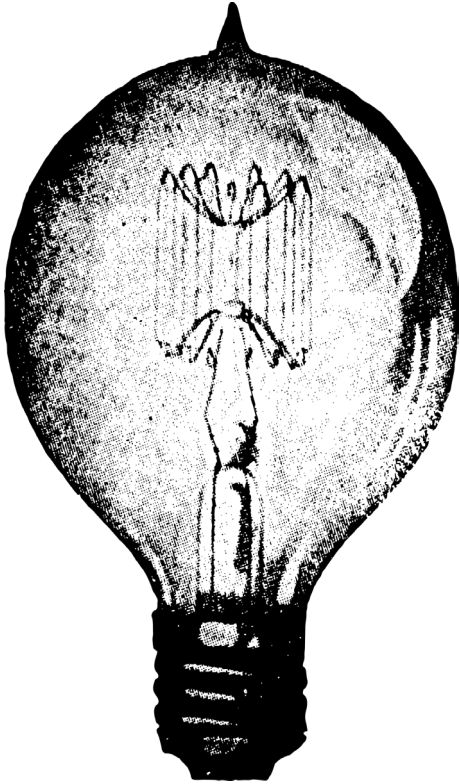


# Finding and Using Public Domain Works for Teaching and Learning

Kristy Padron, MLIS  
Associate University Librarian  
<https://library.fau.edu>

# Objectives:

- Define public domain.
- Identify when works are in the public domain.
- Outline best practices in using public domain works.
- Locate sources of public domain works.



# Defining Public Domain

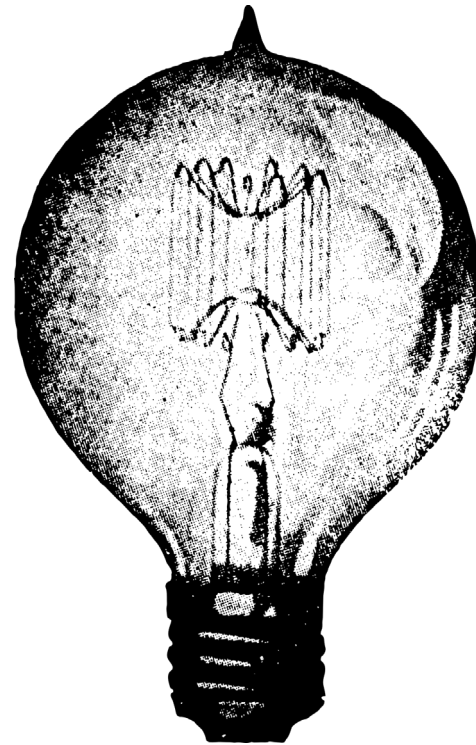
# What is Public Domain?

Creative materials or **works** that are not protected by intellectual property laws such as copyright, trademark, or patent (Stanford University, 2023).



# What is a work?

A unique  
expression of a  
fact (Stanford  
University  
Libraries, 2023).



# What is a work?

An idea that is fixed in one or more tangible mediums of expression, such as:



- Text
- Image
- Sound
- Other physical object

# What is Public Domain?

*In plain language:*

Works  
owned by  
no one!



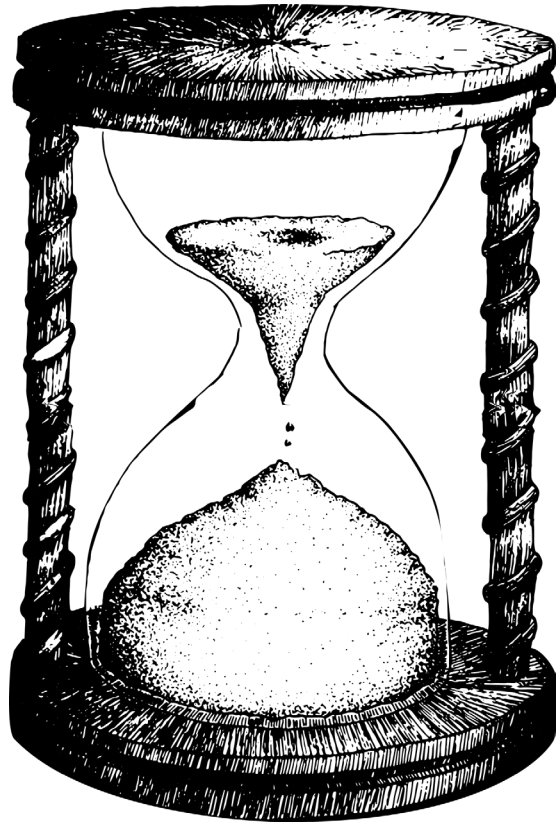
# What is Public Domain?

