

Open knowledge recommendation for cultural heritage organizations

We recommend using Creative Commons copyright licenses¹ and public domain tools² for open sharing.

If the copyright term of a work has expired, its digital reproduction should be shared^{3 4} without any restrictions on use. This can be done using Creative Commons public domain tools. Creative Commons Public Domain Mark⁵ can be used if the work is in public domain worldwide, otherwise the use of the Creative Commons Zero waiver (CC0)⁶ is recommended. Even when using public domain tools, the memory organization may recommend that users credit the organization in addition to crediting the author.⁷

Creative Commons copyright licenses are recommended for sharing copyrighted material. Licenses will not be valid if used with out-of-copyright works.

If the work is still under copyright protection and the organization owns the copyright, we recommend that the organization distribute the digital copy under a Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY 4.0)⁸ license. This license allows the material to be widely used, including on platforms like Wikipedia. The organization can require that its name be mentioned whenever the material is used.

¹ *About CC Licenses*. Creative Commons, 28 September 2023.

<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>

² *Public domain*. Creative Commons, July 10, 2024. <https://creativecommons.org/public-domain/>

³ Although the Finnish Copyright Act obliges you to follow this principle only for material digitized after the entry into force of the Act, we recommend that you follow this principle also for earlier digitization (Copyright Act, Section 49a).

⁴ KAM-juridiikkaryhmä. *"Tekijänoikeuslain kulttuuriperintölaitoksia koskevat uudet säännökset : KAM-juridiikkaryhmän soveltamisohje"*. (New provisions on cultural heritage institutions in the Copyright Act : LAM Legal Team's Implementation Guide). Doria, 11 October 2023. (in Finnish).

<https://www.doria.fi/handle/10024/187897>. Retrieved 2024-09-16.

⁵ *Public Domain Mark 1.0 Universal*. Creative Commons.

<https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/mark/1.0/deed>

⁶ *CC0 1.0 Universal*. Creative Commons. <https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed>

⁷ *Nudging Users to Reference Institutions When Using Public Domain Cultural Heritage Materials*.

Creative Commons Guidelines, 2024.

<https://creativecommons.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Nudging-Users-to-Reference-Institutions-when-Using-Public-Domain-Materials%E2%80%9494Creative-Commons-Guidelines-1.pdf>

⁸ *Deed - Attribution 4.0 International*. Creative Commons.

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If the work is still under copyright protection and the author still holds the copyright, the organization should, where possible, make arrangements with the author or their representative to use the material on the organization's online services or to share the work openly.

The license applies to all resolutions of the work. We recommend that the digital copy of the work is always made available in the best version available in the organization.

We recommend sharing the cataloging information of the work under the Creative Commons CC0 waiver, which is also a requirement for joining Finna and sharing on Europeana.⁹

If the works feature identifiable individuals, privacy protection issues must be considered when publishing¹⁰. If the works feature marginalized groups, the decision to publish should be made in consultation with that group.

⁹ *Public Domain Charter*. Europeana. <https://www.europeana.eu/en/rights/public-domain-charter>

¹⁰ KAM-juridiikkaryhmä. *Tietosuoja KAM-sektorilla (Data protection in the LAM sector)*. 5 October 2020. https://musiikkiarkisto.fi/kam/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Tietosuoja-KAM-sektorilla-v1_1.pdf (Finnish)