

**Standardized  
Rights  
Statements in  
Digital  
Collections**

# Overview

- Brief overview of copyright
- What is a rights statement?
- What can/cannot be included in a rights statement?
- Using [RightsStatements.org](https://RightsStatements.org)

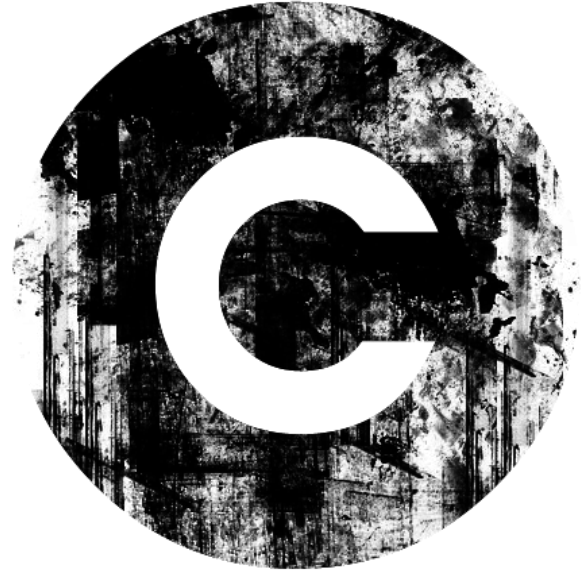


What is copyright?

# What is copyright?

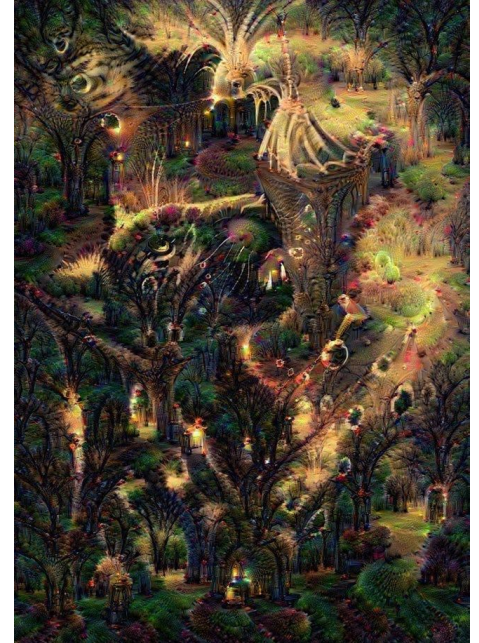
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--U.S. Copyright Office



# Copyright requirements

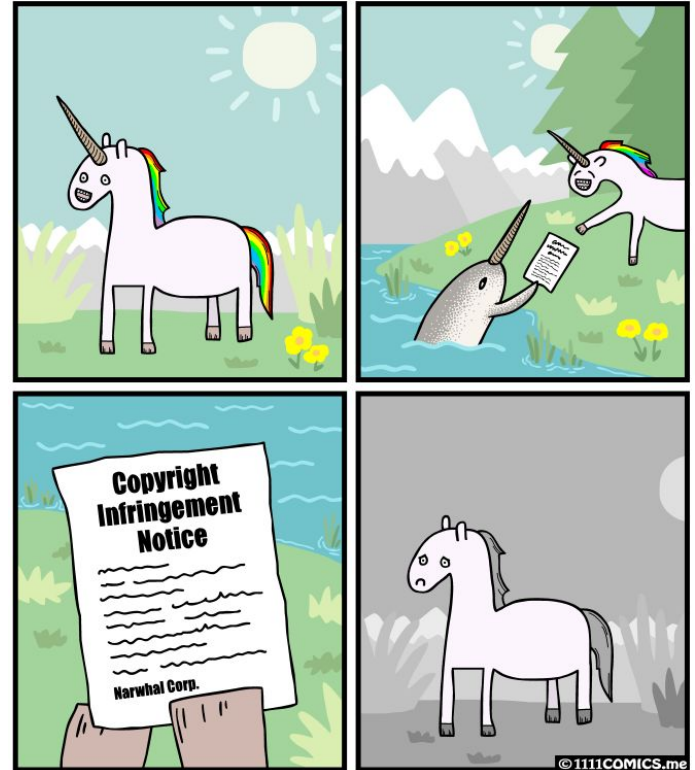
- Must be tangible
- Must be a work of human authorship
  - Animals don't count
  - Computers don't count
- Must be original
  - Does not include copying



