Discovering Images

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Introduction

This tutorial will take you through some of the things you need to consider when using images in your work, and where you can find images for use.

A picture is worth a thousand words
Adding photographs, illustrations, graphics or pictures can be a great way to help formulate and communicate your ideas.

Images have the ability to convey abstract and complex concepts with real immediacy.

Need images for your work?
One way is to create images yourself by taking pictures, drawing your own illustrations or creating your own graphics.

In that way you will own copyright in the resulting images.

Using other people’s images

If you use other people’s images, assume all images are copyrighted.

Just because an image is publicly available, does not mean it is free to use.

So make sure you comply with copyright legislation and you are aware of creators’ rights.

As regarding creators’ rights, other people’s images can be divided in 3 broad categories:

1. **All Rights Reserved** images are copyrighted and require permission for reuse from the owner or rights holder.

2. **Some Rights Reserved** images are copyrighted but the creator has applied a [Creative Commons licence](http://creativecommons.org) and you can use the image in the way defined by the licence.

3. **Public Domain** images are free of copyright for all to use, modify and share for any purpose.

Public Domain

There are two kinds of public domain works:

1. **No Known Copyright** – these are works which entered the public domain when their copyright expired. See Creative Commons [PDM (Public Domain Mark)](http://creativecommons.org/pdm).

2. **No Rights Reserved** - these are works released into the public domain by their creators using the [CC0](https://creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/) (Creative Commons 0 – meaning zero restrictions) tool or similar statement.
Where can I find Public Domain images?

No Known Copyright:

Museums, libraries and archives from all over the world have released thousands of public domain images which are no longer under copyright under PDM (Public Domain Mark). These will typically be old works.

**Flickr: The Commons** gives you access to several of these publicly-held collections and archives.

Please note: make sure you use The Commons search box in the middle of the screen and not the general search box of Flickr on the top right corner.

Creative Commons 0:

Some photographers and artists are releasing some or all of their photos and graphics under **CC0**.

Here is a selection of sites where you can find CC0 images you can freely use:

- Pixabay
- Pexels
- Unsplash
- NegativeSpace
- StockSnap.io
- MMT
- Jay Mantri
- travel coffee book
- freestocks

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Where can I search for images?

Google

A quick way of finding images is to use **Google**.

The search looks for images ‘Not filtered by license’ by default. Follow these steps to find images licensed for reuse:

1. Enter your search term or search terms.
2. Select the **Images** tab or go straight to **Google Images**.
3. Click on **Tools**.
4. Under **Usage rights** choose one of the **Labeled for... reuse...** options.
Creative Commons Search
Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization which provides easy to use Copyright Licenses and Public Domain Tools to make it simple and legal to give everyone permission to reuse, adapt and share any creative work.

Creative Commons Search provides a search platform for images, from different image sharing sites, museums and archives that you can reuse under CC Licences and CC Tools.

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Are there other image sources I can use?

There are a number of image databases, some of which have been purchased by the Library for use in academic work. You will need to check the terms and conditions before using images from these resources as the licences will vary.

Digital Special Collections provides online access to the Special Collections of the Library. These are collections of rare and specialised books and academic archives covering a wide range of subjects and time periods.

You may use these materials for private study without seeking permission. You may also use the materials for strictly educational purposes such as PowerPoint presentations or student handouts.

The National Fairground and Circus Archive (NFCA) include photographic images, printed materials such as ephemera, large or specialist printed formats such as plans, blueprints and maps, multi-page documents such as books, programmes and pamphlets, and resources from the sound and moving image collections.

You may use these materials for private study without seeking permission. You may also use the materials for strictly educational purposes such as powerpoint presentations or student handouts.

Digital Bodleian offers digitised images from the Special Collections of the Bodleian Libraries. The resource includes manuscripts and early printed books, ephemera, maps, prints and portraits.

You may print off or download any content only for non-commercial purposes, including but not limited to private study, research, or teaching and instruction within an educational establishment.

ARTstor Digital Library is an image database featuring images from some of the world's leading museums, photo archives, scholars, and artists. All images are rights-cleared for educational use.

Wellcome Collection - Images contains thousands of Creative Commons licensed images from historical library materials and museum objects to contemporary digital photographs.

The artworks and photographs are from the library at Wellcome Collection and have been collected over several decades.
Most of the works were acquired between 1890 and 1936 by Sir Henry Wellcome and his agents across the globe. The images reflect Wellcome’s collecting interests and were intended to form a documentary resource that reflects the cultural and historical contexts of health and medicine.

**VADS (Visual arts data service)** is a free resource comprising over 100,000 images that are copyright-cleared for use in learning, teaching and research in the UK.

**How do I reference or attribute images?**

**Attributing images**
When you embed any image in your own work you need to give credit to the original creator at the point where the image is embedded.

Correct attribution is not only an essential component of academic writing, but will also help you to avoid plagiarism.

Note: remember to also reference any embedded image. See [How to attribute images](#).

**Referencing images**
When you refer to any image in your own work you need to give acknowledgement of the original creator.

Correct referencing is not only an essential component of academic writing, but will also help you to avoid plagiarism.

See the [Library Referencing Guides](#).

**Copyright**
The “Discovering Images” tutorial introduces some concepts and requirements in copyright law. It is intended for information and is not definitive.

For further guidance on UK copyright law, see [How copyright protects your work](#).

For further information, please contact library@sheffield.ac.uk.
Summary

You have reached the end of this resource. This information has been adapted from the Discovering 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.

Visit our FAQs: Library FAQs

Get in touch: library@sheffield.ac.uk

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Full URLs

Creative Commons licences: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/

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

PDM (Public Domain Mark) CC0: https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/

Flickr: The Commons: https://www.flickr.com/commons

Pixabay: https://pixabay.com

Pexels: https://www.pexels.com

Unsplash: https://unsplash.com

NegativeSpace: https://negativespace.co

StockSnap.io https://stocksnap.io

MMT: https://focastock.com/

Jay Mantri: https://jaymantri.com/

Travel Coffee Book: https://travelcoffeebook.com

Freestocks: https://freestocks.org

Google: https://www.google.co.uk/

Google Images: https://images.google.com/

Creative Commons Search: https://search.creativecommons.org

Digital Special Collections:
http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15847coll5

The National Fairground and Circus Archive:
http://cdm15847.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/landingpage/collection/p15847coll3
Digital Bodleian: [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/cdfiles/digibod](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/cdfiles/digibod)

ARTstor Digital Library: [https://www.artstor.org/](https://www.artstor.org/)

Wellcome Collection – Images: [https://wellcomecollection.org/works](https://wellcomecollection.org/works)

VADS (Visual Arts Data service): [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/cdfiles/visualarts](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/cdfiles/visualarts)

How to attribute images: [https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/storyline/referencing/attribution-images/story_html5.html](https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/storyline/referencing/attribution-images/story_html5.html)

Library Referencing Guides: [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills/referencing](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills/referencing)

How copyright protects your work: [https://www.gov.uk/copyright](https://www.gov.uk/copyright)

Discovering Images tutorial [https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/storyline/discovering/discovering-images/story_html5.html](https://librarydevelopment.group.shef.ac.uk/storyline/discovering/discovering-images/story_html5.html)

Research Skills and Critical Thinking Workshops and Tutorials: [https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills](https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/study/research-skills)

Library FAQs: [https://libraryhelp.shef.ac.uk/](https://libraryhelp.shef.ac.uk/)

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