Creative Commons Licenses

Creative Commons licenses allow you to easily switch to "some rights reserved" instead of the "all rights reserved" standard. CC licenses work alongside copyright (it's no alternative). By implementing 6 different copyright licenses Creative Commons established a free, easy-to-use legal tool to explain the complicate copyright to individual creators in a standardized and recognizable way. Learn more about the different licenses on their website https://creativecommons.org/licenses/. All of them allow a licensed work to be copied and shared on the condition that the original creator of the work is attributed.

Why should you use CC licenses?

- by seeing the highly recognizable CC logos it's clear what's allowed
- increases citation and re-use of research
- supports Open Science
- enhances creativity and interdisciplinary thinking
- necessary for receiving a grant at some funding agencies
- sharing your research improves the visibility

What do you have to consider?

- Once a CC license is set you cannot change it to a more restricted one
- If you plan to publish your thesis/part of your thesis check the copyright policies of the publisher

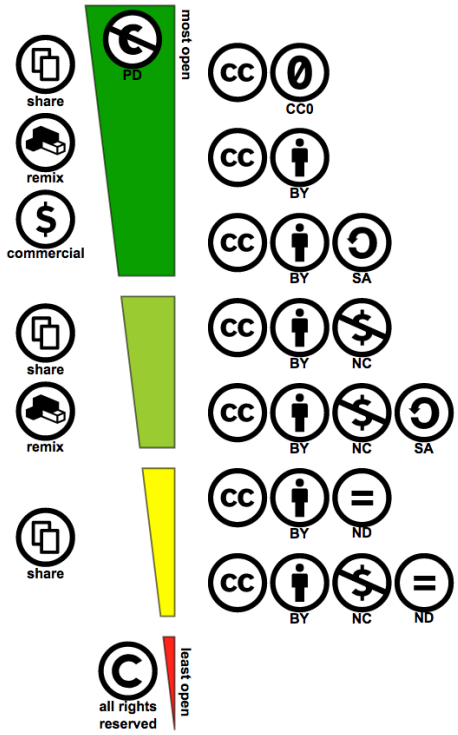

Figure 1: Overview of the different CC licenses[1]

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The IST Library recommends to use the CC BY license, which is mandatory for publishing in journals like PLoS One or Nature Communications.

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