cc creative commons
NEWSLETTER

Creative Commons Launches Catalyst Grants Program!

As a supporter of Creative Commons, you recognize the importance of what we do to make knowledge easily, freely, and legally available to everyone.

We are excited to announce the Catalyst Grants program, through which we will be awarding grants of $1000 to $10,000 to researchers, educators and technologists around the world. Grant recipients will be selected through a rigorous public review and transparent evaluation process involving representatives from CC's affiliate institutions.

Catalyst Grants will make it possible for individuals and organizations to harness the power of Creative Commons. A grant might enable a group in a developing country to research how Open Educational Resources can positively impact its community. Another could pay for a programmer to add CC license support to tools for publishing and distributing news. A third could fund a study of entrepreneurs using Creative Commons licenses to create a new class of socially responsible businesses.

But we can't do it without your help. Our goal is to raise $100,000 from CC supporters like you to fund the Catalyst Grants. Please donate today to help spread our mission of openness and innovation across cultural and national boundaries.

Sincerely,
Joi Ito
Chief Executive Officer
Creative Commons

Catalyst Grants: Ignite openness and innovation around the world.
creativecommons.org/catalyst

Photo by Mizuka, CC BY 2.0

Art & Media

Swedish museum Historiska Museet Adopts CC Licenses

Earlier this week Swedish museum Historiska Museet announced the adoption of CC licenses for their digital catalog. Roughly 63,500 item photographs, 1200 illustrations, and 264,500 scanned catalog cards are now released, depending upon the medium, under our Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works license or Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike license. Project Manager Ulf Bodin notes that while the museum is starting out with a more restrictive license choice they hope to find ways to continue to open their catalog with fewer restrictions in the future. Like the Brooklyn Museum, Historiska Museet is looking at this as a first step, aiming to provide more openness as they better understand how the public will use these new resources.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/20922

Collaborative Futures, a FLOSS Manual

FLOSS Manuals, true to its name, produces manuals for free software applications. The manuals themselves are freely licensed and often written in book sprints. This January, as part of the Transmediale festival in Berlin, FLOSS Manuals attempted its first non-manual booksprint — a considerably harder task, as no structure is implied. Only the book title, Collaborative Futures, was given — a collaborative experiment about the future of collaboration.

The collaborators all had considerable experience with free software or free culture collaborations — Michael Mandiberg, Marta Peirano, Alan Toner, Mushon Zer-Aviv, Creative Commons Vice President Mike Linksvayer, and FLOSS Manuals' honcho Adam Hyde and programmer Aleksandar Erkalovic. Read more about the writing process and check out the final product, released under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike license:

http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21374

CC Talks With: Vincent Moon, Film Annex, & The Open Course Library Project

Creative Commons had the chance to catch up with three exemplary Commoners in March to talk about their various uses of Creative Commons and why they feel CC is key for collaboration and the future of participatory culture. For filmmaker and artist Vincent Moon, licensing his work under CC makes sense "because it is a way of thinking, it is a way of life, and it is something to fight for." Eren and Francesco from Film Annex find importance in Creative Commons because it "encourages productivity and further creation/distribution of content among filmmakers." And Cable Green, head of the Open Course Library Project, is exploring the value behind sharing digital educational resources to make textbooks more affordable. Check out these three interviews and more in the CC Talks With series:

http://creativecommons.org/interviews

Nina Simon's The Participatory Museum

The Participatory Museum, a new book from Nina Simon on ways to increase audience participation in cultural institutions, is now available in full under a CC Attribution-NonCommercial license. The book contains an incredible amount of useful and thought-provoking information for those working in museums and other cultural institutions. Outside of the book itself, Simon posted on the process of self-publishing – including a deeper look at her license choice – on her Museum 2.0 blog. In addition to its free release online, The Participatory Museum is available for purchase as both paperback and PDF download.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21533

Education

Creative Commons and Open Educational Resources in the U.S. National Technology Plan

We were thrilled to learn of the National Technology Plan highlighting Open Educational Resources (OER) as "an important element of an infrastructure for learning" and the vital role Creative Commons plays in underpinning the success of the OER movement. The Plan outlines how the U.S. Department of Education will play a role in "stimulating the development and use of OER in ways that address pressing education issues." We see this as a huge victory for the OER movement and look forward to continuing our role of supporting innovative developments in the future of learning.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21054