- Free of cost.
- Open terms of use.

**However**, some works may have restrictions put in place by a work's creator, or other legal issues!

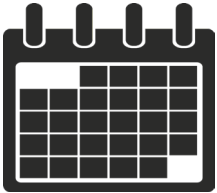






**Identify  
When  
Works Are  
in the  
Public  
Domain**

# What influences when a work is in the Public Domain?



**Date:** when it was created or first published

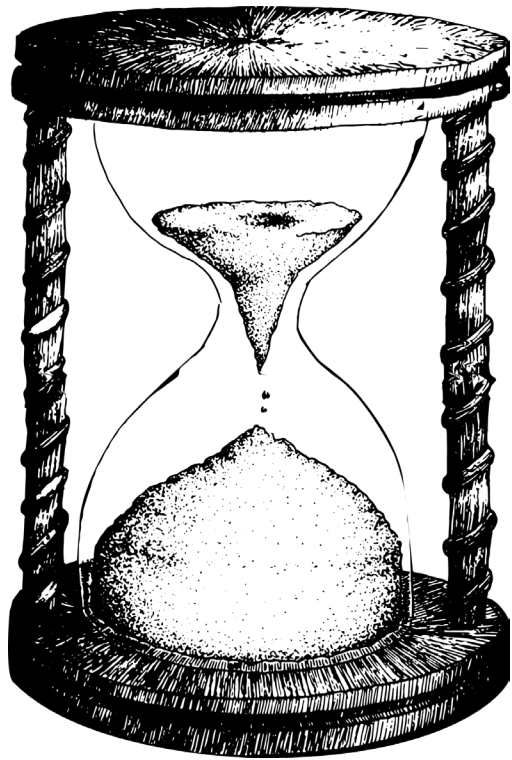


**Type of work:** book, image, music score, etc.



**Origin:** the country or location where it was created

# Why do works enter the Public Domain?



- The work was published before copyright law existed.
- The copyright was lost, never attained, or not renewed.
- The copyright owner willingly dedicated their work.
- The work didn't qualify for copyright (it was a recipe, idea, or fact).

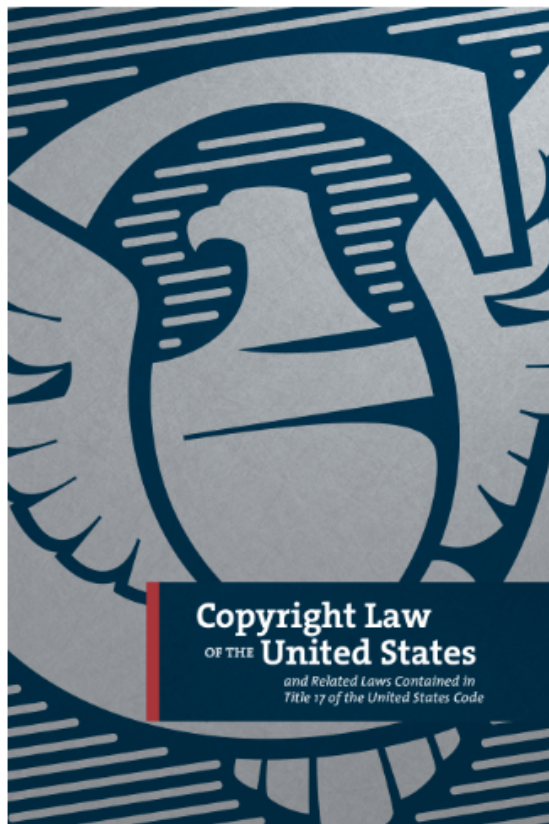
# How can I determine copyright for a work?

- Look at a work's information (author, copyright, publication, etc.).
- U.S. Copyright Office provides information about current span of protection for copyrighted works.
- Refer to publications and reputable web sites.

[Home](#) / [Copyright Law of the United States \(Title 17\)](#)

# Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17)

## and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code



This publication contains the text of Title 17 of the *United States Code*, including all amendments enacted by Congress through December 23, 2022. It includes the Copyright Act of 1976 and all subsequent amendments to copyright law; the Semiconductor Chip Protection Act of 1984, as amended; and the Vessel Hull Design Protection Act, as amended. The Copyright Office is responsible for registering intellectual property claims under all three.

