

Licensing Data for Sharing and Publishing

Coffee Lecture

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What is copyright?



Copyright is a legal protection granted to the creators of original works that gives them **exclusive rights** to reproduce, distribute, and display their work. It **prevents others from using the work without permission**, ensuring creators can control how their work is used and benefit from it financially. In Switzerland, copyright typically lasts for the life of the creator plus 70 years after their death. After this period, the work enters the public domain.



A **copyright holder** is the individual or entity that **owns the rights to a copyrighted work**, typically the creator, or a person or organization to whom the rights have been transferred. The copyright holder has the **exclusive authority to grant permissions, license, or sell the work**. They can also take legal action against anyone who infringes on their rights or uses the work without authorization.

Who holds the copyright for data generated at UZH?

Personnel Regulations of the University of Zurich (PVO-UZH):

E. Urheberrechtlich geschützte Werke

§ 65.¹⁴ Schaffen Universitätsangestellte in Ausübung ihrer Verpflichtungen aus dem Arbeitsverhältnis ein urheberrechtlich geschütztes Werk, stehen ihnen die Verwertungsrechte an diesem Werk zu. Abweichende Vereinbarungen bleiben vorbehalten. Grundsatz

§ 66. ¹ Übersteigen die Nettoeinnahmen eines Werks gemäss § 65 Fr. 30 000, hat die Universität Anspruch auf eine Abgabe. Abgabepflicht

² Die Urheberin oder der Urheber teilt der Universitätsleitung Erträge von mehr als Fr. 30 000 mit und gibt ihr über die Inanspruchnahme von Personal und Infrastruktur der Universität Auskunft.

§ 67. ¹ Die Universitätsleitung legt die Abgabe fest.

² Diese beträgt in der Regel 10% der Nettoeinnahmen. Sie kann in besonderen Fällen bis auf 30% der Nettoeinnahmen erhöht werden.



Data belong to the researcher who created them, unless there is a different agreement in their contract.

What is a license?



A license is a **legal agreement** that outlines how a work can be used, shared, and modified by others.



It helps creators **retain certain rights while granting permission** for specific uses under defined conditions.



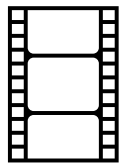
Creative Commons (CC) licenses are commonly used for sharing creative content (including articles, data, presentations, etc.).

What can be licensed?

Any work that has original character:



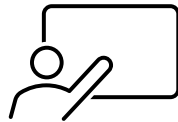
texts



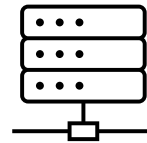
videos



music



presentations



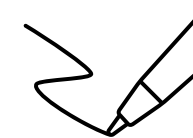
databases



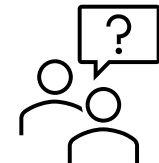
software



photographs











technical
drawings



interviews

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How to apply a license?



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license name



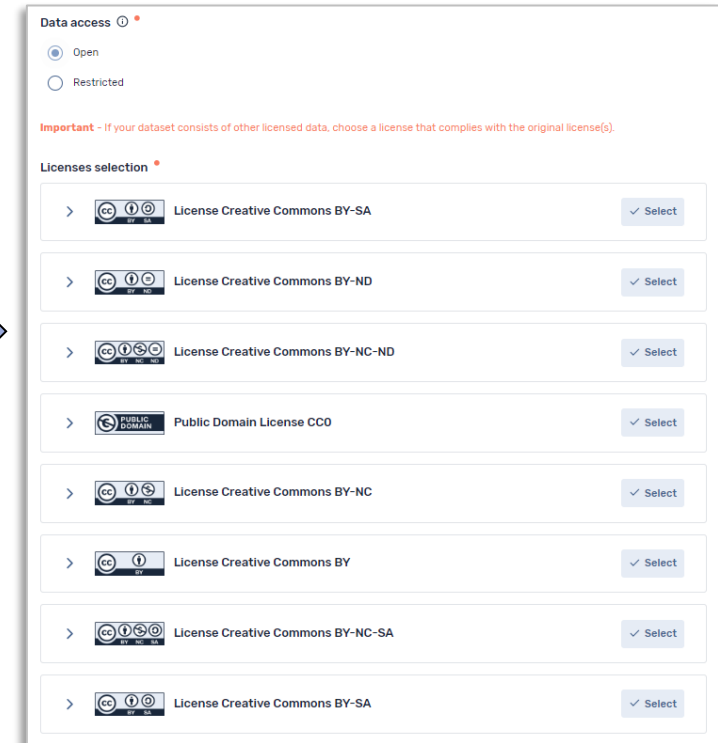
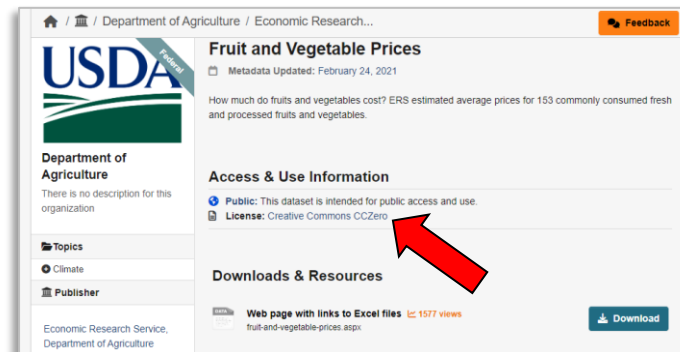
link to license text



