Public Domain: Images, Clipart, Graphics, Audio, and Video

When searching for copyright free graphics on a website, look for a *reproduction rights page* or *statement of use* page. Read this page carefully, and read the fine print to make sure that there are no limitations. When in doubt about the legal use of an image, video or audio clip, always look at the *Conditions of Use* information on the website.

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Media Use Policy Examples	"Resources are provided for non-commercial, personal, and scholarly use only. Copying or redistributing these images in any manner for personal or corporate gain is not permitted."		
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Quick Reference- Public Domain Criteria

Date of Work	Protected	Term
Created 1/1/78 or after	When work is fixed in tangible medium of expression	Life + 70 years (or if work of corporate authorship, the shorter of 95 years from publication, or 120 years from creation
Published before 1923	In public domain	None
Published from 1923 - 1963	When published with notice	28 years + could be renewed for 47 years, now extended by 20 years for a total renewal of 67 years. If not renewed, now in public domain
Published from 1964 - 1977	When published with notice	28 years for first term; now automatic extension of 67 years for second term
Created before 1/1/78 but not published	1/1/78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12/31/2002, whichever is greater
Created before 1/1/78 but published between then and 12-31-2002	1/1/78, the effective date of the 1976 Act which eliminated common law copyright	Life + 70 years or 12/31/2047 whichever is greater



The remainder of this document lists several sites where copyright free images, graphics, audio and video can be located. If you would like to skip to a particular topic, you can use this table of contents to navigate through the lists.

- General Collections
- ClipArt
- Search Engines & Social Networking Sites
- Meta Search Engine Resources
- Computer-Generated Public Domain Images
- Historical Images
- Specific Historical Periods
- U.S. Government Sites
- Science
- Nature & Animal Science
- o Art
- Medicine
- Videos
- Audio

General Collections

Return to Table of Contents

- **Public domain photos** http://www.public-domain-photos.com/ Searchable database includes animals, buildings, clipart, city, drinks, flowers, food, gardens, insects, interiors, landscapes, lights, etc.
- **Ars Publik** http://www.arspublik.com/ A great collection of public domain images whose categories include architecture, daily life, people, medical, nature, sports, transportation, space and religion.
- **Web Photo Mart** http://www.webphotomart.com/ A large collection of Public Domain, GNU, Creative Commons & custom licensed stock photos and clip art. Categories include animals, borders, business, education, events, food & drink, health & fitness, holidays, landscape, music, nature, people, religion, sports, symbols, technology and transportation.
- Easy Stock Photos http://www.easystockphotos.com/ Collection of public domain photos organized by category in image galleries.
- Reusable Art http://www.reusableart.com/ An ever-growing collection of vintage drawings, illustrations and photographs from books, magazines and other printed materials. Original publication information is included with each image for copyright verification. All images meet or exceed the Berne Convention standard for a creative work to be in the public domain.
- **PD Photos.org** http://pdphoto.org/ Developed by computer programmer, Jon Sullivan, this is a repository for mostly public domain photos. Read the license for each picture before use; also, model releases may not have been obtained for all photos.
- **Finally Creative Gallery** http://finallycreative.com/gallery/ Hundreds of categorized photos free for public use. Categories include: food, nature, landscape, plants, recreation and technology.
- **Public Domain Depot** http://pddepot.com/ A collection of public domain photos and resources with many original photos from the Pacific Northwest of the United States. Categories include but are not limited to: nature, scenery, cities, buildings, animals, science fiction, flags, and maps.

ClipArt

- Open Clip Art Gallery http://www.openclipart.org/ This project is an archive of public domain clip art. The clip art is stored in the W3C scalable vector graphics (SVG) format.
- **Public domain clipart** http://www.public-domain-photos.com/free-cliparts/ Searchable database with over 8000 public domain cliparts.
- A ClipArt History http://www.acliparthistory.com Public Domain images of the history of the world. Categories include: Prehistoric, Antiquity, Middle Ages, Early Modern, Modern, Nature and Decorative elements.

