





Creative Commons - terms and licences







Creative Commons (CC) licensing (<http://creativecommons.org/>) has emerged as the strongest system of releasing copyright protected work with only 'some rights reserved' whilst still protecting an owner's copyright and a creator's moral rights.

Creative Commons licences provide the copyright owner of a work with a variety of options that maintain the protection of their work, in a culture that supports wider dissemination of works, without the user needing to seek explicit permission for each use not already provided for in copyright legislation.

Creative Commons licences break down the conditions of use into four components that are backed up by detailed, standard legal wording. The four terms are combined in various ways to create the six CC licences: 'attribution' is the only term that can stand alone as a licence; it is also a component of all the other licences.

the four terms of Creative Commons licensing			
the icon	the term	what it means	comments
	Attribution	users may copy, adapt, distribute, display, and perform the licensed work - and derivative works based upon it – they must name the creator (and, often, link back to the original work)	'Attribution only' or CC-BY is the most flexible CC licence because all uses are permitted as long as the original creator is named
	Non-commercial	users may copy, distribute, display, and perform the work - and derivative works based upon it - for non-commercial purposes only	3 rd party 'Non-Commercial' content cannot be incorporated into works to be sold to, for instance, other educational providers
	Share Alike	users must distribute derivative/adapted works under a license identical to that covering the original work	if 'Share Alike' 3rd party content is incorporated into a work, or otherwise adapted, that element of the new work must be released under the same licence as the original
	No Derivative Works	users may copy, distribute, display, and perform only verbatim copies of the work; there must be no adaptation or derivative works based upon it	'No Derivatives' is seen as contradictory to the spirit of OER ∴ it does not permit users to revise and remix the content e.g. translation to another language; adding elements to suit specific contexts; etc.

The four licensing terms are combined in various ways to create the 6 main CC licences:

the 6 Creative Commons licences			
the icon	the licence's name and abbreviation	the permissions	the conditions
	Attribution CC BY	to copy, communicate, adapt, modify, and build upon the licensed work	user must credit the original work commercial or non-commercial use
	Attribution-ShareAlike CC BY-SA	to copy, communicate, adapt, modify and build upon the licensed work	user must credit the original work commercial or non-commercial use * derivative/adapted works must be licensed with the same terms as the original
	Attribution-NoDerivs CC BY-ND	to copy and communicate the verbatim licensed work	user must credit the original work commercial or non-commercial use *the work must not be altered in any way
	Attribution-NonCommercial CC BY-NC	to copy, communicate, adapt, modify, and build upon the licensed work	user must credit the original work *non-commercial use only
	Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike CC BY-NC-SA	to copy, communicate, adapt, modify, and build upon the licensed work	user must credit the original work *non-commercial use only *derivative/adapted works must be licensed with the same terms as the original
	Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs CC BY-NC-ND	to copy and communicate the verbatim licensed work	user must credit the original work * non-commercial use only *the work must not be altered in any way

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