



HOW TO FIND IMAGES ON THE INTERNET FOR ILLUSTRATING WIKIPEDIA

Whose Knowledge? | #VisibleWikiWomen Campaign Kit | Updated March 2019 | Licensed CC BY-SA 4.0

If you don't have your own photos or illustrations to share during the #VisibleWikiWomen campaign, you can search online and find images [to upload](#), for use on Wikipedia.

Ready to search? The most important thing to know: **a simple Google search to find images of women is not enough.** Most often, the results of a Google image search are copyrighted images which are not shared under a free and open license. Those images **shouldn't be** uploaded to Wikipedia because only freely and openly licensed images are allowed in the world's largest encyclopedia. If you are trying to find images for a notable woman's biography, be sure that the image you are considering is as free and open as Wikipedia itself.

It seems a little harder than you thought, right? But keep calm and carry on! You can continue searching with a focus on two kind of images:

1. Images published under free and open licenses

2. Public domain images

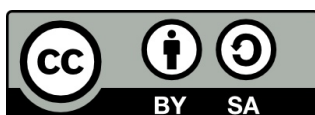
This makes it much easier on you! Let's see how to find those kinds of images online...

SCENARIO 1: IMAGES PUBLISHED UNDER FREE AND OPEN LICENSES

Many individuals, cultural institutions and media organizations use free and open licenses to share their creative work, such as images and illustrations, to allow anyone to use their work for different purposes.

Wikimedia Commons, which is the media repository for Wikipedia, only allows creative work that can be freely and openly shared, using licenses by the Creative Commons community.

So when looking for free images and illustrations, these are the only three licenses that can be used on Wikipedia and Wikimedia Commons:



[Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike](#)



[Creative Commons Attribution](#)



[Creative Commons CC0](#)


These licenses mean that the creator or owner of the rights to the image that you found online has allowed their work to be freely and openly available for a wide range of uses, including to:

- Share and reuse
- Modify and remix into a new creative work
- Use in commercial as well as educational and non-profit contexts.

The first two kinds of licences also require anyone re-using this image to acknowledge and reference the creator's original work, also known as attribution.

Here's an example of an image shared on [Europeana](#) by the Sörmlands museum under a free and open license ([Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike](#)), which can be uploaded onto Wikipedia.



SHARE DOWNLOAD CAN I USE IT?
Yes 

SCENARIO 2: PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGES

When an image is in the public domain, you can freely use and share it because that image belongs to all humanity. It is considered our common heritage.

Keep in mind this simple formula:

PUBLIC DOMAIN = OUT OF COPYRIGHT



An image can be out of copyright:

- if it was created before copyright laws existed, or
- if the copyright has expired because many years have passed since the image was created.

Each country has its own copyright laws. The way to keep it simple is to remember that the [copyright rules of the United States](#) apply to Wikimedia Commons. So, the image you want to upload to Wikipedia must be out of copyright in the United States.

Look at the three scenarios below. If the image you want to share fits one of them, you can upload it to Wikimedia Commons, because it is most likely in the public domain:

- The photo was published for the first time in the **United States** *before 1923*.
- The photo was published for the first time **outside the United States** *before 1923*, and the **creator died more than 70 years ago**.
- The reproduction of a painting that was created by an artist who died more than 70 years ago.

Remember to make it clear that the image you are uploading is in the public domain by mentioning the source (where that image can be found) and the creator (the person who created the image). You will need the source and creator's information to complete your upload, so try to gather all this information before you start uploading!

If you're still confused or unsure about a particular image, please email us at visiblewikiwomen@whoseknowledge.org. We will be glad to help!

HOW TO EASILY SEARCH WEBSITES FOR FREE AND OPEN IMAGES

SEARCH TIPS:

- Remember to check if the image you want to use is shared under an **open license** in the website you are doing your search.
- Use the **advanced search** option that is usually available in most websites. The advanced search allows you to refine your search and apply filter such as type of media, date, license, etc. On **Flickr**, **Internet Archive** and **CC Search**, you can filter by license.

- On **Google Images** you can filter your search by usage rights. Click on Tools - Usage rights and choose Labeled for reuse with modifications.
- **Search locally:** visit the websites of museums, libraries and archives of countries or cities that could have free and open images.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES TO SEARCH:

Here is a list of some websites you can search for images with free and open licenses. These websites also often share information about the date and creator that will allow you to check if the image is under public domain.

[CC Search](#)

[Flickr](#)

[Flickr: The Commons \(only public domain collections\)](#)

[Internet Archive](#)

[Mexicana](#)

[Europeana](#)

[Library of Congress](#)

[New York Public Library](#)

[Met Museum](#)

Thank you for improving Wikipedia by searching for and adding these images!



RELATED RESOURCES

- [Getting and giving consent for images on Wikipedia](#)
- [How to upload images to make women visible on wikipedia and the Internet](#)
- [Dos and Dont's for adding images to Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia](#)
- [How to create drawings for Wikipedia](#)
- [How to ask for image donations](#)