

OpenStreetMap Attribution Guideline

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*Snapshot of the document on 2019-06-13 - any future updates will not be reflected here.
To be linked from the LWG minutes only.*

Introduction

OpenStreetMap data is distributed on the terms of the ODbL 1.0. The ODbL differentiates between derivatives of the licenced database that themselves are databases (Derivative Databases and Collectives Databases) and such that are not, so called Produced Works. In the domain of OpenStreetMap the typical Produced Work is a map image created from OSM data.

In the case of Derivative and Collective Databases the ODbL requires that attribution be made available together with the database including a copy of the licence or an appropriate URL pointing to it, in our experience this is largely unproblematic and has not led to conflicts in the past.

In the case of a Produced Work, the ODbL (4.3) states:

However, if you Publicly Use a Produced Work, You must include a notice associated with the Produced Work reasonably calculated to make any Person that uses, views, accesses, interacts with, or is otherwise exposed to the Produced Work aware that Content was obtained from the Database, Derivative Database, or the Database as part of a Collective Database, and that it is available under this License.

As Produced Works tend to be the end user facing, final product, providing attribution that fulfills our requirements will conflict with the interest of the publisher to garner as much attention as possible and as a result, missing or insufficient attribution tends to be frequent.

Historically guidance on sufficient attribution has been available from the “Copyright” page on openstreetmap.org (<https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>) and from the OSMF website ([Licence and Legal FAQ](#)) . Most of the existing guidance dates back to 2012 and was written before or around the change of the OSM licence to the ODbL and while there have been relevant discussions and rulings by the OSMF LWG (Licence Working Group) since then, there is no easy way to find it in one document.

This documents intends to provide all current attribution guidance in one place and cover use cases that have changed or didn't exist in 2012. It will concentrate on attribution of Produced Works as, as already noted, that tends to cause most conflict.

Attribution requirements

We can derive a number of secondary requirements from the base requirement

“...reasonably calculated to make any Person that uses, views, accesses, interacts with, or is otherwise exposed to the Produced Work aware that Content was obtained from the ...”

- The attribution needs to be placed in the vicinity of the produced work, or in a location where customarily attribution would be expected (for example in the case of a pannable map, google has made the lower right corner popular and the expected location for attribution, that is where it should be located)..
- It needs to be legible (font size, colour, positioning and amount of time that it is visible)
- It needs to be non-confusing. If other attribution, logos or text creates the impression the contents originate from a third party, it is obvious that it is not *“...reasonably calculated ...”*. Example a large google logo is not acceptable on a mainly OpenStreetMap derived map image.
- There needs to be a way to access more information, that is at least: origin and licence of the data, if it can't be directly associated with the attribution text (for example by making the text a clickable link).

These and the following guidance are minimal requirements, you are always permitted to provide better and more prominent attribution. We are not asking for anything unreasonable or uncustomary, please compare to googles attribution guidelines for similar content

<https://www.google.com/permissions/geoguidelines/attr-guide/> .

Attribution text

Our requested attribution is "© OpenStreetMap contributors".

You must make it clear that the data is available under the Open Database Licence. This can be achieved by providing a "License" or "Terms" link which links to

www.openstreetmap.org/copyright or www.opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl.

We ask that you hyperlink the attribution to www.openstreetmap.org where possible.

Because OpenStreetMap *is* its contributors, you may omit the word "contributors" if space is limited.

You should qualify the credit to explain what OSM content you are using. For example, if you have rendered OSM data to your own design, you may wish to use "Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors".

Attribution of multiple data sources

Often multiple sources will be utilized to create a Produced Work this can cause contention for the available, easily visible, space.

If OpenStreetMap data is being used or not based on location, we prefer to only be attributed for those areas that actually contain OpenStreetMap data, and we would suggest to technically solve this by changing attribution based on the location viewed.

If OpenStreetMap data accounts for a minor part of the visible map rendering, attribution with other sources on a separate page that is visible after user interaction is acceptable. Background base maps produced from OpenStreetMap data, the road and rail network are always considered to require visible attribution.

Specific guidance

Pannable and zoomable maps on websites

For a browsable map (e.g. embedded in a web page or mobile phone application), the credit should typically appear in the corner of the map, as commonly seen with map APIs/libraries such as Google Maps.

Outside of the exceptions for small screen devices, attribution must be visible without requiring the user to click on an icon or similar. It is permissible to use a mechanism to collapse the attribution as long as it is initially fully visible. Any other text or logos visible on the map image should not confuse the user on the origin of the (for example you should not display a large google logo on the map if there is no content from google present).

Static images

Static images covering more than 10'000 m² need to provide on image attribution as above, smaller images can be attributed in the page footer or via a splash page.

Mobile devices

Modern mobile devices with a horizontal screen resolution of more than 480 pixels should provide attribution as on a webpage. If the attribution cannot be used as a link to the licence information you must provide this information on an easily located page in the application.

Devices with smaller screens, for example 1st generation smart phones can provide collapsed attribution if accompanied by attribution on a splash screen on application startup. The text on the splash screen must be easily legible and visible for at least 5 seconds.

Wearable devices

Wearable devices with very small screens, for example smartwatches and fitness trackers should provide attribution on a splash screen on application startup. The text on the splash screen must be easily legible and visible for at least 5 seconds.

Geocoding - Search

- Geocoders that use OpenStreetMap data must credit OpenStreetMap
- Applications that incorporate a geocoder must credit OpenStreetMap
- A geocoded database need not maintain attribution attached to the database, provided it is not a Derivative Database

See the [Geocoding - Guideline](#) for details.

Machine learning models

Training datasets derived from OpenStreetMap data are considered Derivative Databases and need to be made available on ODbL terms if publicly used. Models that have been trained with such training sets are considered Produced Works and if publicly used need to be attributed appropriately. Note that if a Produced Work is used to extract, copy or recreate substantial parts of the OpenStreetMap data it is considered to be a Derivative Database (see the [Produced Work - Guideline](#))

Books, magazines and printed maps

For a printed map and similar media (that is ebooks, PDFs and so on), the credit should appear beside the map if that is where other such credits appear, or in a footnote/endnote if that is where other credits appear and/or in the "acknowledgements" section of the publication (often at the start of a book or magazine).

Artwork

Artwork using OpenStreetMap data should provide attribution on any packaging and at the point of sale.

Clothing

Clothing and similar merchandise should provide attribution with the suggested attribution text in the vicinity of the image, the text should be at least 10 mm high.

Tv, film or video productions

For fictional productions or where the map is on-screen for less than [60 seconds], attribution may be given either in end credits or on the map. For incidental footage of a third party map that uses OSM as a source, you should not digitally alter or crop out the existing attribution

on that map, but you do not need to do anything further (for example, if you film a person typing on their laptop and a map is visible on their laptop screen).

If the production is reviewing, introducing or presenting products or services that are based on or utilize OpenStreetMap, or is utilizing the map in factual reporting, the attribution should typically appear in a corner of the map. As long as the credit is on screen long enough to be read, it does not have to remain in view during panning or zooming.

Computer games and simulations

For video or computer games, attribution can be provided by a splash screen on application startup or in the game view. Detailed information should be provided on the credits page or in another suitable location.

Attribution text on a splash screen must be easily legible and visible for at least 5 seconds.

“Standard” style map tiles

If you are using map tiles supplied by us, you must also make it clear that the tiles are available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 licence. This may also be fulfilled by linking to www.openstreetmap.org/copyright.

Note that this only applies to the map images in the “standard” style. Other providers of maps will have other requirements.