

# Copyright and Your Thesis

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Copyright Coordinator  
University Library  
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306-966-8817**



# Presentation Overview

- How do I know if I can use this image in my thesis?
- Finding openly-licensed images to use in your thesis
- I'm doing a manuscript-style thesis. What do I need to know about copyright?
- How do I get permission or a license to use an image or text in my thesis?
- Copyright considerations for publishing your thesis

**Disclaimer: This presentation is informational only and does not constitute legal advice.**



# What is Copyright (©)?

- **Copyright** is the legal “right to copy” and distribute copies
- This right belongs to the **copyright owner**
  - First the creator, sometimes a publisher/producer
- What kinds of materials are protected by copyright?
  - Anything written down or recorded (“fixed”) that is original/creative & complex enough 😊
  - E.g., books, articles, movies, sound recordings, photos, drawings, paintings, sheet music, most things on internet
- Often when talking about copyright, these materials are generally referred to as **works**



# How do I know if I can use this image in my thesis?



Image retrieved from <https://pixabay.com/en/writing-write-person-paperwork-828911/>



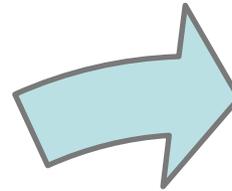
# How do I know if I can use this image in my thesis?

1. Is this image copyright protected?
2. What “terms of use” or “license terms” are attached to the image?
3. Who is the copyright owner of the image?

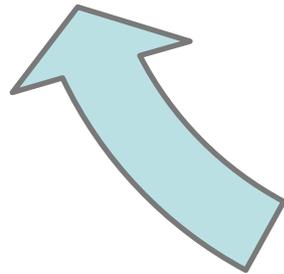


# How do I know if I can use this image in my thesis?

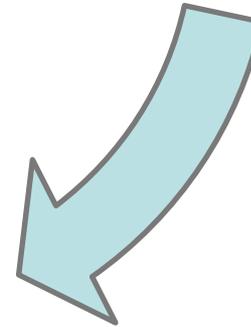
Is this image  
copyright  
protected?



What “terms of  
use” or “license  
terms” are  
attached to the  
image?



Who is the  
copyright  
owner of the  
image?





# Figuring out if an image is copyright-protected

- Publically Available  $\neq$  Public Domain (Copyright-Free)
  - Most of what's openly available online is still protected by copyright, just like an image in a journal article or book
- In Canada, an image is in the Public Domain if:
  - It is a photograph taken before 1949
  - The creator(s) have passed away over 50 years ago
  - Some US Federal Government materials are copyright-free
  - Some creators waive copyright protection
  - For additional details, check out the “Photographs” or “Literary, Dramatic, Musical or Artistic Works” section of this [Canadian Public Domain Flowchart](#) from U of Alberta



How do we know what “terms of use” or “license terms” are attached to a ©-ed image?