Search Engines & Social Networking Sites

- Google Advanced Image Search http://images.google.com/advanced_image_search?hl=en—Select Usage Rights > Return images for commercial use. everystockphoto.com Searching over 4.3 million public domain and creative commons photos including wikipedia and NASA. Free user accounts with drag and drop collections, and other features.
- Yahoo Advanced Image Search http://images.search.yahoo.com/images/advanced?ei=UTF-8&p=law&fr=yfp-t-701&fr2 Select Creative Commons license > Commercial Use
- Creative Commons Image http://search.creativecommons.org/ Meta search engine offering searches across multiple search engines.
- Flickr Commons http://www.flickr.com/commons/institutions/ Library of Congress is posting about 3,000 of its public domain, copyright-free images on the photo-sharing site--and Flickr users may tag them.
- Robin Good's Where to Find Free Images and Visuals for My Blog

 http://www.masternewmedia.org/where_to_find_free_images_and_visuals/ Directory for finding websites with free images.

Meta Search Engine Resources

Return to Table of Contents

- Top 10 Public Domain Image Resources http://www.milleniumite.com/Top_10.html/. This directory is a collection of free public domain image resources on the internet subdivided into topics including but not limited to culture, folklife, environment, law, government, and performing arts. NOTE: Check copyright information for the separate items before deciding to use them.
- The Best Copyright-Free Photo Libraries http://www.dotgovwatch.com/?/archives/8-The-Best-Copyright-Free-Photo-Libraries.html
 -Developed by a private individual not associated with the federal government, this database is searchable by categories including U.S. photos, agricultural research service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, Yellowstone National Park, Antarctic Photo Library, Public Health Image, FEMA, Grand Canyon National Park, and NASA.
- **Uncle Sam's Photos** http://www.unclesamsphotos.com —Developed by a private individual not associated with the federal government, this directory of the US Government's public domain image galleries is subdivided into top 10 faves, art & maps, energy, foreign relations, Congress and more.
- DMOZ Open Directory Project Free Graphics http://www.dmoz.org/Computers/Graphics/Clip_Art/Public_Domain/ Widely distributed data base of Web content classified by humans. DMOZ Open Directory powers the core directory services for the Web's largest and most popular search engines and portals, including Netscape Search, AOL Search, Google, Lycos, HotBot, DirectHit, and hundreds of others
- **Wikimedia** http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main Page PagePagePage<a href="pa

Computer-Generated Public Domain Images

- **U.S. Census Bureau TIGER Mapping service** http://tiger.census.gov/cgi-bin/mapbrowse-tbl TIGER Map Service was developed as an experiment in Web-based mapping.
- Map-It: Form-based Simple Map Generator http://woodshole.er.usgs.gov/mapit/ Automatic public domain map generating program developed and maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- National Atlas http://nationalatlas.gov Lots of .GIF image maps, such as Congressional District maps, all in the public domain.
- NOAA Historical Maps and Charts http://tinyurl.com/7fzeq

Historical Images

Return to Table of Contents

- **Library of Congress' American Memory** http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ammemhome.html Arranged by topic which included but are not limited to African American history, Native American history, Immigration American Expansion. Note: Check copyright information for the separate items before deciding to use them.
- Scanned Images, Engravings and Pictures from Old Books http://www.fromoldbooks.org/ Collection images scanned from various old books, especially Middle Ages or Medieval Ages, that are now in the public domain.
- **New York Public Library** http://digitalgallery.nypl.org. Over 500,000 images scanned from books. Including illuminated manuscripts, historical maps, vintage posters, rare prints and photographs, illustrated books, printed ephemera, and more. There is a per-image usage fee even for public domain images.
- Old Book Illustrations http://www.oldbookillustrations.com/ Images scanned from old books. States that images on the site are the works of artists who "have been dead for over seventy years, which makes them part of the public domain in many countries, however, some countries copyright laws differ from the United States". Searchable by keywords.
- America As It Was http://patsabin.com/VintagePostcards/ Genealogist historian Pat Sabin has collected vintage postcards in the U.S., organized by state. Any postcard first published in the U.S. before 1978 without an explicit copyright notice is public domain. Lots of photos, aerial views, and maps of many U.S. locations.
- **U.S. History Images** http://ushistoryimages.com/ A growing collection of free images related to United States history. NOTE: SIRIS images have a separate copyright terms.
- Free Public Domain Images http://www.pdimages.com/web6.htm a small collection of public domain images divided into categories such as animals, historical figures, nature, architecture, etc,.

