

Finding Image, Sound and Video Sources

Many websites host images, sound files and other types of media that you may want to reuse for your work. These may be:

- Under full copyright protection
- Under full copyright protection and their use further restricted by license
- Under full copyright protection but where the creator has allowed certain uses without permission by attaching a license agreement to the media, such as a [Creative Commons License](#)
- Available in the public domain, and no longer protected by copyright.

Copyright and Derivative Works

As of November 7, 2012, copyright legislation allows the creation of derivative works (mash-ups) using copyright restricted material as long as the following conditions are met:

- Non-commercial use
- Attribution (the source must be cited)
- The original work used to make the derivative is a legally obtained copy (not a pirate)
- The derivative work does not adversely affect the commercial value of the original work

However, if a source has a license agreement attached to it, the license must be respected. In these cases, a careful reading of the license agreement is necessary to determine if the source may be used to create a derivative work.

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Regardless of the source of the media, always click through and check the specific license or use conditions associated with it. In addition, always credit the source of the media in your work. Below are some sites which may be useful in locating media:

Creative Commons Search

<http://search.creativecommons.org>

Acts as a directory and search tool to major sites that include media licensed with Creative Commons. Searching the specific sites directly (ex: *Fotopedia*, *Jamendo*) may yield better results. Not all media within these sites allow re-use, so be sure to check the license.

Creative Commons has also released a [new search tool](#) in Beta format to facilitate finding creative commons licensed material. For more information on this tool see: <https://creativecommons.org/2017/02/07/new-cc-search/>

Prelinger Archives

<http://www.archive.org/details/prelinger>

Films under public domain and/or Creative Commons. In some cases, not all elements of a film may be covered under the license (for example, the images may be covered, but not the music), so always check the license. Other resources in the *Internet Archive* may have restricted licenses.

Wikimedia Commons

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

Images, video and sound.

Flickr: Advanced Search

<http://www.flickr.com/search/advanced/>?

Use the “Any License” drop down on left hand side of page to filter your search by license type. License information is on bottom right of page for each image.

Flickr: The Commons

<http://www.flickr.com/commons>

Provides access to major archives of photographs. Restrictions may apply depending upon the image and the source. Check the copyright statement for the individual image.

Google Image Search

http://images.google.com/advanced_image_search?hl=en

Use “Advanced search” feature, and limit results to those images with usage rights that have “free to use share or modify” licenses

HathiTrust

<http://www.hathitrust.org/>

Includes digital versions of mostly books and printed materials in the public domain. Includes some audio, photographs and illustrated material. Use “advanced search” and limit by material type and “full view”. To search everything within a particular media type, use an asterisk (*) instead of a keyword and then select the material type and “full view” limits.

Internet Archive Book Images

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages>

Search through a database of images appearing in books from the Internet Archive. License information is on bottom right of page for each image.

Morgue file

<http://www.morguefile.com/>

Searchable database of photographs. Consult the morgufile license.

Pdsounds.org

<http://www.pdsounds.org/>

Sound recordings including instrumental, vocal, ambient, nature, domestic and mechanical sounds including public domain recordings.

Universal Newsreels

https://archive.org/details/universal_newsreels

Over 600 newsreels in the public domain.

Other sources

Library Guide to Digital Collections

<http://library.concordia.ca/find/digital-collections.php>

The guide presents a list of digital collections. Before using images from these collections, be sure to check copyright and license agreements.

Library Databases

<http://library.concordia.ca/find/databases/index.php>

Use the “Browse databases by type” dropdown feature to view databases by type including image, sound, and video and primary source databases. Note that licenses for these databases tend not to permit derivative works. For example, the license agreement for the [ARTstor](#) database, which is a collection of high resolution images and photographs indicates that the content may be used in student work, **but no derivative use is permitted**

The [Communication Studies subject guide](#) also includes links to websites that may provide access to additional media archives.