

Creative Commons' Rights Expression Language

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Background

- Creative Commons is a set of standardised licenses for expressing a set of rights and obligations for digital works.
- Founded on the belief that copyright was too complicated.
- But also that copyright was too coarse: public domain or full copyright protection.



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Licenses

- Baseline is that verbatim copying and distribution is always allowed
- On top of that the author can limit:
 - Only non-commercial use
 - Only verbatim use (no derivative works)
 - No re-licensing in turn, but keep the same license
- Creates a set of six standard licenses



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Usage

- One of the points of CC is that you don't need to ask permission or register your work anywhere.
- Statistics from Flickr:
 - In 2007, 29.5 million works
 - In 2013, 252.6 million works
- Amateur material (cats!) to professionals and semi-professionals



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Why metadata?

- Every CC license exist in three forms:
 - Legal code (readable by lawyers)
 - Deed (readable by humans)
 - RDFa (readable by computers)



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ccREL

- Developed by
 - Hal Abelson (MIT)
 - Ben Adida (Mozilla)
 - Mike Linksvayer (CC)
 - Nathan Yergler (CC)
- W3C Member Submission in 2008



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```
<span property="dct:title">My presentation</span>  
by <a href="http://jonasoberg.net/"  
    property="cc:attributionName"  
    rel="cc:attributionURL">Jonas Öberg</a>  
is licensed under a  
    <a rel="license"  
        href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/"  
        Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License</a>
```



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```
@prefix dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/> .  
@prefix cc: <http://creativecommons.org/ns#> .  
@prefix xhtml: <http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml/vocab#> .
```

```
<.>  
dct:title "My presentation" ;  
cc:attributionName "Jonas Öberg" ;  
cc:attributionURL <http://jonasoberg.net> ;  
xhtml:license <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> .
```



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Attribution 3.0 Unported (CC BY 3.0)

This is a human-readable summary of the [Legal Code \(the full license\)](#).

[Disclaimer](#)

You are free:

- to Share** — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- to Remix** — to adapt the work
- to make commercial use of the work



Under the following conditions:



Attribution — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the work).



```
<h3 resource="http://creativecommons.org/ns#Reproduction"
  rel="cc:permits">You are free:</h3>
<ul class="license-properties">
  <li class="license share"
    rel="cc:permits"
    resource="http://creativecommons.org/ns#Distribution">
    <strong>to Share</strong> – to copy, distribute and transmit the work
  </li>
  <li class="license remix"
    rel="cc:permits"
    resource="http://creativecommons.org/ns#DerivativeWorks">
    <strong>to Remix</strong> – to adapt the work
  </li>
  <li class="license by"
    rel="cc:requires"
    resource="http://creativecommons.org/ns#Attribution">
```



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```
@prefix cc: http://creativecommons.org/ns# .  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>  
  cc:permits cc:Reproduction ;  
  cc:permits cc:Distribution ;  
  cc:permits cc:DerivativeWorks ;  
  cc:requires cc:Attribution .
```



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Simple standard – simple needs

- While generic, specific to Creative Commons.
- Limitations of standard:
 - *Permits*: Reproduction, Distribution, Derivative Works
 - *Prohibits*: Commercial Use
 - *Requires*: Notice, Attribution, Share Alike, Source Code



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```
@prefix cc: http://creativecommons.org/ns# .  
  
<http://example.com/my-own-license>  
  cc:permits cc:Reproduction ;  
  cc:permits cc:Distribution ;  
  cc:permits cc:DerivativeWorks ;  
  cc:requires cc:Attribution ;  
  cc:requires cc:ShareAlike ;  
  cc:requires cc:Notice ;  
  cc:morePermissions <http://example.com/licensetext> .
```



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Usage of ccREL

- *“As new copyright licenses are introduced, Creative Commons expects to add new permissions, requirements, and prohibitions.”*
- ccREL is used by CC and anyone who uses the CC web site to select a license.
- Also used to some extent in Europeana



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Y U NOT USE?

- Specific to Creative Commons.
- Supported and "maintained" by only one organisation.



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The future in 2013

- We all have a shared interest around metadata for licensing information. Seeking collaboration around common metadata standards.
- Supports media in using CC licensed works.
- Shuttleworth Foundation funding work on embedding (XMP) licensing metadata (ODRL?) in images.



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