Specific Historical Periods

- Northwestern University's World War II Poster Collection http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govinfo/collections/wwii-posters/cright.html maintains a site with over 300 posters issued by U.S. Federal agencies. Materials published by the U.S. Government Printing Office are in the public domain and, as such, not subject to copyright restriction. However, the Library requests users to cite the URL and Northwestern University Library if they wish to reproduce images from its poster database.
- Photos of the Great War: World War I http://www.gwpda.org/photos/greatwar.htm -Historian Ray Mentzer has collected many images of World War 1 scanned in from public domain resources. NOTE: All copyright issues are the responsibility of the end user. The bulk of these photos have been scanned, in good faith, from publications with elapsed copyrights. Many photos are taken from government sources and are therefore already public property.

U.S. Government Sites

- Google Images (Government) http://images.google.com/advanced image search?q=site:.gov&as st=y&hl=en&safe=off use the advanced search feature to return images from the site or domain ".gov".
- U.S. Census Bureau Photo Service http://www.census.gov/multimedia/ all images in the public domain but a photo credit is requested. Categories include: people, lifestyles, business, census history, etc.
- **U.S. Department of Defense** http://www.defenselink.mil/multimedia/ Current DoD publicly released image of service photography of Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force.
- United States Senate http://www.house.gov Congressional sites have a broad variety of public domain images, especially photographs of representatives and senators.
- U.S. Government Photos & Images http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Graphics.shtml A portal to US Government images and photos. Most of these images and graphics are available for use in the public domain. However, some images may be protected by license.
- The World Factbook CIA https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html

Science

- National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/ Most NOAA photos and slides are in the public domain and cannot be copyrighted. Collection includes fisheries, coral reefs, science for sailing, weather, voyage to inner space, and geodesy among others.
- **Great Images in NASA** http://grin.hq.nasa.gov/ collection of over a thousand images of significant historical interest scanned at high-resolution in several sizes. This collection is intended for the media, publishers, and the general public looking for photographs on aerospace, space, people, space science, astronomy, information systems, historical, general, Soviet/Russian.
- Johnson Space Center Digital Image Collection http://images.jsc.nasa.gov/ repository contains more than 9000 NASA press release photos spans the American manned space program, from the Mercury program to the STS-79 Shuttle mission.
- Department of Energy Research Labs Images http://tinyurl.com/9st95
- NASA http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/videogallery/index.html
- Nasa Image Exchange http://nix.nasa.gov/
- NASA Astronomy Picture of the Day http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/
- NASA Dryden Research Aircraft http://www.dfrc.nasa.gov/Gallery/
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration http://www.photolib.noaa.gov/index.html
- U.S. Geological Survey http://www.usgs.gov/
- US Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/
- National Science Foundation Multimedia Gallery http://www.nsf.gov/news/mmg/

Nature & Animal Science

- National Biological Information Infrastructure http://images.nbii.gov/
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service http://www.fws.gov/digitalmedia Fish and Wildlife Service's online digital media library.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service Digital Library System Gateway to Digital Media http://images.fws.gov/
- Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension http://www.csrees.usda.gov/index.html
- Palouse Open Source Photography http://palousephotography.org./
- FEMA Photo Gallery http://tinyurl.com/exlpk
- National Resources Conservation Service http://photogallery.nrcs.usda.gov/Index.asp contains NRCS Photo Gallery contains natural resource and conservation related photos.
- USDA Agricultural Research Service http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photos/ database containing images for animals, crops, plants, field, lab research, insects and more.
- National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection http://home.nps.gov/applications/hafe/hfc/npsphoto.cfm The National Park Service Historic Photograph Collection is comprised of more than two million images which cover a wide variety of subjects: Park architecture, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Native American heritage, NPS personnel, roads and transportation, scenic views, and much more
- National Park Service http://www.nps.gov/
- US Environmental Protection Agency http://www.epa.gov/
- Bureau of Land Management (Search for photo gallery) http://www.blm.gov/nhp/index.htm
- Antarctic Photo Library National Science Foundation http://photolibrary.usap.gov/
- USDA Agricultural Research Image Gallery http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/graphics/photos/
- Great Lakes Image Collection http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/image/
- Planetary Photojournal http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/index.html
- Our Earth as Art USGS http://earthasart.gsfc.nasa.gov/index.htm

