

*Prepared by Melissa De Witte for UC Santa Cruz staff and faculty who use images on the web
(email mdewitte@ucsc.edu with any additions or questions)*

BE SURE TO READ THIS! UCOP's Frequently Asked Questions about copyright:
<http://copyright.universityofcalifornia.edu/faqs/index.html#a>

Resources

How to find free-to-use images on Google

<https://support.google.com/websearch/answer/29508?hl=en>

! Important Note - many of the images on Google are mostly aggregated from Wikimedia Commons and are by no means representative of the universe of free images available.

Creative Commons

<http://creativecommons.org/>

Creative Commons licenses provide a flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors, artists, and educators.

! Important Note - if you search Creative Commons [via Flickr](#), the SEARCH engine automatically resets when you search again - so with every new search, you have to make sure the "Creative Commons" boxes are ticked.

Wikimedia Commons

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

a database of [24,321,353 freely usable](#) media files to which [anyone can contribute](#)

Unsplash

<http://unsplash.com/>

[http://unsplash.com/archive#_ =](http://unsplash.com/archive#_=)

Free (do whatever you want) hi-resolution photos. 10 new photos every 10 days.

! Important Note: A lot of media folks know about this site, so I often see these images frequently used.

Pixabay

Free Pik

<http://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/fast-food-background>

You have to register and download for free their software.

Public Domain Project

<http://www.pond5.com/free>

About the project (via Open Culture): Thousands of historic media files completely free and made available by Pond5. The project includes digital models of NASA tools and satellites,

Georges Méliès' 1902 film, *A Trip To The Moon*, speeches by political figures like Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King, Jr., recordings of performances from composers like Beethoven, and [a laid-back picture of President Obama playing pool](#)

LACMA

<http://collections.lacma.org/>

The Met

<http://www.metmuseum.org/collection/the-collection-online>

<http://www.thisiscolossal.com/2014/05/metropolitan-museum-of-art-releases-400000-hi-res-images-into-the-public-domain/>

About the project (via This is Colossal): On 16 May 2014, Thomas P. Campbell, Director and CEO of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, announced that more than 400,000 images of public domain works in the Museum's world-renowned collection may be downloaded directly from the Museum's website for non-commercial use—including in scholarly publications in any media—without permission from the Museum and without a fee. The number of available images will increase as new digital files are added on a regular basis.

The British Library

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/britishlibrary>

From the BPL: "We have released over a million images onto Flickr Commons for anyone to use, remix and repurpose. These images were taken from the pages of 17th, 18th and 19th century books digitised by Microsoft who then generously gifted the scanned images to us, allowing us to release them back into the Public Domain. The images themselves cover a startling mix of subjects: There are maps, geological diagrams, beautiful illustrations, comical satire, illuminated and decorative letters, colourful illustrations, landscapes, wall-paintings and so much more that even we are not aware of."

The Getty

<http://search.getty.edu/gateway/search?q=&cat=highlight&f=%22Open+Content+Images%22&rows=10&srt=a&dir=s&pg=1>

About the project (via Open Culture): Mostly historical images are available in the Getty Open Content program — now 87,000 in total — can be downloaded and used without charge or permission, regardless of whether you're a scholar, artist, art lover or entrepreneur. The Getty only asks that you give them attribution.

Internet Book Archive

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/with/14784850762/>

www.bbc.com/news/technology-28976849

About the project, via the BBC: "Kalev Leetaru has [already uploaded 2.6 million pictures](#) to Flickr, which are searchable thanks to tags that have been automatically added. The photos and drawings are sourced from more than 600 million library book pages scanned in by the Internet Archive organisation.

The images have been difficult to access until now.

Mr Leetaru said digitisation projects had so far focused on words and ignored pictures”.

New York Public Library

<https://www.nypl.org/research/collections/digital-collections/public-domain?hspace=331354>

About the image library, via the NPL: “Digital Collections contains [708,100 items](#) and counting. While that's a small fraction of the New York Public Library's overall holdings, the aim of Digital Collections is to provide context for the materials we have digitized and to inspire people to use and reuse the media and data on offer here to advance knowledge and create new works. Spanning a wide range of historical eras, geography, and media, NYPL Digital Collections offers drawings, illuminated manuscripts, maps, photographs, posters, prints, rare illustrated books, videos, audio, and more. Encompassing the subject strengths of the vast collections of The Library, these materials represent the applied sciences, fine and decorative arts, history, performing arts, and social sciences. You can [search](#) if you have something in mind, or you can start browsing directly in a number of ways:

- [Items](#)
- [Collections](#)
- [Divisions](#)

For a more extensive user guide and primer to Digital Collections, please see our blog post, ["NYPL Digital Collections Platform: An Introduction."](#)

Gratis Photography

<http://www.gratisography.com>

! Important Note - many of these are humorous and artistic photoshopped images, so might not be appropriate for an academic website or material.

About Gratis: “Free high-resolution pictures you can use on your personal and commercial projects. Click on an image to download the high-resolution version. New awesome pictures added weekly! All pictures were photographed by Ryan McGuire and free of [copyright restrictions](#).”

Other lists:

- <http://despreneur.com/15-best-free-stock-photo-websites/>

Other resources:

Open culture

<http://www.openculture.com/>

Tip: they have a great newsletter which is how I found out about many of the resources listed above.

From their website: Open Culture brings together high-quality cultural & educational media for the worldwide lifelong learning community. Web 2.0 has given us great amounts of intelligent audio and video. It's all free. It's all enriching. But it's also scattered across the web, and not

easy to find. Our whole mission is to centralize this content, curate it, and give you access to this high quality content whenever and wherever you want it. Some of our major resource collections include:

- [950 Free Online Courses from Top Universities](#)
- [675 Free Movies Online: Great Classics, Indies, Noir, Westerns, etc.](#)
- [550 Free Audio Books: Download Great Books for Free](#)
- [600 Free eBooks for iPad, Kindle & Other Devices](#)
- [MOOCs from Great Universities \(Many With Certificates\)](#)
- [Learn 46 Languages Online for Free: Spanish, Chinese, English & More](#)
- [200 Free Kids Educational Resources: Video Lessons, Apps, Books, Websites & More](#)

Free culture

<http://free-culture.cc>

Larry Lessig's site. Lessig is an academic champion and leader in the free culture movement.