

<http://guides.nyu.edu/copyright/images>

Copyright: Using Images

Images on the open web are subject to copyright law in the same manner as any other creative work; there is no guarantee that an image is legally available for re-use just because it is freely accessible on the web.



That said, there are cases in which copyright law does allow re-use:

- 1. The image is a public domain work.** Generally, anything published in the U.S. before 1923 is in the public domain. For more info, check out the Peter Hirtle's [Copyright Term and the Public Domain](#)
- 2. The image is available under a Creative Commons license.** CC images are labeled as such. When using a CC image, be sure to provide proper attribution to the source.
- 3. The image is otherwise made available for re-use by the content provider.** Some websites permit you to re-use their images on your own website, as long as certain conditions are met (*e.g.* noncommercial use only). In these cases, you can find out whether re-use is permitted by looking at the website's Terms & Conditions.
- 4. The image is copyrighted, but re-use qualifies as Fair Use.** In the context of using images on a website, **you have a stronger Fair Use argument if you are directly commenting on or critiquing the image"**

or in a presentation

- Fair Use likely does *not* apply when images are being used solely to make a web page more visually interesting"

or a presentation

- **Keep in mind that if an image is subject to a license agreement (such as images from library databases), it can only be used according to what the license allows, even if Fair Use would otherwise allow for re-use.**
- For more information, see [Analyzing Fair Use](#).

5. You have permission from the copyright owner. For more information, see [Getting Permission](#).

Image credit: The Internet by Mikael Altemark via [Flickr.com](#)

