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N E W S L E T T E R

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Breaking News

CC and the Google Book Settlement

The Google Books Settlement is the copyright story of the year. A Creative Commons license option for authors has been added to the amended settlement, while objections to the settlement have cited Creative Commons. What does the settlement debate imply about the ways in which copyright is out of sync with the digital age and how voluntary commons infrastructure can help? Read more:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/19210>

Nobel Prize in Economics to Elinor Ostrom “for her analysis of economic governance, especially the commons”

The 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded on October 12 to Elinor Ostrom and Oliver Williamson for their research on economic governance. Ostrom’s award is particularly exciting, for it cites her study of the commons. Commons? That sounds familiar! Ostrom’s pioneering work mostly concerns the governance of common-pool resources — resources that are rivalrous (i.e., scarce, can be used up, unlike digital goods) yet need to be or should be governed as a commons — classically, things like water systems and the atmosphere. This work is cited by many scholars of non-rivalrous commons (e.g., knowledge commons) as laying the groundwork for their field, one example being James Boyle in his recent book, *The Public Domain*. In 2003 Ostrom herself co-authored with Charlotte Hess a paper contextualizing knowledge commons and the study of other commons: *Ideas, Artifacts, and Facilities: Information as a Common-Pool Resource*. It includes a citation of Creative Commons, which was just about to launch its licenses at the time the paper was written. The entire paper is an excellent read. Congratulations to Elinor Ostrom, and to the Nobel Prize committee for making an excellent choice, highly relevant in today’s world. Hopefully, this will be only the first of many grand prizes for the study of the commons.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18426>

Defining Noncommercial Report Published

Almost one year ago we launched a study of how people understand “noncommercial use.” The study,

generously supported by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, included in-depth interviews and two waves of in-person and online focus groups and online questionnaires. The last included a random sample of U.S. (geographic restriction mandated by resource constraints) internet users and in an extended form, open questionnaires promoted via our blog. The resulting *Defining Noncommercial* study report and raw data are now published, released under a CC Attribution (CC BY) license and CC0 public domain waiver respectively.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17127>

Does Your Sharing Scale?

Creative Commons makes sharing easy, legal, and scalable. Easy and legal are obvious — what about scale? Triggered by a discussion in the blogosphere at *Techdirt* and elsewhere, this article explains why standard licenses and public domain tools such as those offered by Creative Commons are necessary to realize the web’s potential for collaboration and sharing, from Wikipedia and OpenCourseWare to bands and individual bloggers.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17422>

CC Taiwan Launches Version 3.0

Creative Commons Taiwan unveiled today Version 3.0 of its jurisdiction-specific licenses. The six standard Creative Commons licenses are legally and linguistically adapted to Taiwanese law, making it easier for local creators to clearly signal the rights they wish their works to carry. The launch was celebrated at the 2009 Open House of the Academia Sinica, the host institution of CC Taiwan. The team’s Project Manager, Wen-Yin Chou, presented on “Brief Introduction of Creative Commons Licenses”, while visitors to the information booth could watch CC videos, take quizzes about the licenses, and talk with the CC Taiwan team throughout the day.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18896>

CC News — Arts & Media

One of Creative Commons' core goals is to expand the body of open and free cultural works available to the public. This is accomplished through outreach, advisement, and specific project-based initiatives with individuals and communities that promote a similar emphasis on community, sharing, and innovation. This effort is headed by Creative Director Eric Steuer.

AntWeb, Fedora Project, WikiTravel Go CC BY-SA 3.0

Demonstrating that June's migration of Wikimedia sites to CC Attribution-ShareAlike as their main content license was a signal of much greater interoperability among free and open content projects going forward and not merely an end in itself are recent announcements from the Fedora Project, AntWeb, and Wikitravel, all moved or moving to CC BY-SA 3.0. Each has a different story as to how and why they made the move. Read their stories:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/19107>

New CC-licensed Feature-length Films from Sweden and Italy

It's not often that a feature-length CC-licensed film is produced, so we're happy to let you know about two international productions: "Nasty Old People" from Swedish director Hanna SkÅlild and "Torno Subito" from Italian Simone Damianiunder. "Nasty Old People" was released under our Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike license (CC BY-NC-SA) and Torno Subito is available under our Attribution-Noncommercial license (CC-BY-NC). What's great about these licenses is that they both allow and encourage legal sharing and remixing as methods for promotion and to encourage fans to engage. The results are already beginning to appear: fans of "Nasty Old People" have raised donations amounting to 10% of the film's loaned budget, and they've also created a Portuguese translation of the film's subtitles.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18425>