CC and Education Landing Page and Wiki Project

In early April we launched two important resources for anyone interested in Creative Commons and education - an education landing page and OER Portal. The goal of the education landing page is to quickly introduce our site visitors to the vast number and range of Open Educational Resources (OER) available for use as well as the role of Creative Commons licenses in enabling OER to reach its potential. The landing page also features a number of links for anyone who wants to learn more about OER & CC and/or wants to contribute their own knowledge. Most of those links point to the OER Portal/Project on our wiki. Our goal for this section is for our community to add useful information about OER as well as help curate this information.

Education landing page: http://creativecommons.org/education

CC Vietnam Celebrates Launch at Open-CourseWare Consortium's Global Meeting

May 7th marked the celebration of the localized Creative Commons licenses in Vietnam, the fifty-third jurisdiction worldwide to adapt the Creative Commons licensing suite to national law. The Vietnam Education Foundation together with D&N International and Creative Commons have overseen the localization of the licenses in consultation with the Vietnamese public and key stakeholders in the jurisdiction.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21945

CC Talks with: Karen Fasimpaur on Open Education and Policy

One venue for the advancement of Open Educational Resources (OER) is through policy change at the local, state, federal, and international levels. In addition to a new Education landing page and an OER portal that explains Creative Commons' role as the legal and technical infrastructure behind OER, CC has been conducting a series of interviews to help clarify some of the challenges and opportunities of OER in today's education landscape. We caught up with Karen Fasimpaur, a blogger, author, creator of the Kids Open Dictionary, and co-founder of K12 Open Ed.

Read the interview: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21786

Pratham Books uses CC to Make Children's Books Accessible

Pratham Books is a nonprofit children's book publisher in India, set up to "fill a gap in the market for good quality, reasonably priced children's books in a variety of Indian languages." At the time, Pratham Books had released six children's books under a CC BY-NC-SA license, available on their Scribd page. Since then, they have changed the licenses on those books to Attribution Only (CC BY) and have expanded their offerings to books in the public domain. They have also been blogging extensively and encouraging remix of their CC licensed illustrations on Flickr. Last month, the CC licenses enabled audio versions of Pratham children's books for India's National Association of the Blind. Three audio versions were recorded by Radio Mirchi, two in English and one in Urdu, with more in the works, demonstrating the power of CC licenses to foster a more participatory and accessible culture.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21430

Science

GlaxoSmithKline Releases Valuable Malaria Research Data into the Public Domain

GlaxoSmithKline contributed to the public domain more than 13,500 compounds known to be active against malaria. They are the first large corporation to implement the CC0 tool for making data into open data. The Tres Cantos dataset contains the structures and screening data for compounds confirmed to inhibit parasite growth by more than 80% — meaning that researchers worldwide now have a truly free place to look for cures for malaria, without worrying about patents or other database rights. This is big news in the science world and we hope to see even more corporations adopting an open approach to scientific and medical research in order to speed the discovery of cures worldwide

Sage Congress Video Now Available

This past April, Creative Commons and Sage Bionetworks put on the first Sage Commons Congress in San Francisco. The event brought together a wide array of experts, from network biologists, representatives from key funding bodies, scientists, disease researchers and advocates. We encourage you all to check out the video and presentations, which are now available on the Congress Web site, especially Josh Sommer's luncheon keynote on his fight with chordoma.

Streaming and downloadable video as well as accompanying slidedecks for most of the presentations can be found on the Congress Presentation Page: http://sagecongress.org/WP/presentations
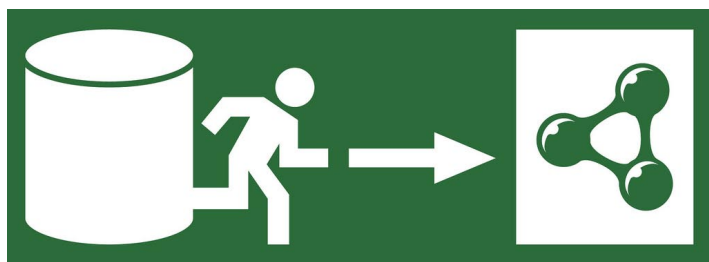
OBO Foundry Announces its First Set of Ontologies

Biomedical research suffers because it is difficult to use knowledge in aggregate. The OBO Foundry is an initiative to create a group of biological and biomedical ontologies that covers a wide range of life science phenomena in a modular fashion. By building and promoting a well designed and scientifically credible set of vocabularies for describing the results of research, we move closer

to the goal of making it easy to contribute to and enable discovery based on the growing body of open scientific research data.

