Finding OER and Public Domain Images

When you use images that you did not create in your work, it is important to make sure that you don't violate anyone's copyright. The images you find on the Web may not be available for reuse at all or only available for reuse if you pay license fees or ask for permission.

There are resources that provide quality images that you can use freely as long as you follow their requirements such as attributing the images to their creators and meeting the terms of the license. These images might be in the public domain, or they might have an open license such as a Creative Commons license.

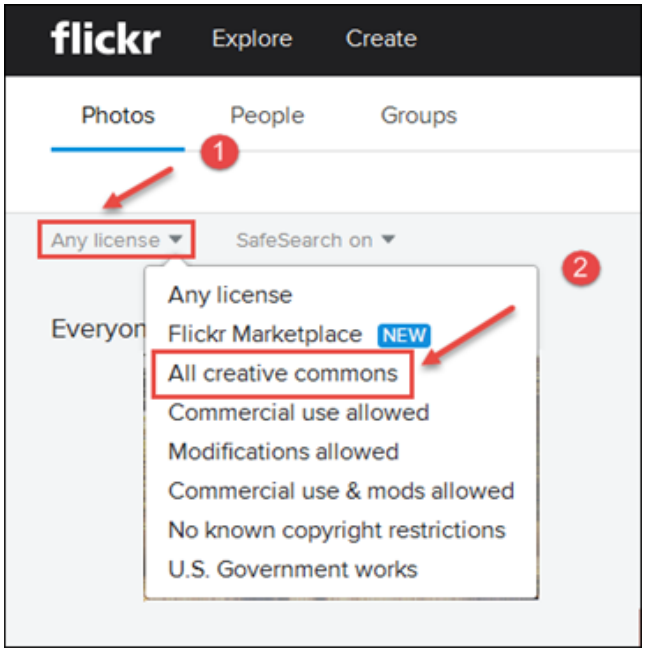
Flickr: How to search for freely available images in Flickr

Flickr is a photo archive across a wide variety of subjects (some images require attribution).

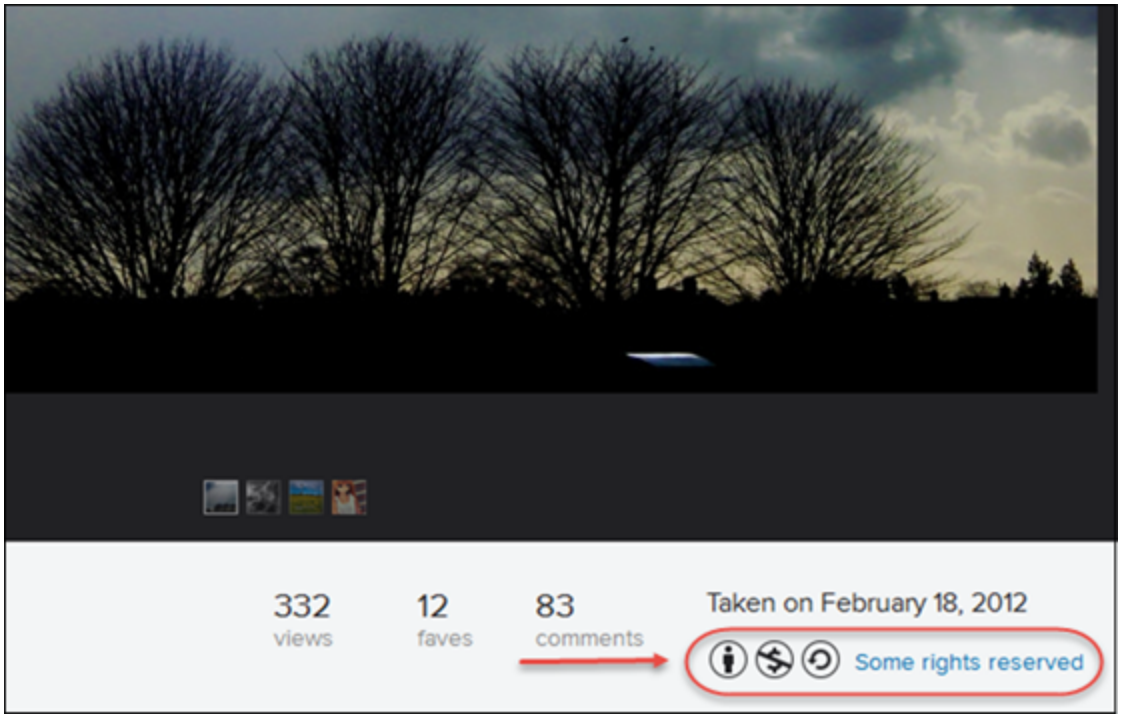
1. Browse or search Flickr images with Creative Commons licenses.