Yoko Ono's Plastic Ono Band Goes CC

Yoko Ono wants you to remix her track "The Sun Is Down!" The song's stems are released under a CC Attribution-NonCommercial license (CC BY-NC), so you can download the sample pack, which includes the track's vocal effects, loops of bass, drums, sound effects, and Tenorion files. Yoko's also running a contest from now until December 12 to find the 10 best remixes.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18490>

Al Jazeera Blogs Go CC

Al Jazeera has just launched the latest of its online projects called Al Jazeera Blogs. The website features blog posts written by prominent journalists and correspondents from the global Al Jazeera television network. It also hosts several sub-blog sections divided by geographical areas, such as Africa, Asia, Americas, Europe, and the Middle East. In addition, Al Jazeera has a blog focused on international business and the ongoing financial crisis. Thanks yet again to Al Jazeera English's Head of Online, Mohamed Nanabhay, who was also a key player in getting Al Jazeera's CC repository up and running. Check out Mohamed's Commoner Letter, written in support of CC's fundraising campaign:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18213>

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18599>



New Zealand and Australian Governments Promoting Open Data

“There’s a trend going around the world for open data,” says Mark Harris, former manager of web standards at the New Zealand State Services Commission and co-organizer of Wellington’s recent Open Govt Data Barcamp and Hackfest. He’s right, and New Zealand is certainly trailblazing. Last week, Creative Commons New Zealand reported that their national government released an open access and licensing framework draft (NZGOAL) for public feedback. The framework will enable greater access to many public sector works by encouraging the New Zealand State Services agencies to license material for reuse on liberal terms, and recommend Creative Commons as an important tool in this process. Meanwhile in Australia, the Government 2.0 Taskforce announced the MashupAustralia contest asking people to show what can be done with open public sector information. To help people get started, 59 datasets from more than 15 different government bodies have been released on data.australia.gov.au under CC licences (usually Attribution). All this material, which spans from the Federal electoral boundaries to Powerhouse Museum’s collection database to the locations of Canberra’s public toilets, is now free to be reused, reimagined and repurposed by anyone.

Full stories:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17352>, <http://www.creativecommons.org.au/node/262>

United States Government CTO on Creative Commons

Aneesh Chopra, the US Government’s Chief Technology Officer, recently spoke on CNET about his thoughts on copyright.

When questioned about the future of copyright reform, Chopra mentions how he “embraced the Creative Commons licensing regime” when he worked with the Commonwealth of Virginia to publish their Flexbook platform. Chopra then states that he thinks that it was this experience that really informs his perspective on how intellectual property should be remixed, shared, and reused.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17863>

Dutch Public Broadcaster VPRO Releases CC-licensed Documentaries

VPRO, a public broadcaster in the Netherlands, has begun releasing current documentaries under the CC BY-NC-SA license. According to Bregtje van der Haak, coordinator of the VPRO’s Century of the City project, releasing these documentaries under a Creative Commons license contributes to efforts to better serve the VPRO’s public: “We are producing a lot of documentaries that are of interest to specialized communities. In the case of urbanization this includes architects, urban planners and students. From research we know that a growing segment of the VPRO’s audience is watching less and less television but continues to highly value this type of content. By offering content for download we are increasing the life cycle of these programs and enabling a whole number of new forms of re-use of our productions. As a public broadcaster we have the obligation to make our productions available to the public in as flexible a manner as possible.”

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18128>

CC News in Science

Creative Commons works to advance CC in the field of science by designing strategies and tools for faster, more efficient web-enabled scientific research in the hope of speeding the translation of data into discovery. The wing of Creative Commons dedicated to making the web work for science is called Science Commons and is led by Science Vice President John Wilbanks.

Sage Concludes Series of Fall Regional Meetings

Importantly, Sage has taken the first steps in its mission to build a ‘Commons’ of widely accessible globally-coherent databases and tools. Sage and Science Commons, the wing of Creative Commons dedicated to making the Web work for science, have held public forums in Boston, San Francisco and the UK to introduce the organization and the concept to researchers, funders, and publishers. The enthusiastic reception has established a foundation for the core working committees that will meet at the Commons Congress next April. Further forums and organizational meetings will be held in Beijing and Boston during the next several months. Stay tuned for more on Sage in the coming months.

Open Access Week Roundup

John Wilbanks, the Vice President of Science for Creative Commons, gave a series of talks as part of the recent Open Access Week, a global event to raise awareness on the need and benefits of Open Access to research. The first of his talks was a Q&A webinar on repositories and the digital commons, hosted by the Canadian Association of Research Libraries. Next was a panel discussion at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, CO with George Strawn (CIO of the National Science Foundation) on revolutions in information technology, interoperability, and “big science.” Along with the panel discussion, NCAR also passed an open access policy, making it the first of NSF’s Federally Funded Research and Development Centers to adopt an OA mandate. The last of Wilbanks’ talks for the week was given at Harvard Law School, where he spoke on the significance of open access to research.