The coordinating editors, including Creative Commons' own Alan Ruttenberg, recently announced that six ontologies have met their review requirements — the first set of ontologies to successfully meet all of the conditions laid out. These ontologies include Chemical Entities of Biological Interest (CHEBI), Gene Ontology (GO), Phenotypic Quality Ontology (PATO), the Protein Ontology (PRO), Xenopus Anatomy Ontology (XAO), and the Zebrafish Anatomy Ontology (ZFA). These ontologies are now preferred targets for community convergence.

Full details: http://www.obofoundry.org/wiki/index.php/Announcement_of_First_Set_of_OBO_Foundry_Ontologies

Global Biodiversity Information Facility Taskforce Makes Formal Recommendations on Use of Identifiers

The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) recently made available on their Web site the result of a working group meeting on persistent identifiers for biodiversity data. Among the task force members is Creative Commons' Principle Scientist Jonathan Rees, as well as other representatives from research universities and botanical gardens. The group formally recommends the adoption of persistent identifiers for informatics in this field with active support from GBIF, and goes into explicitly what the requirements are, what's meant by a "persistent, actionable identifier," to citation and integration issues. It skirts ongoing debates over technology choices, emphasizing that persistence and actionability are at root social problems, not technical ones.

The document is available here: http://www2.gbif.org/Persistent-Identifiers.pdf

Announcing the Launch of Public Discussion of CC Patent Tools

We're happy to announce that we're launching the public comment and discussion period for our new patent tools: the Research Non-Assertion Pledge and the Public Patent License. We invite you to join the discussion at our public wiki. There you can read about these tools, catch up on hot topics of interest to the community, or join our public discussion list to contribute your thoughts and suggestions. These tools were conceived as part of our collaboration with The GreenXchange, a network

of companies interested in making publicly available unpatented know-how and patented inventions that have the potential to promote innovation, sustainability, resource management, and other socially responsible uses of ideas and inventions.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21481

Creative Commons Hosts Symposium on the Future of Science

This February, we convened the first ever Creative Commons Science Symposium — a daylong event held at Microsoft Research's campus in the Seattle area. The topic of the day was "The Future of Science," and featured presentations from some of the leading minds from the Open Access and Data Sharing world. Joining the bill was Stephen Friend (Sage Bionetworks), Jean-Claude Bradley (Drexel, Open Notebook Science pioneer), Cameron Neylon (STFC), Peter Murray-Rust (Blue Obelisk), Antony Williams (Chem-Spider), Heather Joseph (SPARC), Peter Binfield (Public Library of Science) and our own Vice President of Science, John Wilbanks.

Full story: http://sciencecommons.org/weblog/archives/2010/03/09/science-commons-symposium/
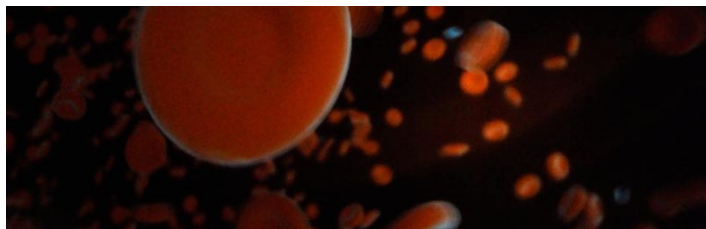
Milken Global Conference Tackles Patient Data Issues

Creative Commons VP for Science John Wilbanks participated in a panel discussion called "Patients Helping Doctors: Unlocking the Information Researchers Need" at this year's Milken Global Conference. More than 3,000 attendees gathered in Los Angeles for this year's event, representing over 60 nations. The panel featured luminaries like Susan Love (Founder, Susan Love Research Foundation), Jamie Heywood (Chairman and Co-Founder, Patients Like Me), and Jack Cochran (Executive Director, Permanente Foundation). The panel examined questions about the information embedded in patients - from a unique medical history to tissue, blood and DNA — that is crucial to understanding and managing disease. But too often that information remains unavailable to researchers.