Alternatively, you can:

2. Go to flickr.com and type your keyword in the search box.
3. Click on ***Any license*** on the search results screen to bring up license options. Then click on ***All creative commons*** to limit your search results to images that are freely available for reuse.



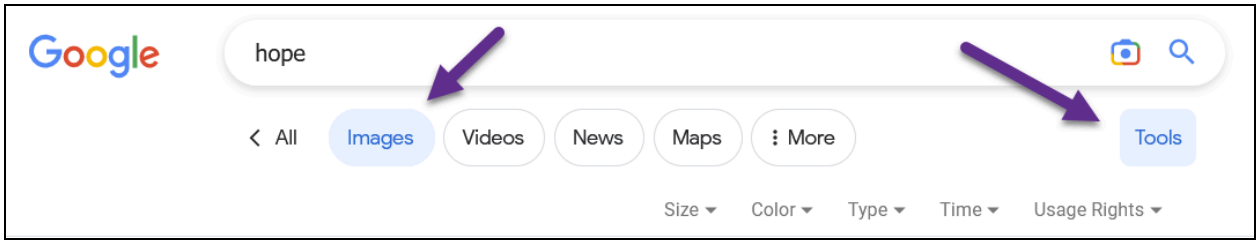
4. Choose an image you would like to use by clicking on the image. This will take you to the main image page which provides information about the image.
5. Click on the ***Some rights reserved*** link right below the image to find the license information. This will open up the summary of the license under which the image is offered. The license specifies what you can do with the image and the terms you have to meet.



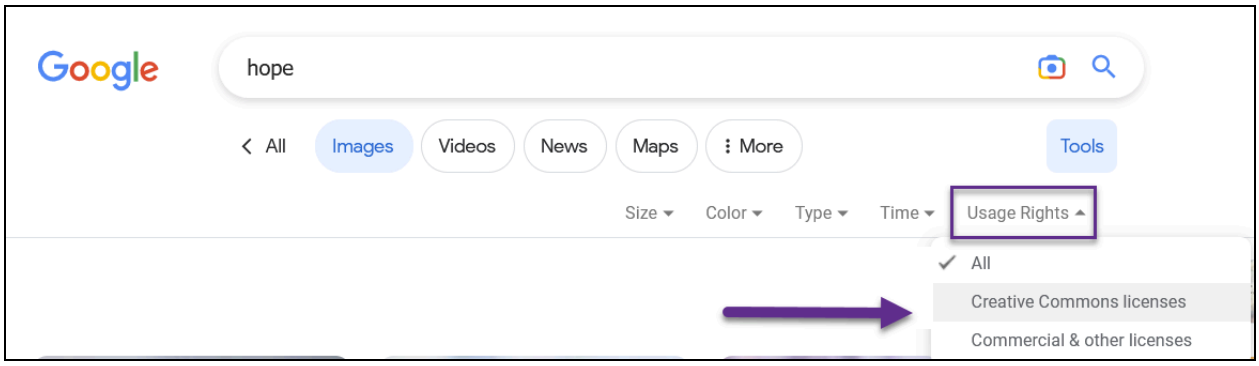
"Rays of Hope" by Mick Talbot is licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