For more information on Open Access Week and how you can get involved, visit:

<http://www.openaccessweek.org/>

Data Sharing, Ontologies, and Estuarine Research

This past November Science Commons’ Alan Ruttenberg and Kaitlin Thaney were both featured speakers at “Ecoinformatics — Maximizing your data: What can informatics do for you?” This was a part of an informatics focused side meeting called the Salmon Data Access Working Group (SalDAWG) and was part of the larger Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation’s 20th Biennial Conference. The event was held at the Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. Thaney kicked off the two-day session, speaking about open science and the legal issues surrounding, semantics, and technical barriers involved in data sharing. Ruttenberg gave a talk about building ontologies for science, sharing his expertise in biomedical ontologies and the Semantic Web. For more information about the event, presentations, and background, visit:

<http://www.stateofthesalmon.org/agencypartnerships/portland.html>

Ontology News: OWL 2 Recommended by W3C, New Resource on Copyright Considerations

Important (and exciting) news in the world of shared vocabularies at Science Commons, a key component of our technical work to make knowledge sharing more efficient. As of last week, OWL 2 — a standard web ontology language — was formally recommended by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) as part of their Semantic Web



activity. Science Commons' Alan Ruttenberg has been diligently working with the OWL working group specifying OWL 2 at the W3C to push this recommendation through. (Ruttenberg is the co-chair with Ian Horrocks at Oxford.) The W3C says that the transition to OWL 2 is a reflection of user experience with OWL, and the need to enable seamless integration and scalability. From the W3C's announcement:

"[OWL 2] allows people to capture their knowledge about a particular domain (say, energy or medicine) and then use tools to manage information, search through it, and learn more from it. Furthermore, as an open standard based on Web technology, it lowers the cost of merging knowledge from multiple domains."

Also, building off of our existing work around the application of copyright licenses to content and data, there is now a resource available at sciencecommons.org that sheds light on copyright considerations for ontologies. We have long been asked what is the best means to license (or not) ontologies, a topic that's not always easy to discern in terms of applicable rights regimes. The resource explores when copyright may apply to an ontology as well as a number of other concerns regarding protection and the means to achieve that. You can find this resource — "Ontology Copyright Licensing Considerations" — in our Reading Room:

<http://sciencecommons.org/resources/readingroom/ontology-copyright-licensing-considerations>

CC Zero Endorsed in Nature Opinion Piece

A new opinion piece in Nature, the international weekly journal on science,

addresses post-publication sharing of tools and explicitly recommends open sharing and the use of CC Zero (CC0) to put data in the public domain. The special issue of Nature focuses on data sharing and is now online and accessible free of charge. The piece, "Post-publication sharing of data and tools," comes out of this year's CASIMIR conference in Rome, and discusses the sharing of biological materials, specifically but not limited to mice and embryonic stem cells.

Full story:

<http://sciencecommons.org/weblog/archives/2009/09/09/cc0-endorsed-nature/>

CC News in Education

ccLearn, the education wing of Creative Commons led by Executive Director Ahrash Bissell, works with an international community of open education advocates and supporters to improve open learning on the internet. Truly open learning happens when learners (you, me, and everyone else we know) can not only access educational materials but improve upon them, adapting the resources to our individual needs and local contexts, without the restrictions imposed by standard copyright laws. Through openly licensed educational materials, also known as open educational resources (OER), we can collaborate across state lines and country borders, discovering opportunities for partnerships we never knew existed.

Preparing Your Educational Resources for DiscoverEd

In July, CC Learn, the wing of Creative Commons dedication to bringing CC to the education world, officially launched DiscoverEd, a search prototype that provides scalable search and discovery for educational resources on the web. We have since been working with various organizations and projects who want to include their resources in DiscoverEd, and through all the back and forth about feeds and mark-up — essentially, what's required to get your stuff included for greater discovery — we realized we could streamline the process by putting some necessary information into a brief document. We came up with Preparing Your Educational Resources for DiscoverEd, the second in a series of CC Learn Step by Step Guides. We encourage individuals or institutions interested in making their digitally published educational resources more discoverable to check it out:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/19051>

Mr. Mayo's Class Integrates CC, Skypes with Lawrence Lessig

A few weeks ago, CC Learn's Jane Park had the chance to talk to George Mayo (known as Mr. Mayo to his students), a middle school Language Arts teacher in Maryland. Mr. Mayo was brought to CC Learn's attention by Lawrence Lessig, CC's founder and current board member, who Skyped with Mr. Mayo's class for thirty minutes, answering questions on copyright, YouTube's take-down policy and downloading music. Mr. Mayo and his class have integrated CC licensed works into their daily activities, documenting it all at mrmayo.org.