The United States copyright law is contained in chapters 1 through 8 and 10 through 12 of Title 17 of the *United States Code*. The Copyright Act of 1976, which provides the basic framework for the current copyright law, was enacted on October 19, 1976, as Pub. L. No. 94-553, 90 Stat. 2541. The 1976 Act was a comprehensive revision of the copyright law in Title 17. Listed below in chronological order of their enactment are the Copyright Act of 1976 and subsequent amendments to Title 17.

This edition adds two pieces of copyright legislation enacted since the last printed edition of the circular in May 2021: the Artistic Recognition for Talented Students Act, signed into law in October 2022, and the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, signed into law in December 2022.

U.S. Copyright Law, December 2022 [size 5 M]

**Image Credit:** United State Copyright Office (2023).  
*Copyright law of the United States.*  
<https://copyright.gov/title17/>



CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
**Library**

[Cornell University](#) / [LibGuides](#) / [Copyright Services](#) / Copyright Term and the Public Domain

## Copyright Services: Copyright Term and the Public Domain

URL: <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright>

- [Copyright Support](#) ▾
- [Copyright 101](#)
- [Licenses and Open Access](#) ▾
- [Using Copyrighted Materials](#) ▾
- [Copyright Term and the Public Domain](#)
- [Copyright Resources](#) ▾
- [IP Rights & Privacy](#) ▾
- [Copyright News](#) ▾
- [Events Calendar](#)
- [Author Rights Resources](#)
- [Small Claims / Copyright Claims Board / CASE Act](#)

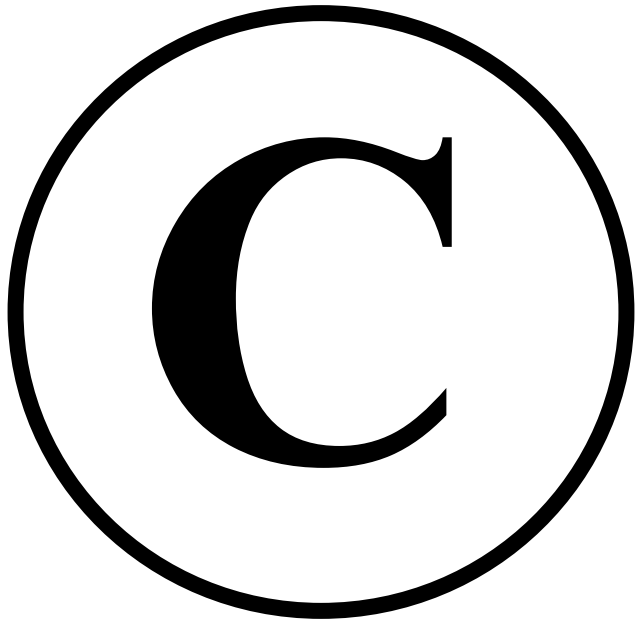
### Never Published, Never Registered Works<sup>2</sup>

Type of Work	Copyright Term	In the public domain in the U.S. as of 1 January 2023 <sup>3</sup>
Unpublished works	Life of the author + 70 years	Works from authors who died before 1953
Unpublished anonymous and pseudonymous works, and works made for hire (corporate authorship)	120 years from date of creation	Works created before 1903
Unpublished works when the death date of the author is not known <sup>4</sup>	120 years from date of creation <sup>5</sup>	Works created before 1903 <sup>5</sup>

### Works Registered or First Published in the U.S.

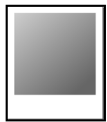
Date of Publication <sup>6</sup>	Conditions <sup>7</sup>	Copyright Term <sup>3</sup>
Before 1909	None	None. In the public domain due to copyright expiration.

**Image Credit:** Cornell University Library (20203). *Copyright term and public domain in the United states.* <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright/publicdomain>



**Using  
Public  
Domain  
Materials**

# How can I use public domain works in teaching, scholarly, or creative activities?



- **Images:** include illustrations, presentations, or in publications.



- **Course materials:** readings, labs.



- **Exercises and assignments:** translations, applying concepts



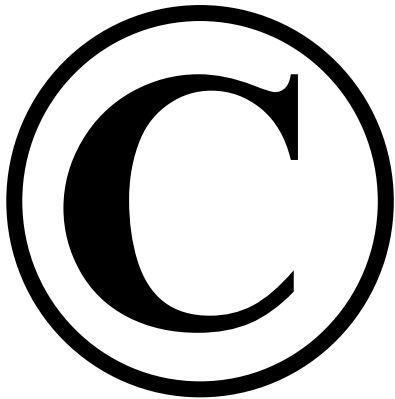
- **Research:** reuse, repurpose, or integrate.