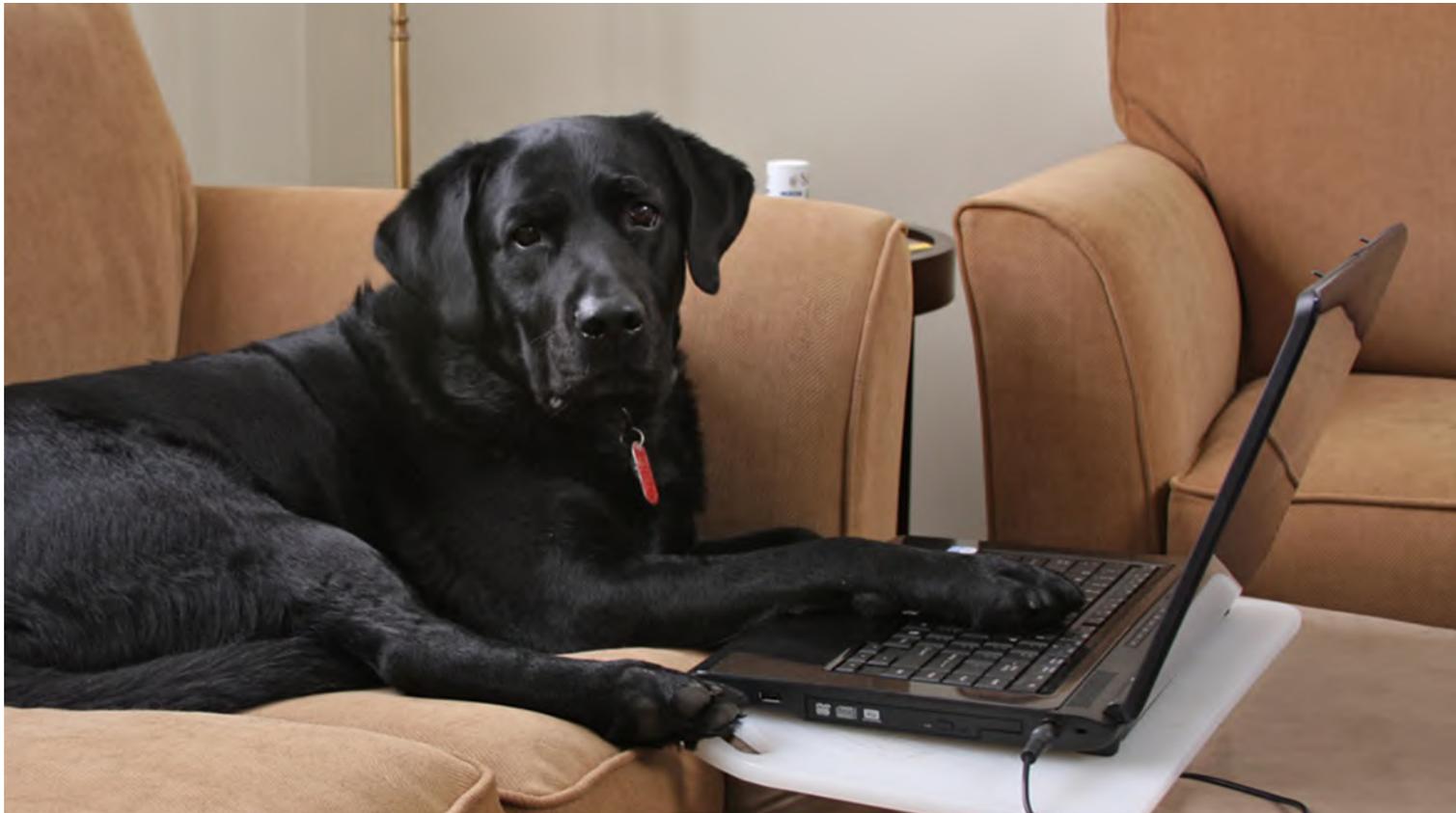


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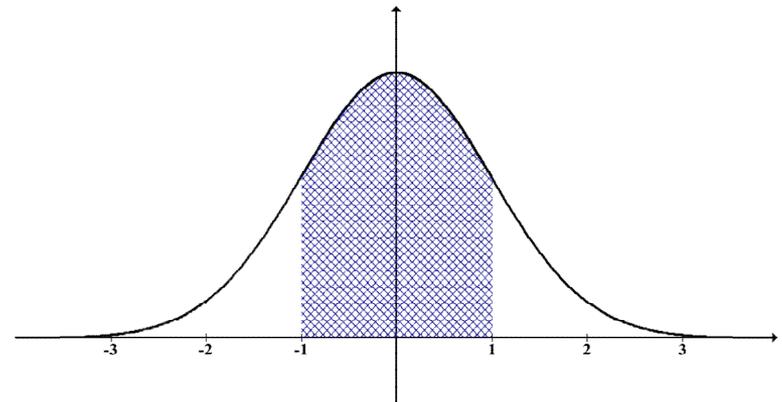
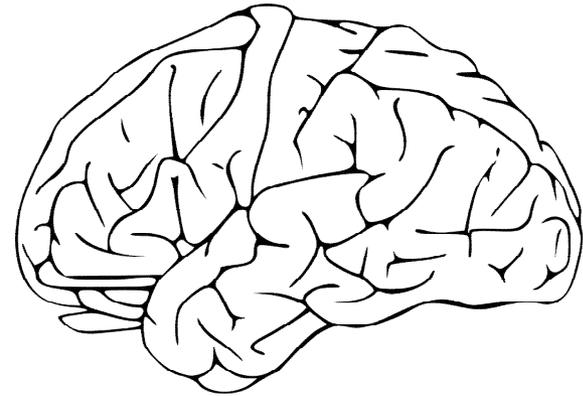
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**NOTE:** The above table may not be accurate for every single image from the sources listed, but can be taken as general guidance for using an image in a USask thesis. All images used must be properly cited.