Google: How to search for freely available images in Google Images

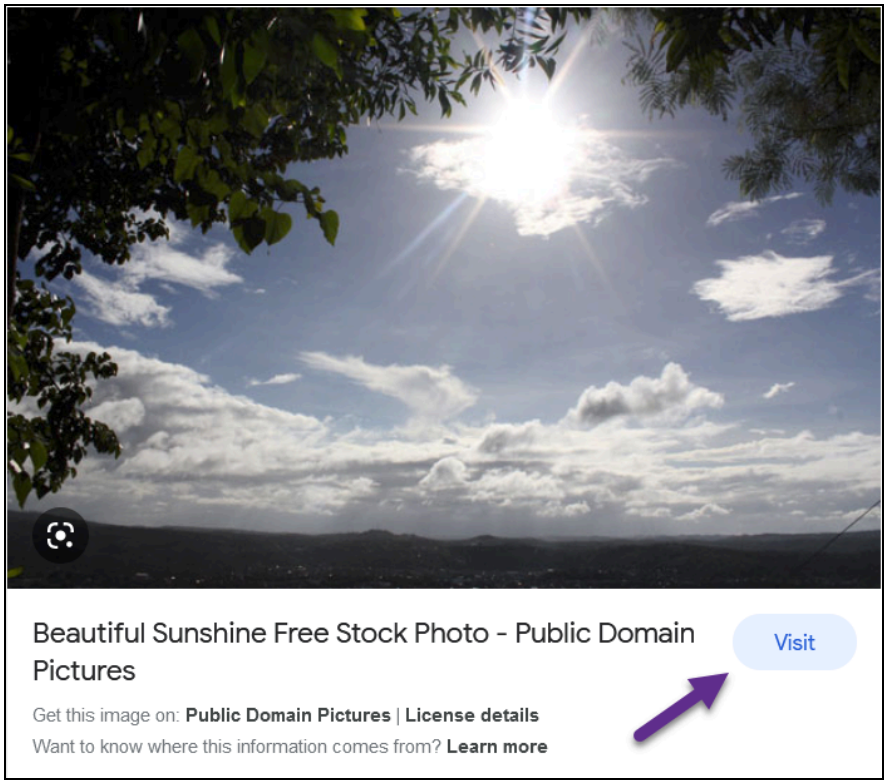
1. Go to Google and type your keyword in the search box.
2. Click on the ***Images*** tab right below the search box. Then click on ***Tools*** to bring up search filter options.



3. Click on ***Usage rights*** and choose the option that meets your needs. Note the default is “Not filtered by license”.



4. Choose an image by clicking on the image. This will open the image in a larger size with information about the image.
5. Click ***Visit*** to find license information. Note sometimes you have to dig deeper to find the license information.



“Beautiful Sunshine” by Maliz Ong is licensed under CC0 Public Domain

Pixabay: How to search for freely available images in Pixabay

1. Go to Pixabay and type your keyword in the search box.
2. Click the image you're interested in.
3. Click the Free Download button and choose the image size you want to download. That's it.

You can also create a free account with Pixabay, if you want.

Note that the Pixabay license is "Free for commercial use. No attribution required."

Finding Public Domain Images

Source: University of Texas Libraries, CC BY

These are primarily resources that have public domain images. As always, please do your own research before reusing content you find online.

- Flickr Public Domain Group
  Images that have been dedicated to the public domain by their creators.
- Getty Open Content
- Library of Congress - Free to Use & Reuse Sets
  Featured items from the Library's digital collections that are either public domain or been cleared by the copyright owner for public use.
- Library of Congress Prints & Photographs
  Check information to see if the image you want is public domain.
- National Archives
- National Gallery of Art
  Click Open Access available to limit your search - not all images will be public domain.
- New York Public Library - Public Domain Collections
- Public Domain Sherpa
  Collection of websites with PD images. Note: there are lots of ads on this site.
- Wikipedia Public Domain Image Resources
  Wikipedia page of public domain image websites

Find more open images

Unsplash

Per their website: Over 6 million free high-resolution photos and illustrations - all images are free and "can be downloaded and used for personal or commercial projects."

CSIRO Science Image

Free collection of science and nature images (give attribution to CSIRO for all images)

Morguefile

Free photo archive with high quality images (no attribution needed)

Library of Congress: Free to Use and Reuse Sets

“These sets are just a small sample of the Library's digital collections that are free to use and reuse. Each set of content is based on a theme.”