# What does that all mean?

Rights that govern the use and distribution of a work

- The right to reproduce a work
- The right to distribute the work
- The right to create derivative works
- The right to publicly display or perform works



# Useful Tools for Determining Copyright



## Copyright Term and the Public Domain in the United States

(See footnote 1)

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### Never Published, Never Registered Works<sup>2</sup>

Type of Work	Copyright Term	In the public domain in the U.S. as of 1 January 2018 <sup>3</sup>
Unpublished works	Life of the author + 70 years	Works from authors who died before 1948
Unpublished anonymous and pseudonymous works, and works made for hire (corporate authorship)	120 years from date of creation	Works created before 1898
Unpublished works when the death date of the author is not known <sup>4</sup>	120 years from date of creation <sup>5</sup>	Works created before 1898 <sup>5</sup>

### Works Registered or First Published in the U.S.

Date of Publication <sup>6</sup>	Conditions <sup>7</sup>	Copyright Term <sup>8</sup>
Before 1923	None	None. In the public domain due to copyright expiration
1923 through 1977	Published without a copyright notice	None. In the public domain due to failure to comply with required formalities
1978 to 1 March 1989	Published without notice, and without subsequent registration within 5 years	None. In the public domain due to failure to comply with required formalities
1978 to 1 March 1989	Published without notice, but with subsequent registration within 5 years	70 years after the death of author. If a work of corporate authorship, 95 years from publication or 120 years from creation, whichever expires first
1923 through 1963	Published with notice but copyright was not renewed <sup>9</sup>	None. In the public domain due to copyright expiration
1923 through 1963	Published with notice and the copyright was renewed <sup>9</sup>	95 years after publication date
1964 through	Published with notice	95 years after publication date

What are rights statements?



# What are rights statements?

- Rights statements define what actions a user can take when interacting with a digital object
  - How can a user reuse the object?
  - What do they have to ask permission to do?
- Describe the rights status

# Rights Statements versus Licenses



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**Adapt** — remix, transform, and build upon the material

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# What should be in the <rights> field?

- Description of whether something is in copyright
- Description of the other rights held in and over an item
- Description of the rights holder

# What can be in the <rights> field?

- URI, uniform resource identifier
- A free-text statement

# Good rights statements

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- <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/> (*Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International*)
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# Zouave Cadets Quickstep: Dedicated to the U.S. Zouave Cadets Governors Guard of Illinois

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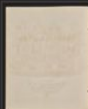
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

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2 3



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Rights Statement	IN COPYRIGHT - EDUCATIONAL USE PERMITTED
Type	Map

# What shouldn't be in the <rights> field?

- Contact information only
- Donor or funding information only
- Vague language
- Inaccurate information

# What can't be in the <rights> field?


- URLs


# Not rights statements

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- Joel Christensen
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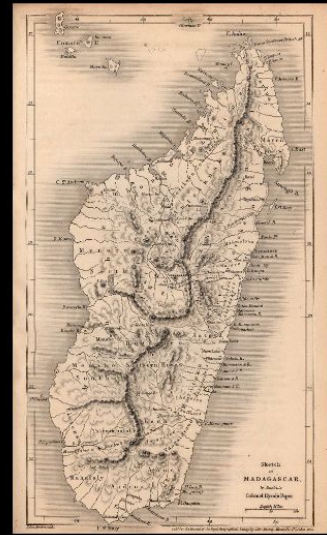


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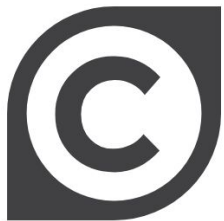
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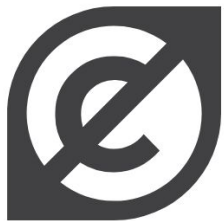
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copyright*

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copyright*

OTHER



*Statements for works where the  
copyright status is unclear*

Using  
RightsStatements.org  
in Digital Collections

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# RightsStatements.org: Who

- Joint initiative between Europeana and DPLA, and several others
- Two working groups
  - International Rights Statements Working Group
  - Technical Working Group
- Global approach to rights statements
- Went live April 2016



# RightsStatements.org: What

- URI-based rights statements
  - <http://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0>
- Controlled vocabulary for rights
  - 12 statements to choose from
- 3 categories of statements
  - In Copyright
  - Not in Copyright
  - Other