# “Re-drawing” Someone’s Image

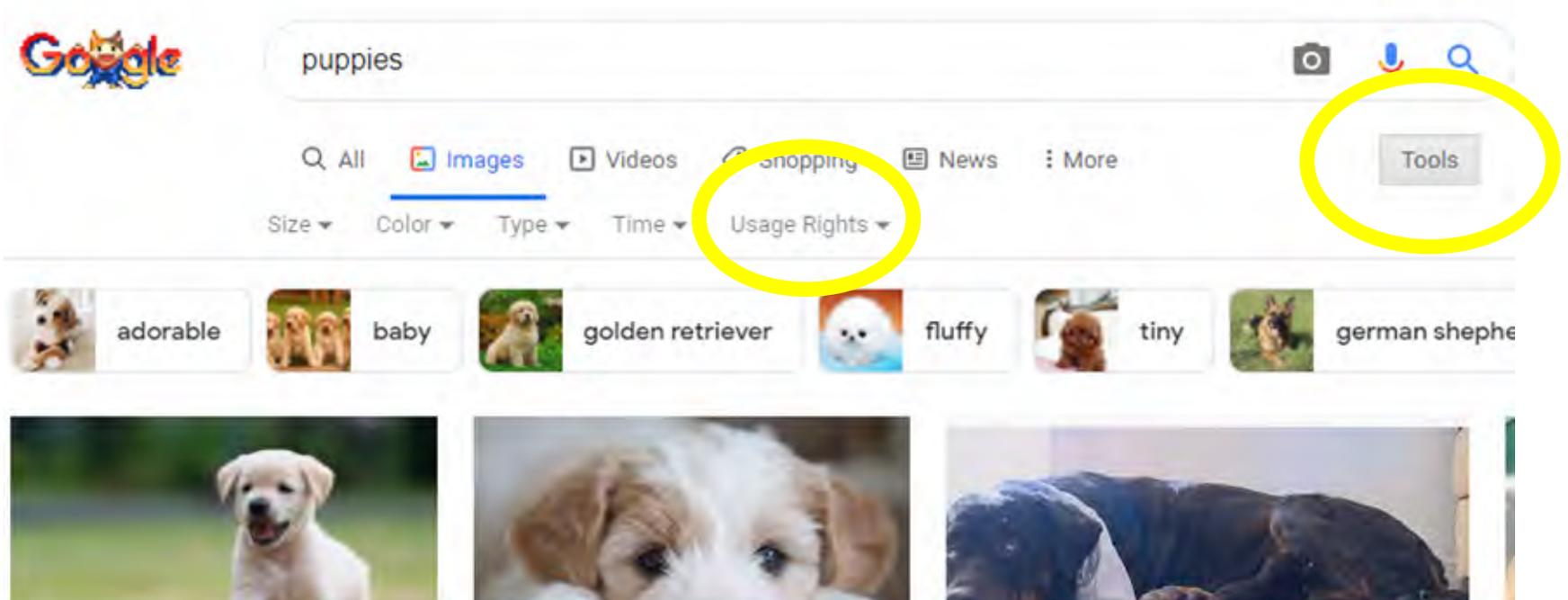
- Question: Can I re-draw an existing image and use it in my thesis without permission from the copyright owner?
- An image has to reach thresholds of originality and creativity in order to be copyright protected