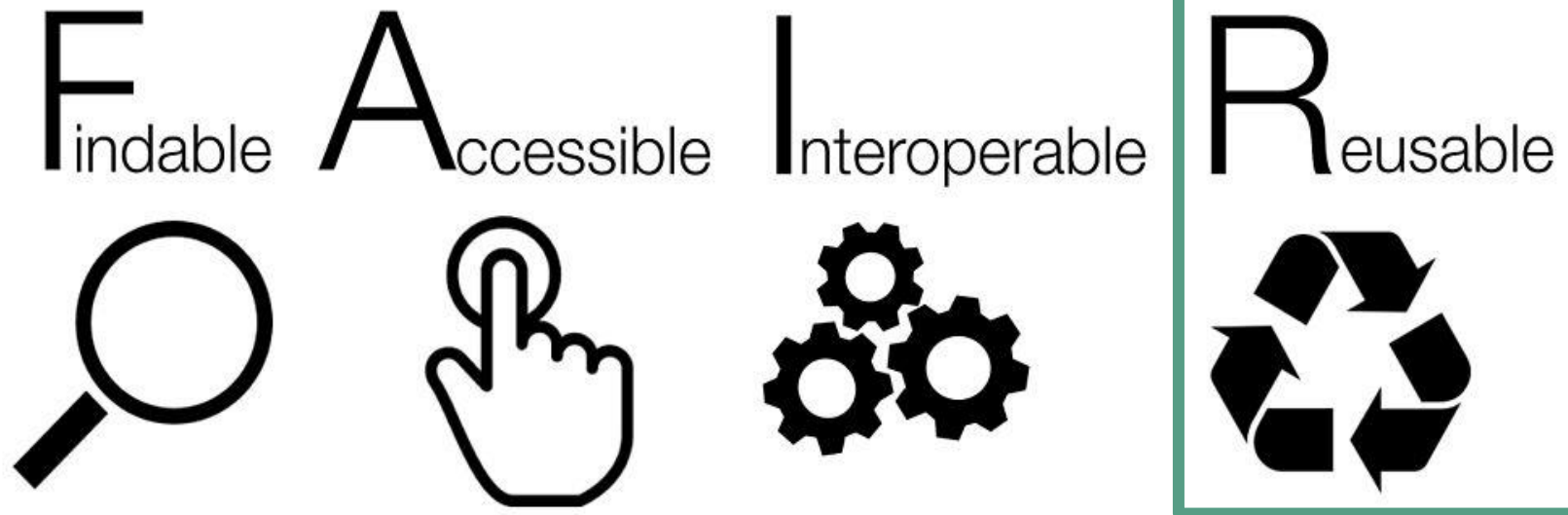
Where to apply a license for datasets?

Where to add the license?

- to the metadata of your repository entry
- in the README file (data documentation)
- in a separate file called "license.txt" (the full license text)
- to the download page



Why are licenses important?



Applying a license to your data clarifies the legal framework; it fosters data reuse and facilitates collaborations.

Questions?

Open Science Services, University Library Zurich

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