- **Creative works:** also reuse, repurpose, or create a derivative or updated work.

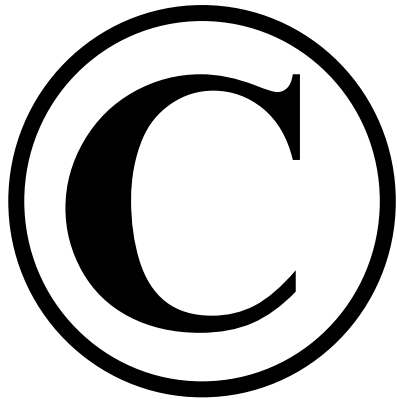


# What are some best practices for using public domain works?



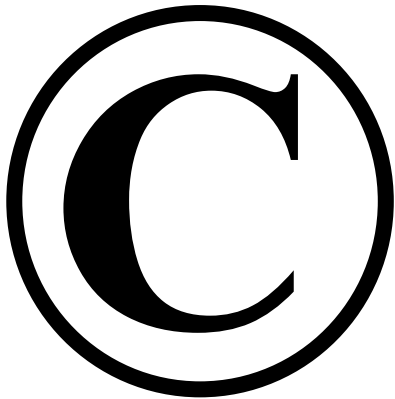
- Understand and apply basic copyright principles.
- Assume that every work is protected by copyright until it is established that it is not.

# What are some best practices for using public domain works?



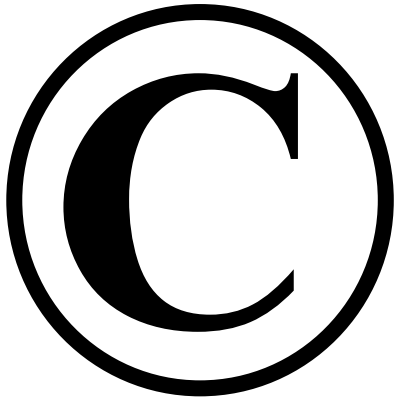
- Confirm if a work is in the public domain.
- Save any record of this confirmation.

# What are some best practices for using public domain works?



- Give attribution when works are used:
  - Permission is not required to use or repurpose a public domain work.
  - Attribution is necessary to avoid plagiarism (and to model academic norms and the respect of intellectual property).
  - Creatively show the work is based on a public domain work in an attribution.

# What are some best practices for using public domain works?



## ➤ Attribution Example (for Use):

Luhrmann, B. (Director). (1996). *Romeo + Juliet* [Film]. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.

Adapted from William Shakespeare's play, *Romeo and Juliet*, a public domain work.



**Find  
Public  
Domain  
Materials**

# Do Public Domain works have a label?

- A government-approved or legally enforceable label does not exist.
- However, the following are used as identifiers:



## **No Rights Reserved (CC0)**

- Issued by creators.
- Free from copyright restrictions to the greatest extent possible.



## **Public Domain Mark (PDM)**

- Labels for very old works from around the world known to be free from copyright restrictions.

# Where can I find Public Domain materials?

## Meta-lists:

- Internet Archive  
<https://archive.org>
- Creative Commons Search Tool  
<https://search.creativecommons.org>
- Wikimedia Commons (images, sounds, other sources)  
[https://commons.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Public\\_domain](https://commons.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Public_domain)



**FIND CONTENT YOU CAN  
SHARE, USE, AND REMIX.**

Coral Reefs **Search**

Search using:

**ccMixer**  
Music

**Europeana**  
Media

**Flickr**  
Media

**Google**  
Web

**Google Images**  
Image

**Jamendo**  
Music

**Nappy**  
Image

**Open Clip Art**  
Image

**Openverse**  
Media

**Sketchfab**  
3D Model

**SoundCloud**  
Music

**Thingiverse**  
3D Model

**Vimeo**  
Video

**Wikipedia Commons**  
Media

**YouTube**  
Video





# Coral Reefs

Images Over 10,000 results

Audio 5 results



### FILTER BY

[Clear filters](#)

#### Use

- Use commercially
- Modify or adapt

#### Licenses

- Public Domain Mark ?
- CC0 ?
- CC BY ?
- CC BY-SA ?
- CC BY-ND ?
- CC BY-NC ?
- CC BY-NC-SA ?
- CC BY-NC-ND ?