# RightsStatements.org: Why

- Standardizes the language used in collections
- Users understand how they can use the material
- Human readable AND machine readable



# Three Categories of Rights Statements

IN COPYRIGHT



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NO COPYRIGHT



*Statements for works that are not in  
copyright*

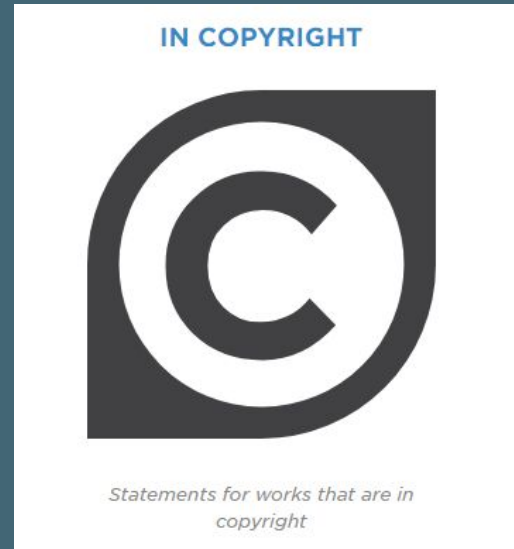
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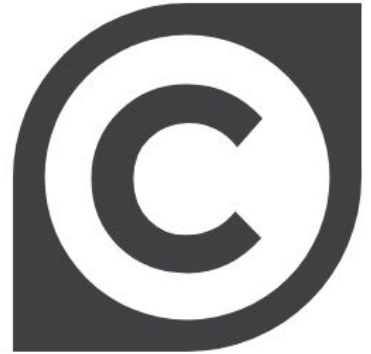
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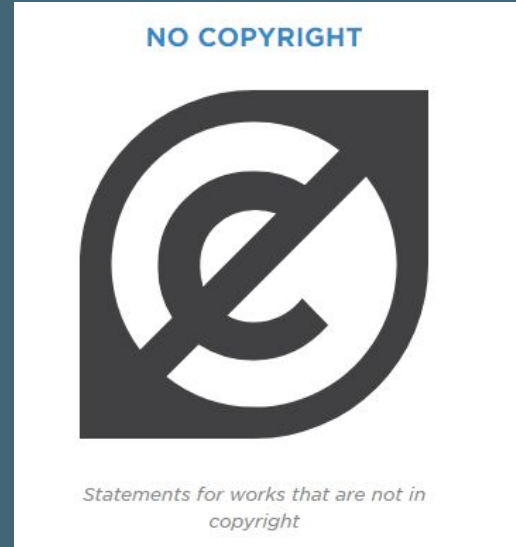
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Creator Elliott, A.B.

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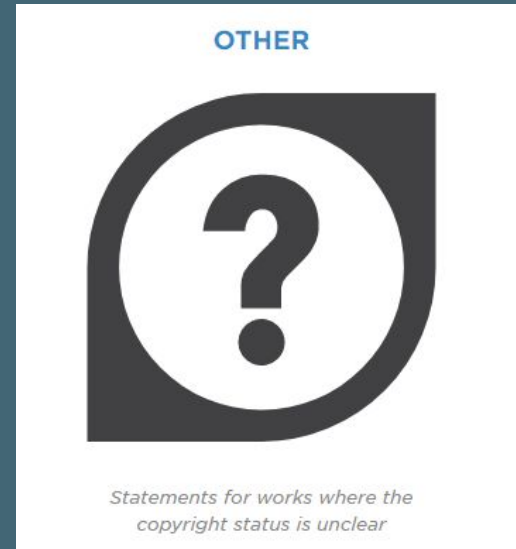
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# Review

- What is copyright?
- What is a rights statement?
- What can/cannot be included in a rights statement?
- Using [RightsStatements.org](https://RightsStatements.org)





# Questions?

Hannah Stitzlein

[hannahes@illinois.edu](mailto:hannahes@illinois.edu)

# Resources

RightsStatements.org

<http://rightsstatements.org/en/>

Copyright Term and the Public Domain Chart

<https://copyright.cornell.edu/publicdomain>

Copyright Issues Relevant to the Creation of a Digital Archive: A Preliminary Assessment

<https://www.clir.org/pubs/reports/pub112/body/>