How Open Licenses Help Sustain the Open Ecosystem

May 13, 2025

Dr. Monica Granados, Director of Open Science





I AM AN ECOLOGIST

By training. I'm fascinated by the way resources are so expertly used in ecological systems. Nowhere is this more explicit than in finch beaks.

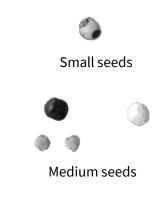
Party hats on baby seals to identify them

Monica Granados Director of Open Science, Creative Commons



DARWIN'S FINCHES

A group of about 18 species of passerine birds that show dramatic diversity in beak form and function.





Large seeds

Finch beaks vary in size in shape according to diet

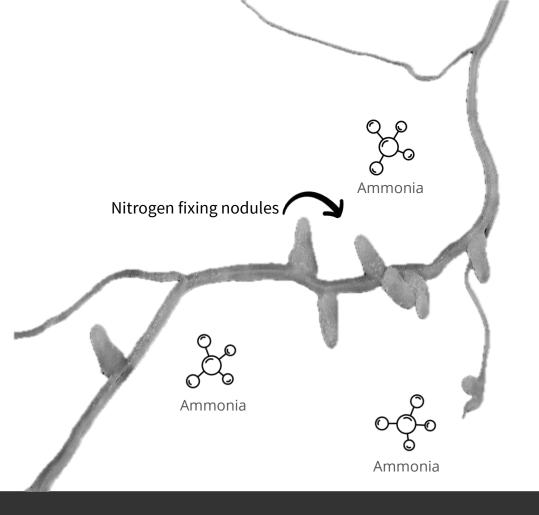
De Leon et al. 2014 Journal of Evolutionary Biology



NITROGEN FIXATION

Nitrogen is one of the most important and abundant nutrients yet it is inaccessible in its atmospheric form to most organisms.

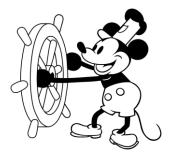
$$N_2 + 8H^+ + 8e \longrightarrow 2NH_3 + H_2$$





IN A WORLD THAT HAS SO MANY KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES, WHY CAN'T WE USE THEM TO THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY?





Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act was enacted in 1998. It extended the term of copyright for every work in the United States to life of the creator plus 70 years.

> Larry Lessig Co-founder Creative Commons

"Creation always involves building upon something else. There is no art that doesn't reuse."





WHAT IS CREATIVE COMMONS?

CC empowers individuals and communities around the world through technical, legal, and policy solutions that enable the sharing of education, culture, and science in the public interest.



Arduino



Girl with the Pearl

Earring



Cards Against Humanity



OPEN LICENSES

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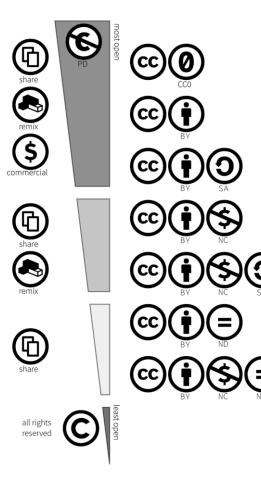


NC: Non-commercial



SA: Adaptations must be shared on same terms

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If you are the copyright holder you only need to add the license to the output. You do not need to apply, you do not need to ask permission.

There are a myriad of outputs and materials that can be CC licensed.

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experimental food web modules
Minuica Guanalm ¹⁰⁴ , Karle S. Pagenanco ¹⁶ and Authory Risciard ¹⁰
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Preprint Version of the manuscript that has not finished the peer review process

Publication Author accepted manuscript or version of record



Data Collected numerical information associated with the publication



Images Photographs or diagrams associated with the publication



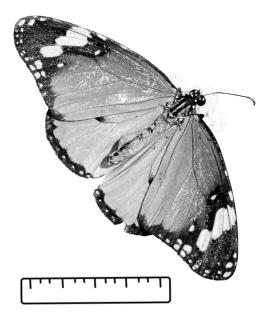
WHAT HAVE C LICENSES ENABLED?



OPEN COLLECTIONS

UK National History Museum has collections dating back hundreds of years and recently released digitized images of butterflies using CC0.

Researchers looked at 180,000 digitized butterflies to understand how they respond to climate change and found that hotter years grow bigger insects.

