

How to Choose Rights Statements & Creative Commons Licenses

Overview

Welcome to rights statements and creative commons licenses! For an overview of what rights statements and creative commons licenses are, as well as when to use them, please consult the following definitions and links:

- [Standardized Rights Statements in Digital Collections](#)
- [RightsStatements.org: Rights Statements Overview](#)
- [Rights Statements FAQ: For Cultural Heritage Institutions](#)
- [Creative Commons: Creative Commons Licenses Overview](#)
- [UBC Copyright: Creative Commons Guide](#)
- [A Canadian Museum's Guide to Developing a Digital Licensing Agreement Strategy](#)
- [Copyright Considerations \(in this document\)](#)

[How Do Rights Statements Differ from Creative Commons Licenses?](#)

“The RightsStatements.org rights statements have been developed for cultural heritage institutions to provide information about the rights status of works in their collections in situations where the Creative Commons licenses and other legal tools cannot be used. Where the Creative Commons licenses have been designed with creators in mind that want to license some of the works that they want to make public, our rights statements simply describe the copyright and re-use status of the works they are applied to. As a result the Creative Commons licenses can be used by creators to license their works while the RightsStatements.org statements are not suitable for this purpose.”

Copyright and Not in Copyright

For assistance with deciding whether or not material is in copyright, consult this [BCHDP Support Service Guide](#).

Once you have decided if the material is in copyright or not, you can decide how to apply rights statements according to the following:

If the Material is in Copyright:

- [Rights statements for in copyright objects](#)

If the Material is Not in Copyright:

- [Rights statements for objects that are not in copyright](#)