

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.

Finding Image, Sound and Video Sources

Many websites host images, sound files and other types of media. Some of these are copyright restricted, some may be open access and others are governed by [Creative Common Licenses](#). In addition, many institutions claim copyright or have usage licenses on digital versions of material for which the original fixed version is in the public domain, so restrictions on use of these digital versions may apply.

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 with creative commons media. Searching the specific sites directly (ex: *Fotopedia*, *Jamendo*) may yield better results.

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/>?

Scroll down the search page, and select “Only search with Creative Commons licensed content” to limit your results. Once you get the thumbnails, mouse over the images, and click on the “I” icon in the lower right hand corner of the thumbnail image to view the Creative Commons license.

Flickr: The Commons

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

Provides access to public archival collections from major institutions where those institutions have reasonably determined that there is no copyright holder for the image, or that the institution holds the copyright. 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 “re-use with modification” licenses

HathiTrust

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

Includes digital versions of primarily 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

Morgue file

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

Photographs

Stock.xchg

<http://sxc.hu/>

Requires registration. Pull down menu of image categories. Clear terms of usage, additional restrictions for some images but these are clearly stated. Has very easy to use drop down with detailed categories for finding images. Always “View image license” and also check “availability” as some images have special restrictions.

Pdsounds.org

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

Instrumental and vocal sound files including public domain.

A list of digital collections is available on the [Online Reference Page for Digital Collections](#).

Some of these collections include public domain images. Before using images from these collections, be sure to check copyright and license agreements.

Universal Newsreels

https://archive.org/details/universal_newsreels

Over 600 newsreels in the public domain.

See additional sources on the [Communication Studies Research Guide – Web sites](#)

Library Databases

Library subscription databases are generally governed by license agreements that must be respected. In general, these sources do not allow the creation of derivative works and special permissions would need to be obtained:

[ARTstor](#) is specifically designed for image searching, and includes images of artistic and photographic works. The license agreement indicates that images from ARTstor may be used in student work, but no derivative use is permitted.

Another source of images are historical full image news and magazine databases – There is a [full list](#) of these available on the library website. Of particular interest may be:

[Entertainment Industry Magazine Archive](#)

[Media History Digital Archive](#)

[Vogue Archive](#)

View a list of streaming video databases under [Databases by Type –Videos](#) and under [Communication Studies – Streaming Audio and Video](#)

A full list of sound databases is available under [Databases by Type -Sound](#)

Assistance

Should you have questions or need assistance, contact me at Sonia.poulin@concordia.ca