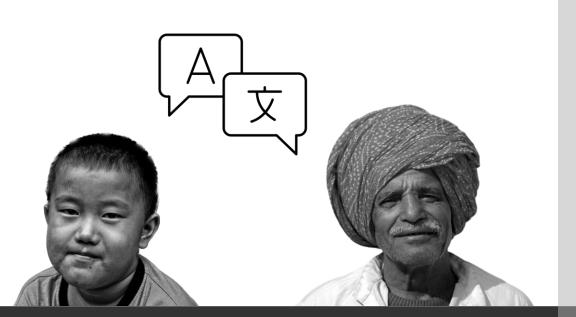


Wilson et al. 2022, Methods in Ecology and Evolution



OPEN LANGUAGE

The Pangloss collection is a CC-licensed archive of endangered and underdocumented languages carried by LACITO, a multidisciplinary research laboratory dedicated to the study of languages with an oral tradition based on field surveys in various linguistic and cultural areas.



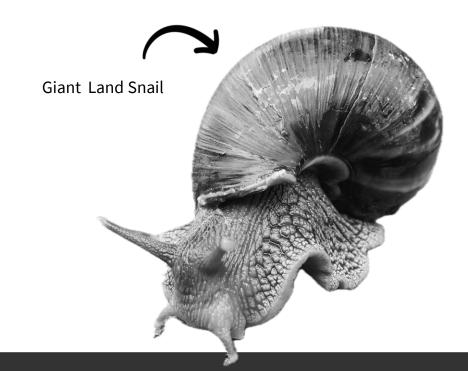
https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/?lang=en



OPEN DATA

The giant land snail is a popular exotic pet and notorious vector of the rat lungworm, causing eosinophilic meningitis in humans.

Researchers used CC-licensed Global Biodiversity Information Facility data to show that the pet trade poses a risk for disease transmission even in areas where the snails are not climatically limited.



Gippet et al. 2023, Parasites & Vectors



GROWING THE COMMONS

Portnership for Open Access Partenariat pour le libre accès



Canadian Research Knowledge Network Réseau canadien

Réseau canadien de documentation pour la recherche

Assessment Guidelines for Open Access Publishers

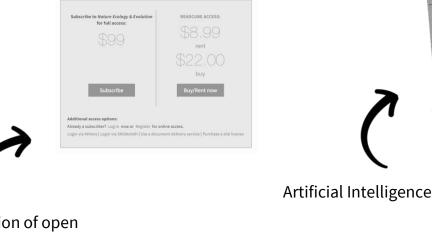


SUPPORTING THE COMMONS

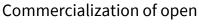


THREAT TO THE COMMONS

The combination of the commercialization of open access and the rise of consumer facing Large Language Models threatening the commons.







access



WHAT IS CO DOING?



PROTECT **HUMAN SHARING**

The CC licenses will always have a role in mitigating human sharing. We are actively campaigning against defensive licensing and providing resources on why we should license content CC BY.



CC Resources

Creative WHY USE THE CC BY LICENSE FOR PREPRINTS? A Guide for Researchers

Preprints are complete drafts of scientific research articles posted to an online repository before formal peer review and have long been part of the scientific publishing ecosystem. As the research community commits to much more open practices, preprints are increasingly becoming the primary vehicle for scientific dissemination.

- You work hard to study, observe, and share findings with the world. Publishing your research as a preprint allows that sharing of knowledge to happen as publicly, quickly, and effectively as possible.
- Preprints are the foundation of the next generation of open access, as publication routes without article processing charges (APCs) grow in popularity, including Green Open Access, Publish-Review-Curate, and overlay journals.

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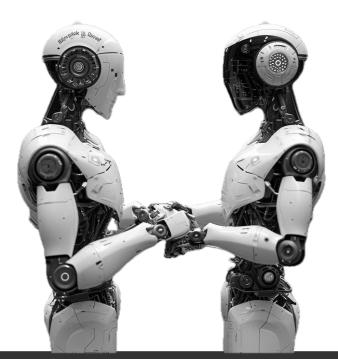
zenodo.org/communities/creativecommons/recor ds



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MACHINE USE OF CONTENT

To meet this challenge, CC s developing a preference signals framework - a simple pact among data collection holders and AI developers. We believe openness and responsibility can coexist, and that thoughtful tools can shape a better digital future for everyone.





TAKE COLLECTIVE ACTION!



CONTACT

monica@creativecommons.or creativecommons.org



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