Hear more about the innovative ways Mr. Mayo and his class use CC in this interview with Jane:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/19003>

Student Journalism 2.0 Takes Off at The Paly Voice

We are pleased to announce that The Paly Voice, the student-run newspaper at Palo Alto High School in California, the biggest high school journalism program in the U.S., has officially integrated CC licenses. This is the result of much hard work on the part of ccLearn (the education wing of Creative Commons), which recently launched Student Journalism 2.0, a pilot project to bring Creative Commons and the power of new media into high school journalism classes. We look forward to what are sure to be many more student journalism success stories to come out of this innovative new project!

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18565>

The OpenEd ES Community: Educacion y Comunidad

A recent highlight from the Open Education community is OpenEd in Spanish, aka the OpenEd ES Community. OpenEd is a community site, produced by the education arm of CC, ccLearn, for anyone interested in open education or Open Educational Resources (OER), especially for those who want to develop their own mini-communities on the site. CC Latam and ccLearn have collaborated to localize OpenED for the ES Community, including translating and adapting the events, resources, and ODEPO pages.



Our hope is that the Spanish speaking community around OER, including Latam, will grow and thrive within its native language. OpenEd ES is part of a greater effort to make visible all of the interesting work being done in various languages around the world. We hope other linguistic communities will see fit to build a home on OpenEd as well!

More info:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/18784>

Report on First Meeting of CC Leads in Latin America Now Available

Last year “Latam Commons 2008: Public Domain, Creative Commons, and Open Education” was the first meeting of CC leads in Latin America, and also the first meeting of its kind to focus specifically on open education and OER. The fruits of the meeting have shown themselves over time, as Latin America has been working towards greater openness in education and otherwise, with our very own Carolina Botero joining as a ccLearn liaison for that region of the Spanish-speaking world. Now, the particular results of that first meeting are recorded for the first time, in both English and Spanish, in a report entitled “Open Education: First meeting of CC leads in Latin America.” The report was a joint production of CC Latin America and ccLearn, and is licensed under an Attribution (CC BY) license so it can be further translated into other languages. We encourage you to check it out!

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17815>

Open Educational Resources: Managing Incompatible Content in OER

Gaining a deeper understanding of the ways in which copyright exceptions function globally and how these exceptions interact with open licensing is an important move for the OER community. The education wing of Creative Commons, ccLearn, hopes to lead the way in this effort. At the OpenEd conference in Vancouver in August, ccLearn’s General Counsel, Lila Bailey, presented a paper entitled “Otherwise Open: Managing Incompatible Content in OER,” which outlines this problem in detail. The final published version of that paper is now available. We encourage you to check it out and provide feedback.

Full story:

<http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/17240>

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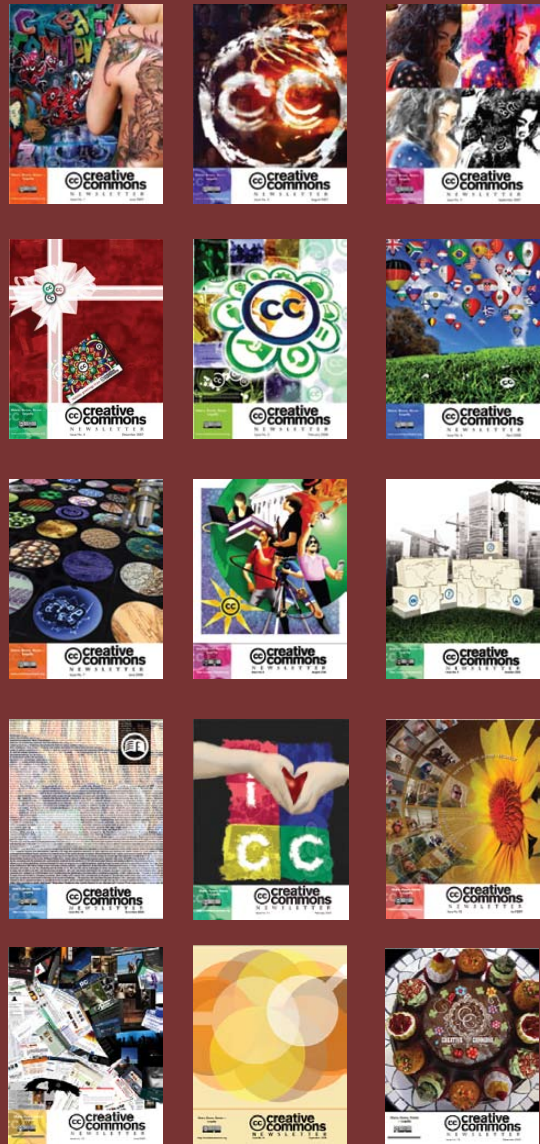
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