



How to attribute images

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Introduction

This tutorial will take you through some of the things you need to consider when embedding or referring to images in your work.

It will show you how to attribute image and it will signpost where to find guidance about referencing images.

Please note: links will open in a new window.

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Image Attribution

When you embed any image in your own work you need to give acknowledgement of the original creator.

This acknowledgment will have several elements:

- title of image/figure
- name of creator/author
- link to the original work
- link to the hosting platform/website
- conditions of reproduction or Creative Commons Licence
- any other type of recognition specified by the creator

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Formatting the image attribution

You need to format the attribution according to the type of context where the image is going to appear. This could be:

- Print context
- Digital context

Image credits in a digital context are structured differently and often in a simpler way than image citations in a print context:

- In a digital context you can hyperlink the main elements of the attribution
- In a print context you add the key urls of the elements of the attribution

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Print and Digital formatting

Format the attribution according to the type of context where the image is going to appear:

Attributing images in a print context

Include the key elements of an attribution incorporating the main urls in a caption underneath the image.

The attribution will be in the form a caption underneath the reproduction and it will include:

- Title of image
- Name/username of creator
- Url of image
- Conditions of reproduction or Creative Commons licence
- Url of licence deed or of the site with the statement of the conditions of reproduction

Crediting images in a digital context

When writing for the web in blogs and websites or when doing presentations, you just need to include the key hyperlinked elements of an attribution in a caption to appear underneath the image.

Format the attribution according to the conditions of reproduction specified in the website you got the image from. This will usually include:

- Title of image hyperlinked to the original work
- Name/username of creator hyperlinked to online profile/website of creator
- Conditions of reproduction or Creative Commons licence hyperlinked to licence deed.

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Image attribution in a digital context: Creative Commons licensed image



[Lemon](#) by [Abhijit Tembhekar](#) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Title of image/figure: [Lemon](#)

Name of creator/author: [Abhijit Tembhekar](#)

Creative Commons Licence: [CC BY 2.0](#)

[Creative Commons search](#) allows you to find CC images and offers a quick and easy one-click attribution.

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Image attribution in a print context: Creative Commons licensed image



Lemon by Abhijit Tembhek

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/abhijittembhekar/3340242358/in/photostream/>
Licensed under CC BY 2.0: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

Title of image/figure: Lemon

Name of creator/author: Abhijit Tembhekar

Url of image:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/abhijittembhekar/3340242358/in/photostream/>

Creative Commons Licence: Licensed under CC BY 2.0:

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

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Image attribution in a digital context: unlicensed image from an images website



[White Waltham Steam Fair, 1964](#) by [Ron Kinder](#)
[Reproduced with permission of the University of Sheffield](#)

Title of image/figure: [White Waltham Steam Fair, 1964](#)

Name of creator/author: [Ron Kinder](#)

Creative Commons Licence: [Reproduced with permission of the University of Sheffield](#)

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Image attribution in a print context: unlicensed image from an images website



White Waltham Steam Fair, 1964 by Ron Kinder
<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15847coll3/id/28833>
Reproduced with permission of the University of Sheffield:
<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/about>

Title of image/figure: White Waltham Steam Fair, 1964

Name of creator/author: Ron Kinder

Url of image:

<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15847coll3/id/28833>

Creative Commons Licence: Reproduced with permission of the University of Sheffield:

<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/about>

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Remixed image attribution

If you, or someone else, change an image in any way by:

- cropping
- changing the colours
- adding extra graphic or written elements
- modifying it in any way

You, or the new creator, will be creating a derivative work of the original. The original image should always be attributed too, together with attributing the remixed image.

Please note, you can only create a derivative work if the licence of the image permits so.

For Creative Commons images, if the licence says **ND**, e.g. CC-BY-NC-**ND**, that means **No Derivatives**, and you cannot modify the image in any way.

Formatting a remixed image attribution

In a derivative work, always attribute the original image too.

Attributing remixed images in a print context

Include the key elements of the attribution incorporating the main urls in a caption underneath the image which will contain the phrase “is adapted from” or “is a derivative of”. This will usually include:

- Title of remixed image
- Add “is adapted from” or “is a derivative of”
- Title of original image
- Name/username of original creator
- Conditions of reproduction/Terms of use or Creative Commons licence of original
- Url of original work
- Name/username of creator of the remixed image
- Conditions of reproduction/Terms of use or Creative Commons licence of remixed image
- Url of remixed work if it is available online

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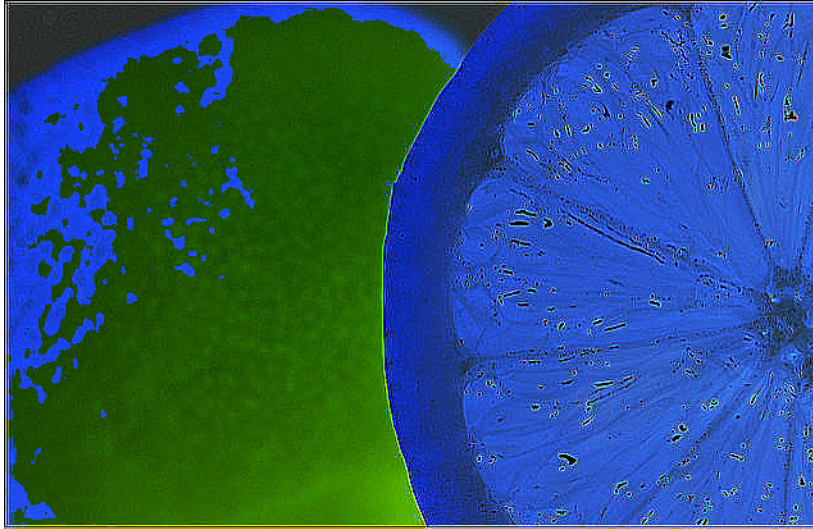
Crediting remixed images in a digital context