It was a lively event, and video is online at Video for Milken is at http://www.milkeninstitute.org/events/gcprogram.taf?function=detail&eventid=GC10&EvID=2131

Creative Commons Discusses Energy Policy at the White House

John Wilbanks joined CC friends from Nike and the Kauffman Foundation for a Presidential Forum on Energy Innovation at the White House in May. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke keynoted a day of conversations about technology transfer, and the CC patent licenses were a featured part of the afternoon sessions on open innovation. The Obama administration announced key innovation strategies during the event ranging from investments in energy for regional innovation "clusters" to matching grants connecting small businesses focused on energy systems.

Government

Australian Government Commits to Open Access

Earlier this month, the Australian federal government issued an official response to the Government 2.0 Taskforce report which recommended, among other things, that Australian Public Sector Information (PSI) should be released under CC BY as default. The response (licensed CC BY) included a commitment to the development of a comprehensive set of IP guidelines which would, in principle, follow the Gov 2.0 Taskforce recommendations. Since then, Australia has released three major government publications under Creative Commons licenses, the latest being their national budget under CC BY. This marks an exciting time for the Australian government, as they move towards fulfilling their commitment to openness.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/22017

New Dutch Government Portal Uses CC0 Public Domain Waiver as Default

The Netherlands government has launched Rijksoverheid.nl, a new website that all Dutch ministries will migrate to. Creative Commons Netherlands notes that the site's copyright policy signals a seriousness about open sharing of public sector information — its default is to remove all copyright restrictions with the CC0 public domain waiver. This is great news, as Rijksoverheid.nl not only signals a true commitment to openness but also sets a strong example for other governments.

Full story: http://creativecommons.org/weblog/entry/21473

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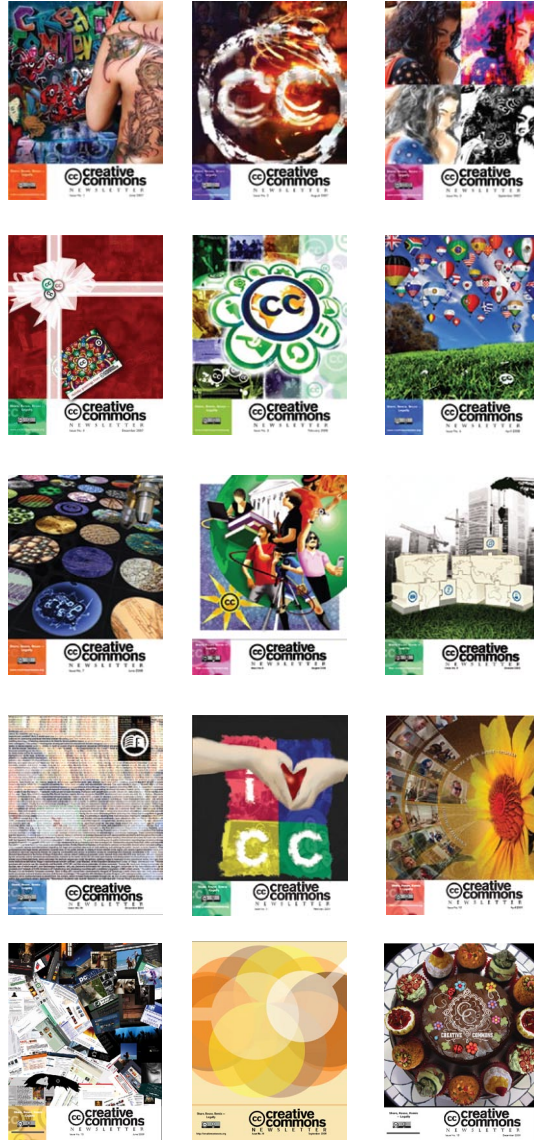
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