**Image Credit:** Creative Commons (2023). *Creative Commons search: Coral reefs.*  
<https://search.creativecommons.org/>

# Where can I find public domain materials?

## Books & Texts:

- Digital Public Library of America  
<https://www.dp.la>
- Library of Congress  
<https://catalog.loc.gov>
- Project Gutenberg  
<https://www.gutenberg.org>



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20

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Re-use, No Modification	1,526
Re-use With Conditions	252

Type

image	18,123
text	13,017
moving image	587
sound	483
physical object	30
interactive resource	7

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Nurses	4,715
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Nursing Schools	2,793
Graham Hospital	2,035
Graham Hospital School of Nursing	2,033

Create a list from these items



Nursing

Gruben, Marilu Flores

Nursing 25 x 15.5 in

View Full Item in UTSA Libraries Special Collections



Nursing

View Full Item in The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection. The New York Public Library



Nursing

Nursing Group photo

View Full Item in Illinois Wesleyan University

Image Credit: Digital Public Library of America (2023). Digital Public Library of America search results: Nursing. https://dp.la

# Where can I find public domain materials?

## Images & Videos:

- Flickr  
<https://www.flickr.com>
- Unsplash  
<https://unsplash.com>
- Videvo  
<https://www.videvo.net>

# Where can I find public domain materials?

## Music (Sound, Sheet Music):

- Library of Congress Songs of America  
<https://www.loc.gov/collections/songs-of-america>
- Mutopia Project  
<https://www.mutopiaproject.org>



## COLLECTION

# The Library of Congress Celebrates the Songs of America

About this Collection   **Collection Items**   Articles and Essays

Results: 1-25 of 50,079 | Refined by: Part of: The Library of Congress Celebrates... x Available Online x

### Refine your results

- Available Online 50,079
- All Items 50,202

### Original Format

- Notated Music 41,393
- Book/Printed Material 4,660
- Audio Recording 3,315
- Web Page 349
- Manuscript/Mixed Material 295
- Film, Video 130
- Photo, Print, Drawing 27

### Online Format

- Image 46,382
- PDF 36,261
- Online Text 4,520
- Audio 3,316

## Collection Items

View List Go Sort By Select Go



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**Am I unforgiven still?**  
 sheet music | 1 score | Sheet Music (Form).  
**Contributor:** John Church & Co - Arini, Karl - A. B.  
**Date:** 1877  
**Resource:** [View All Images](#) | [PDF](#)



**NOTATED MUSIC**  
**All he does is follow them around**  
**Image Credit:** Library of Congress (2023). *The Library of Congress celebrates the songs of America.* <https://loc.gov/collections/songs-of-america>  
**Contributor:** Abrahams, Maurice - Maurice Abrahams Music Co - Clarke, Grant

# Where can I find public domain materials?

## Maps:

- National Map Viewer

<https://www.usgs.gov/tools/national-map-viewer>

- U.S. Census Bureau Geography Program

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography.html>





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# Geography Program

Geography is central to the work of the Census Bureau, providing the framework for survey design, sample selection, data collection, tabulation, and dissemination. Geography provides meaning and context to statistical data.

[Read More](#)

## Featured

### About

Find out more about the Geography Program at the Census Bureau.



## Population Clock

[View Population Clock Data](#) >

USA Population

335,021,845

World Population

7,870,103,314

Population estimates as of July 06, 2023

**Image Credit:** United States Census Bureau (2023). *Geography program.*  
<https://census.gov/programs-surveys/geography.html#>

# Where can I learn more about public domain?

Cornell University Library Copyright Information Center (2023). *Copyright term and the public domain in the United States*. <https://guides.library.cornell.edu/copyright/publicdomain>

Creative Commons (n.d.). *Guide to using public domain tools*. <https://wiki.creativecommons.org/images/8/88/Publicdomain.pdf>

Fishman, S. (2023). *The public domain: How to find and use copyright-free writings, music, art and more* (10th Ed.). Nolo.

Stanford University Libraries (2023). *Copyright & fair use: The public domain*. <https://fairuse.stanford.edu/overview/public-domain/>

# Where can I learn more about public domain?

## FAU Libraries Guides

<https://library.fau.edu>

- Copyright
- Copyright for Teaching and Learning
- Public Domain

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