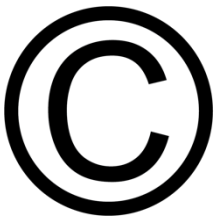# Finding Media Online

Copyright and The Public Domain

www.copyright.gov

Copyright: When something is under copyright, this means that the owner and/or creator controls how the work is distributed and has first rights to any monetary gain from the work.

Public Domain: It belongs to the people! Copyright doesn't last forever, after so many years a work moves into the public domain where anyone is free to distribute and make money from derivative works. Additionally, any work created by the government is also in the public domain. This includes images from NASA and government commissioned photography that's work apart of their archives.

Finally, **if you don't know it's copyright, just don't touch it**. It's better to err on the side of caution.

Looking for "copyright free"

Media is rarely without copyright, but there is work out there that can be used freely by permission of the copyright owner. When looking for imagery, audio, or footage that you can use for free in projects look for terms like **creative commons, licensing**, and **rights** for information on whether or not one has permission to use the work and how. **Always avoid watermarks** (transparent logos) as this is a definite sign of ownership by another party.

Take the time to find this information on each site you go to, once you've found it, it will likely be in the same place for each bit of media on that site or there will be a broad statement regarding permissions about all the media that site offers.

**The symbol for
Creative Commons
www.creativecommons.org**

PANTHER
TECH

You've got this.
TECHNOLOGY.GSU.EDU/TRAINING

The Search

When visiting media resource websites, use the advanced search option, if available, to help narrow your results. Avoid just doing a common "Google search" as you won't have all the information on permissions available to you through a basic search engine.

We couldn't find anything matching your search
A few suggestions:
- Check your spelling.
- Try more general words.
- Try different words that mean the same thing.
Try Georgia Fair Grounds on Yahoo! Image Search.

"Georgia Fair Grounds"   "Fair Grounds"   "Fairs"

Think about your **keywords** as you're searching. **Start specific and then broaden your search.** If for example you know you need images of 'Georgia fair grounds' but aren't getting anything, try searching 'fair grounds' or just 'fairs' for images that grasp the concept you need. In the case of sound, if you need an active fight scene break that down into the elements of a fight scene: kicking, punching, yells, etc.

Occasionally you will need to change up your words to find different results. Think of related words and synonyms from your current list of keywords. It's always good practice to ask yourself: "How else would what I'm looking for be labeled?" With sound you want to ask, "What else could it sound like?"

Attribution and Derivative Work

Sometimes as you are looking for copyright information, you'll see something about attribution or derivative works. In most cases this is tied into the permissions of use for the media you are looking for and not following these request by the owner could lead to a violation of copyright.

Attribution: Just like how you would site a paper you've quoted; give information about where you got the image, don't crop any kind of watermarks, cite the owner and/or creator.
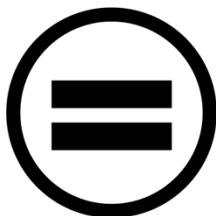
Derivative Works: Any kind of work that edits another original work is a derivative work. Editing includes altering colors, building upon, and generally changing the original file superficially. When you see **No Derivative Works**, you can still use the image and work it into a larger project like a video, but you cannot edit the image itself.