# Finding Openly-Licensed Images

1) How to filter Google Image search for openly-licensed images: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS5gfZG0b8o>



- Click "Usage Rights" and select "Creative Commons licenses"



# Finding Openly-Licensed Images

1) How to filter Google Image search for openly-licensed images: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS5gfZG0b8o>

2) Creative Commons (CC) Search:  
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# Finding Openly-Licensed Images

1) How to filter Google Image search for openly-licensed images: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IS5gfZG0b8o>

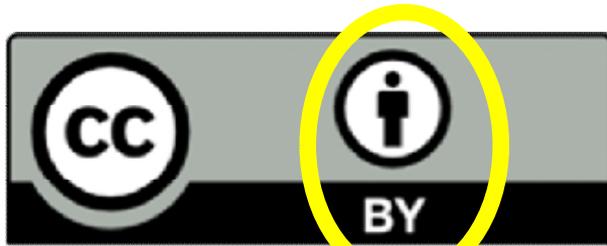
2) Creative Commons (CC) Search:  
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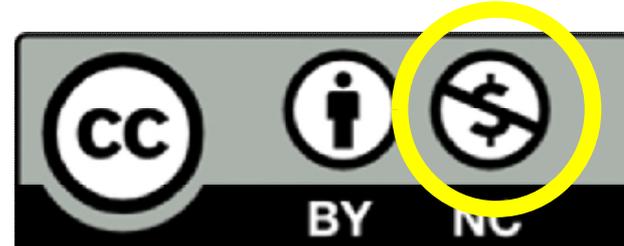
4) Openly-Licensed Image Resources (from UBC):  
<https://copyright.ubc.ca/image-sources/>



# Finding Openly-Licensed Images: Creative Commons



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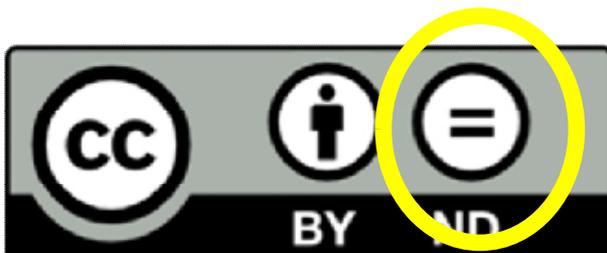
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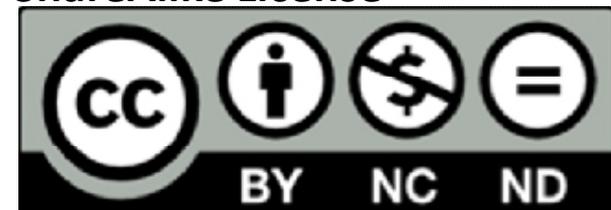
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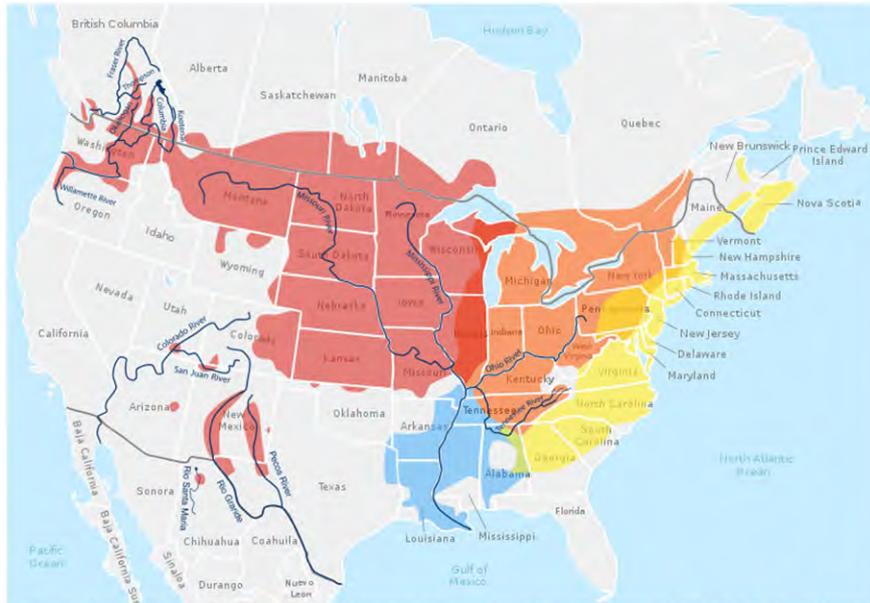
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- Welcome
- Community portal
- Village pump
- Help center
- Language select
- English
- Participate
- Upload file
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- Random file
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- Tools
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File Discussion

