



CEHURD
social justice in health

FACTSHEET

What is Creative Commons (CC)?

Creative Commons is a nonprofit organization founded in the United States of America to enable people to share and give permission for use of their creativity and knowledge through free legal tools.

What are these 'free legal tools'?

These free legal tools are referred to as Creative Commons Licences (CC Licences). The Licences are easy-to-use copyright licenses and give one a simple, standardized way to give the public permission to share and use their creative work — on conditions of their choice. CC licenses let you easily change your copyright terms from the usual "all rights reserved" copyright terms to "some rights reserved."

It should however be noted that Creative Commons licenses are not a substitute of copyright. They work beside copyright and make it easy for one to modify their copyright conditions to best suit their needs.

Who should use a Creative Commons Licence?

Anyone who takes a picture, writes a book, a song, poem, uses the internet to create content can use CC licences to give people the right to share, use, and even build upon a work they have created. The idea of CC licencing was birthed from the notion that copyright was created long before the birth of the internet and as such can make it hard to perform actions such as copying, editing, and posting to the web. Copyright law necessitates that one gets express permission before they can do some of those actions.

CC Licences came in to create a balance between the reality of the internet and the reality of copyright law so as to achieve universal access to creative and innovative content on the internet.

Are these licences applicable in Uganda?

Absolutely! The licences can be used in Uganda. In December 2012, CC Uganda Affiliates launched the 3.0 version of CC licences. These licences were drafted to suit the Ugandan legal environment by Ugandan legal experts in Uganda's copyright law Environment.

They can be used locally by artists, individuals or institutions such as Major media and technology companies, leading universities, top scientists, and most importantly, "regular" people to help increase the depth, breadth, and quality of creativity that is available to everyone for free and legal use.

Creative Commons Licenses

1. Attribution



CC BY: This license lets others distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered.

2. Attribution-ShareAlike



CC BY-SA: This license is often compared to "copyleft" free and open source software licenses and it lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.

3. Attribution-NoDerivs



CC BY-ND: This license allows for redistribution, commercial and non-commercial, as long as it is passed along unchanged and in whole, with credit to the creator or innovator.

4. Attribution-NonCommercial



CC BY-NC: This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don't have to license their derivative works on the same terms.

5. Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike



CC BY-NC-SA: This license lets others remix, tweak, and build upon your work non-commercially, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under the identical terms.

6. Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs



CC BY-NC-ND: This license is the most restrictive of our six main licenses, only allowing others to download your works and share them with others as long as they credit you, but they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.



The Licences are key tools in enabling Uganda achieve universal access to knowledge goods such as access to information for health, education or literacy. This is because the producers of knowledge goods, who are mostly advanced economies, are increasingly expanding an intellectual property rights (IPRs) regime that poses current and potential deterrents to access to research, education materials, and health information in poor countries.

How can Ugandans make use of these CC Licences?

Ugandans creating online content and/or willing to share and freely allow their work to be developed upon can go to <http://creativecommons.org/choose/>, follow the simple steps there to acquiring a Licence most appropriate for their work.

It should however be noted that CC licenses operate only where copyright, and particular database rights, or other rights closely related to copyright come into play. They ought to not be applied to material in the public domain.

Are these Licences for sale?

No they are not. They are totally free for everyone and anyone to use.

Do I need a lawyer to help me apply the licences to my work?

No you don't. The licences are created in a three "Layer" design i.e Machine Readable, Human Readable and the Legal Code. Each license begins as a traditional legal tool, in the kind of language and text formats that most lawyers know and love. This is the Legal Code layer of each license.

But since most creators, educators, and scientists are not in fact lawyers, the licenses are availed in a format that ordinary people can read — the Commons Deed (also known as the "human readable" version of the license). The Commons Deed is a helpful reference for licensors and licensees, summarizing and expressing some of the most important terms and conditions in a simple way.

The final layer of the license design identifies software, from search engines to office productivity to music editing, and plays a big role in the creation, copying, discovery, and distribution of works.

What are the different Licences Available?

There are six Creative Commons Licenses. These are;

- 1) Attribution (CC BY)
- 2) Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA)
- 3) Attribution-NoDerivs (CC BY-ND)
- 4) Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC)
- 5) Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA)
- 6) Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND)

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