Art

Return to Table of Contents

Music

- The Mutopia Project http://www.ibiblio.org/mutopia/ is a volunteer project offering complimentary sheet musical editions of classical music. Note: Check copyright information for the separate items before deciding to use them.
- The Morguefile.com http://www.morguefile.com/ is a repository with free high resolution digital stock photographs and reference images for either corporate or public use. The purpose of this site is to provide free image reference material for illustrators, comic book artist, designers, teachers and all creative pursuits.
- The Lester S. Levy Collection of Sheet Music http://levysheetmusic.mse.jhu.edu/index.html Johns Hopkins University's Eisenhower Library's collection of about 20,000 items of popular music from 1700s to 1922. Some items are copyright restricted.
- Public Domain Music http://www.pdmusic.org/ All lyrics posted here are fully in the Public Domain, and do not need any permission for use. A one-time royalty free license fee still applies to any commercial use of my MIDI files whether rendered, or not, to audio.
- Freeplaymusic.com http://freeplaymusic.com/
- Public Domain Music http://www.pdinfo.com/

Old photographs, photographers and their subjects

• Vintage Pixels http://www.vintagepixels.com/index.php?content=gallery.php&file=1999.jpg A collaborative database of found vintage photos. Free for use in amateur and commercial projects, but one must set up an account to access images.

Medicine

Return to Table of Contents

- National Cancer Institute Visuals Online http://visualsonline.cancer.gov/ -Great resource for electron microscopy and histological images. Includes general biomedical and science-related images, cancer-specific scientific and patient care-related images, and portraits of directors and staff of the National Cancer Institute.
- **U.S. National Library of Medicine** http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/index.html at the National Library of Medicine. Most but not all of the exhibitions are public domain. Clicking on "Metadata" near the bottom of the page will generate a popup window with information that includes Rights usage for each page.
- Public Health Image Library (PHIL) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention http://phil.cdc.gov/Phil/home.asp content is organized into hierarchical categories of people, places, and science, and is presented as single images, image sets, and multimedia files.
- National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/images database of 2.5 million images and figures from medical and life sciences journals.

Videos

- **Wikimedia** http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page a central repository for free photographs, diagrams, animations, music, spoken text, video clips, and media of all sorts, used in pages of any Wikimedia project.
- Internet Archive http://www.archive.org/details/movies -Library contains thousands of digital movies uploaded by Archive users which range from classic full-length films, to daily alternative news broadcasts, to cartoons and concerts. Many of the movies and collections are licensed with Creative Commons Licenses. Click on this logo to see details about the specific type of license.
- Creative Commons Image http://search.creativecommons.org/ Meta search engine offering searches across multiple search engines.
- NASA Multimedia Gallery http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/index.html contains images, video, podcast, 3D resources, and blogs.
- Public Health Image Library (PHIL) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention http://phil.cdc.gov/Phil/home.asp content is organized into hierarchical categories of people, places, and science, and is presented as single images, image sets, and multimedia files.

Audio

- **Public Domain Depot** http://pddepot.com/- A collection of public domain music and sounds of the U.S. Air Force Band and Classical and Instrumental music.
- Internet Archive http://www.archive.org/details/audio library contains over two hundred thousand free digital recordings ranging from alternative news programming, to Grateful Dead concerts, to Old Time Radio shows, to book and poetry readings, to original music uploaded by our users.
- NASA Multimedia Gallery http://www.nasa.gov/multimedia/index.html contains images, video, podcast, 3D resources, and blogs.
- LibriVox Public Domain http://librivox.org/public-domain/ Mostly eBook chapters.