

Image property rights

Images are data and, as such, they are governed by the [Reglamento General de Protección de Datos \(RGPD\)](#).

All images are copyrighted and therefore also protected by copyright law [Ley de Propiedad Intelectual](#).

If we use images without permission, there may be financial or even legal consequences.

Use of images

Images can be used if:

- You are the copyright holder.
- The images belong to the public domain ([dominio público](#)).
- Permission has been sought from the rights holders and has been granted.
- The intended use is bound by a limit or exception to copyright. For example: the citation right ([derecho de citación](#)).
- There is a licence that allows you to make the use that interests you. For example: [Creative Commons](#)

It will also be necessary to assess whether other rights such as the rights to image, privacy and personal honour may be affected.

Citation right

The Copyright Law allows the reproduction of images made by others in one's own work, as long as they are images:

- For teaching or research purposes
- Already disclosed (by those entitled to do so)
- That the authorship and source are cited
- Included as a citation, for analysis, commentary or critical judgement (not for ornamental purposes)

Creative Commons (CC)

[Creative Commons](#) is an American non-profit organisation founded in 2001 that promotes the reuse of creative works. The aim is to facilitate the dissemination of scientific and artistic creations while respecting copyright (trying to maintain a balance between the interests of authors and users).

How to find Creative Commons licensed images

With the [CC Search](#) function you can find images with a Creative Commons licence. Once the image has been found, the search engine itself indicates the use that can be made of it and how to cite it.

If you want to make commercial use of the images or modify them, it is necessary to check the corresponding option in the search engine, otherwise you only have to enter the search term.

Some of the resources allow the use of the images without any kind of acknowledgement. However, whenever possible, **we recommend indicating the authorship and the source** from which the images were taken.

Where can I find free-to-use images?

An alternative is to use [royalty-free image banks](#) because, in this case, the authorship has been explicitly granted under certain conditions.

Some image repositories:

- [Wikimedia Commons](#), where all images have a generic CC by-nc-sa or other less restrictive licence.
- [Flickr](#) allows you to find, from the [advanced search](#), images that have Creative Commons licences. Flickr makes it easy to request permission to use copyrighted images ([Getty images](#)).
 - [Patrimoni.gencat](#), among other Catalan institutions, have collections of photographs on Flickr, with Creative Commons licences.
- [Banco de imágenes de INTEF](#) allows non-commercial educational use.
- [Open ClipArt](#), icons that belong to the public domain and can therefore be used freely.

Google also has an [advanced search system](#) that allows you to restrict your search to documents, websites and images that have specified licences that allow their use without having to request permission.

Remember that, although free use is permitted, it is necessary to cite the source and the name of the author of the image, even for educational use.

More information:

- [Fotos, iconos y vídeos gratis para usar en proyectos personales y comerciales](#)
- [50 bancos de imágenes para encontrar fotos gratis](#)
- [10 sitios web en los cuales descargar imágenes libres o de dominio público](#)

- [Repositorios de imágenes para publicar digitalmente](#) (Gencat).

Image use guidelines

- [Can I use that picture? The terms, laws, and ethics for using copyrighted images](#)
- [Copyright of internet images and what does the copyright symbol mean?](#)
- [Open access images](#)
- [Guidelines for the creation and publication of audio-visual material in universities](#): a guide for students addressed to university libraries in their student orientation work. Line 2 Working Group REBIUN, OCTOBER 2017
- [Audiovisual Resources and Copyright, Authonomous University of Barcelona \(UAB\)](#)