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## Mechanical Properties of Enamel Nanocomposite

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- Quote from

<https://students.usask.ca/graduate/manuscript-style.php>



# I'm doing a manuscript-style thesis.

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- Ensure that they know of any modifications you will make to the article/excerpt when it is included in your thesis.
- There may be a copyright license fee for including the article/excerpt in your thesis, but this is quite rare (and would not be the case for any article/excerpt that is openly-licensed, e.g., has a Creative Commons license).
- Include a statement that the article/excerpt was used “under license” or “with permission” from the copyright owner(s).
- Include any copyright permissions/licenses you receive as appendices in your thesis.



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I'm doing a manuscript-style thesis.  
What do I need to know about copyright?

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[https://library.usask.ca/copyright/students/thesis\\_FAQ.php](https://library.usask.ca/copyright/students/thesis_FAQ.php)

and

<https://students.usask.ca/graduate/manuscript-style.php>



# How do I get copyright permission?

1. Start early
2. Determine the copyright holder (creator or publisher)
3. Search the Copyright Clearance Center ([www.marketplace.copyright.com](http://www.marketplace.copyright.com)) for the work, or contact the copyright holder in writing and provide info about how you would like to use the image/work
4. Always **keep written proof of permission** for your files
5. Include a permission statement along with the citation for the image/work in your final thesis. **For example, “Used with permission from [Publisher/Creator Name].”**



# What if I don't receive permission (in time)?

- Remove image/work from thesis before it is submitted to HARVEST
- In place of image, include a copyright statement, image description and full citation for the image
- Example: **“Figure 3 has been removed due to copyright restrictions. It was a diagram of the apparatus used in performing the experiment, showing the changes made by the investigating team. Original source: Wu, G. and Thompson, J.R. (2008) Effect of Ketone Bodies on Dairy Cattle. Biochem J. 255:139-144.”**



# Publishing Your Thesis: Your Rights as a Content Creator

- You are the sole copyright holder of what you create unless:
  1. You assign copyright to another entity
  2. Created the work for your job
  3. You created the work with others
  
- You are the copyright owner/holder of your thesis and, therefore, can publish it (e.g., in a book, as a journal article, etc.). However...



# Publishing Your Thesis

- Can I use text from my thesis in a journal article that I'd like to publish without re-writing/re-wording the text?
  - Likely depends on the publisher or journal
  - “Has this work been published elsewhere?”
  - Most important thing: to be upfront and honest, preserve your academic integrity
  - In many cases, it may be required to mostly re-write (and not necessarily because of copyright)



# Publishing Your Thesis

- In other cases, maybe just need to include a statement like “This was first published as a thesis on the University of Saskatchewan institutional repository, HARVEST [& link to thesis].”
- Ask your thesis advisor, consult the journal, consult your style guide (APA, MLA, etc.), **cite yourself**
- REMINDER: If you use someone else’s copyright-protected materials in an academic publication (e.g., journal article, book), you should likely acquire permission for using it from the copyright owner.



# Contact Information:

**Kate Langrell**

**(306) 966-8817**

**[copyright.help@usask.ca](mailto:copyright.help@usask.ca)**

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