Include the key hyperlinked elements of the attribution in a caption underneath the image. Use the phrase “is a derivative of” or “is adapted from” and attribute the original image as per usual. The attribution will usually include:

- Title of the remixed image, hyperlinked if hosted online
- Add “is a derivative of” or “is adapted from”
- Hyperlinked title of the original image
- Name/username of original creator hyperlinked to online profile/website of author/creator
- Conditions of reproduction or Creative Commons licence hyperlinked to licence deed of original
- Name/username of the creator of the remixed image, hyperlinked if profile is online
- Conditions of reproduction or Creative Commons licence hyperlinked to licence deed of remixed

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Remixed image attribution in a digital context: Creative Commons licensed image

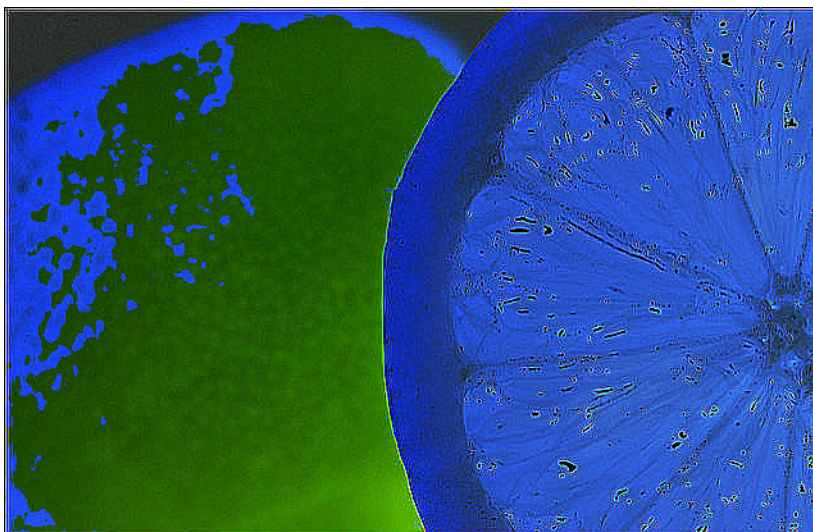


Blue Lemon is a derivative of [Lemon](#) by [Abhijit Tembhekar](#) used under [CC BY 2.0](#)
Blue Lemon is licensed under [CC BY 4.0](#) by [@cat_sciam](#)

- **Title of remixed image:** Blue Lemon
- **Add:** “is a derivative of”
- **Title of original image:** [Lemon](#)
- **Creator of original image:** [Abhijit Tembhekar](#)
- **CC licence of original:** [CC BY 2.0](#)
- **CC licence of remixed image:** [CC BY 4.0](#)
- **Creator of remixed image:** [@cat_sciam](#)

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Remixed image attribution in a print context: Creative Commons licensed image



Blue Lemon is a derivative of Lemon by Abhijit Tembhekar used under CC BY 2.0
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/abhijittembhekar/3340242358/in/photostream/>

Blue Lemon by @cat_sciam is licensed under CC BY 4.0:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

- **Title of remixed image:** Blue Lemon
- **Add:** “is a derivative of”
- **Title of original image:** Lemon
- **Creator of original image:** Abhijit Tembhekar
- **CC licence of original:** CC BY 2.0
- **Url of original image:**
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/abhijittembhekar/3340242358/in/photostream/>
- **CC licence of remixed image:** CC BY 4.0:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>
- **Creator of remixed image:** @cat_scia

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Public Domain images attribution

[Public Domain](#) images are available for all to use, modify and share for any purpose without restrictions.

Images can be out of copyright because it has expired, or they can be free of copyright when their creators release them into the public domain using the [CC0](#) tool (Creative Commons 0 – meaning zero restrictions).

Usually Public Domain images do not require attribution but it is good, ethical practice to always acknowledge the source and provide attribution.

Some archives, museums or libraries which host Public Domain collections specifically require credit to the institution.

Some creators who release their work into the Public Domain actively encourage attribution of their images with a link back to the original source.

Over to you...

Remember to check the licence terms of any images you want to use in your work.

When using sites which aggregate images, it is also important to go to the original image source and check who owns it and what the reuse terms are.

Attribution is about giving the rightful and legitimate credit to artists and creators.

Always remember to also reference images in any academic work: see the [Library Referencing Guides](#).

Summary

You have reached the end of this resource. This information has been adapted from the [Attributing images](#) tutorial.

Why not look at some of our other Research Skills and Critical Thinking resources? [Book onto a Workshop or take an Online Tutorial](#).

Remember to reflect on and record your skills development using [mySkills](#).

Visit our FAQs: [Library FAQs](#)

Get in touch: library@sheffield.ac.uk

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Full URLs

Lemon <https://flic.kr/p/66aBFu>

Abhijit Tembhekar <https://www.flickr.com/photos/abhijittembhekar/>

CC BY 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

CC search <https://ccsearch.creativecommons.org>

White Waltham Steam Fair, 1964

<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p15847coll3/id/28833>

Ron Kinder

<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/searchterm/kinder,%20ron/field/creato/mode/exact/conn/and/>

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<http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/about>

CC BY 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Public Domain <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/>

CC0 Tool <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>

Library Referencing Guides <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills/referencing>

Attributing images

https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/storyline/referencing/attribution-images/story_html5.html

Research Skills and Critical Thinking Workshops and Tutorials:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills>

mySkills: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/skills/myskills>

Library FAQs: <https://libraryhelp.shef.ac.uk/>

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