## Free and Open Media

## Public Domain, Copyleft, and Copyfree



- *Public Domain* is a range of creative works whose copyright has expired, or was never established; as well as ideas and facts which are ineligible for copyright. A public domain work is a work whose author has either relinquished to the public, or no longer can claim control over, the distribution and usage of the work.
- *Copyleft* is a play on the word copyright to describe the practice of using copyright law to offer the right to distribute copies and modified versions of a work and requiring that the same rights be preserved in modified versions of the work.
- *Copyfree* is a type of permissive license. The term is a play on the word copyleft as well as the word copyright, describing a practice that contrasts both of them of using copyright law to remove restrictions on distributed copies and modified versions of a work imposed by both copyleft licensing and copyright itself.

## (a few) Alternative to Copyright Licenses

| GNU Variants     | Creative Commons  | Copyfree      | Open Publication License |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Free Art License | Open Game License | Public Domain | Against DRM License      |

## (some) Places to Acquire non-Copyrighted Works

| Archive.org     | Music, movies, books, audio, software, TV News | CreativeCommons.org  | Music, movies, books, software, pictures |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Sourceforge.net | Software                                       | wileyopenaccess.com  | Open access journals                     |
| Github.com      | Software                                       | doaj.org             | Open access journals                     |
| LibreVox.org    | Audio books                                    | Gutenberg.org        | Books                                    |
| livedistro.org  | Complete Operating Systems                     | FreeMusicArchive.org | Music                                    |
| flickr.com      | Pictures                                       | Vimeo.com            | Video                                    |

Read more about this community and the movement in these freely available books:

The world has experienced an explosion of openness. From individual artists opening their creations for input from others, to governments requiring publicly funded works be available to the public, both the spirit and practice of sharing is gaining momentum and producing results.

thepowerofopen.org

Creative Commons began providing licenses for the open sharing of content only a decade ago. Now more than 400 million CC-licensed works are available on the Internet, from music and photos, to research findings and entire college courses.

All creative works—books, movies, records, software, and so on—are a compromise between what can be imagined and what is possible—technologically and legally. For more than two hundred years, laws in America have sought a balance between rewarding creativity and allowing the borrowing from which new creativity springs. The original term of copyright set by the First Congress in 1790 was 14 years, renewable once. Now it is closer to two hundred. Thomas Jefferson considered protecting the public against overly long monopolies on creative works an essential government role. What did he know that we've forgotten?

free-culture.cc