New York Public Library Digital Collections

Massive collection featuring prints, photographs, maps, manuscripts (give attribution)

The Noun Project

Icons and graphics (give attribution)

Open WA

Go to the OpenWA repository, and explore the options under Open Images (A-Z). Note there are also open video and audio resources on this page.

Our World in Data

“All visualizations, data, and articles produced by Our World in Data are open access under the Creative Commons BY license. You have permission to use, distribute, and reproduce these in any medium, provided the source and authors are credited.”

Pexels

Free stock photos you can use anywhere (no attribution needed buy appreciated)

Pixabay

Free high quality photos, graphics, illustrations (some images require attribution)

Smart Servier

Collection of medical and biological sciences themed images (no attribution)

[Wikimedia Commons]

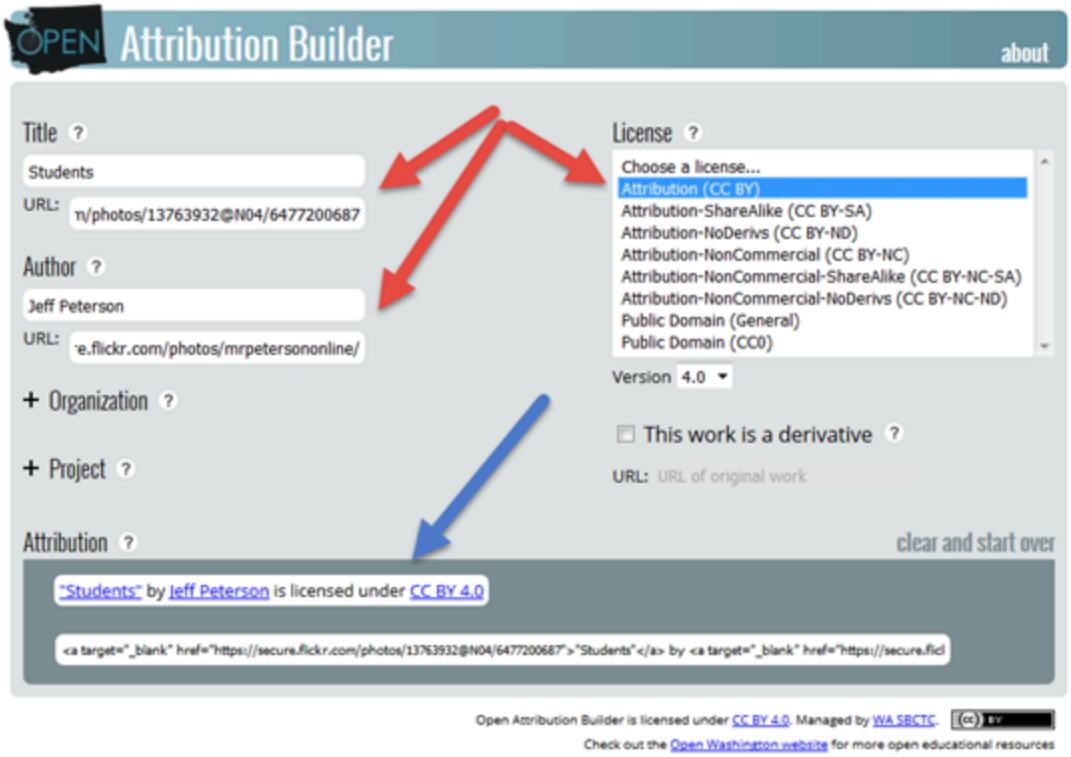
Huge collection of usable media files (some images require attribution)

How to attribute images to their creators

There is a tool to help you create attributions.

1. Go to [OpenWA] and click on Open Attribution Builder at the top right of the screen.

2. Locate the title, author, and license information of the image you are going to use and enter the relevant information into the Builder. The Builder will generate the attribution for you.



"Rays of Sunshine" by Daniel Ramirez is licensed under CC BY 2.0