12 Good Places to Find Creative Commons & Public Domain Images
Richard Byrne - PracticalEdTech.com

The CC Search Browser Extension (bitly.com/2Tnq3nY) lets users can find images from more than a dozen hosts of Creative Commons licensed works. The extension not only provides images for download, it also provides all of the attribution information needed for the images. And to help users keep track of their images, the CC Search Browser Extension provides a bookmarking capability. The CC Search Browser Extension is also available for Firefox and Opera users.

Stockio (stockio.com) is a website that offers free images, icons, fonts, and videos to download and re-use in your own projects. According to the notices that accompany each file on Stockio, attribution is not required but is appreciated. To download an image, an icon, or a font set from Stockio you do not have to register on the site. Simply browse or search then hit the download button when you find something that you like.

Pixabay (pixabay.com) has been one of my go-to sources of high-quality images for years. The images on Pixabay are in the public domain which makes them perfect for all kinds of classroom projects. You can download the pictures for free from the Pixabay website. Pixabay is also available to use as a Word and PowerPoint add-in.

Pexels (pexels.com) offers thousands of high resolution pictures and videos that are in the public domain. One of the nice features of Pexels is the option to create collections of pictures within the site.

Unsplash (unsplash.com) is another popular place for finding public domain pictures for classroom projects. In addition to searching on Unsplash.com itself, students can also use the Google Slides add-on and the Unsplash iPad app.

PikWizard (pikwizard.com) is a free site that offers thousands of high quality images that you can download and re-use for free. PikWizard provides clear guidance on how you can use each picture that you find on the site. You will find that

guidance posted to the right of any picture that you select from search results. PikWizard also provides clear directions on how to give credit to the photographers whose pictures you use.

The Noun Project (thenounproject.com) is a popular source of free icons and images. The Noun Project collections include thousands of public domain, Creative Commons, and royalty-free icons. The Noun Project offers free Google Slides and Google Docs add-ons.

Reshot (reshot.com) is a site that offers free "handpicked" images that you can download to reuse in multimedia projects. The site also provides thematic image packs. Reshot, like many like it, lets you download images for free. According to Reshot's licensing statement, image attribution isn't required, but it is appreciated. To that end Reshot makes it easy to find and copy the correct image attribution information.

Morgue File (morguefile.com) provides free photos with license to remix. The Morgue File photo collection contains thousands of images that anyone can use for free in academic or commercial presentations. The image collection can be searched by subject category, image size, color, or rating. The trouble with using Morgue File in a classroom is that the search filters can be confusing and students could easily end up downloading materials that are copyrighted or watermarked without realizing it.

Wikipedia and the Wikimedia Commons can be good places to find images that are in the public domain as well as images that have Creative Common licenses. I haven't found a great way to search for images on Wikipedia and Wikimedia so I just enter a search for a topic, person, or place and then scroll through the page to look for an image. It's not the most efficient process, but it works for me. Just make sure that you check the licensing statement on the image before you re-use it.

The Library of Congress offers digital collections of pictures, documents, videos, and audio recordings. You can find those collections at loc.gov/collections where you can then search according to subject, format, or keyword.

The National Parks Service's Multimedia Search (nps.gov/media/multimedia-search.htm) is a good place to find images and videos of U.S. National Parks. You can search the archive by park and or subject. Most of the more than 130,000 items are in the public domain, but double-check the licensing before downloading as there are a few exceptions.

Flickr's The Commons hosts images from libraries and museums around the world. You can search The Commons by topic or by searching for a specific type of image.

	Public Domain or Creative Commons?	Media types	Registration Required.	Consideration for classrooms.
Creative Commons browser extension. (Available for Chrome, Firefox, and Opera)	Both	Images	No	The CC browser extension provides all attribution information in just one click.
Stockio stockio.com	Public Domain	Image, video, icons, fonts.	Optional.	Image citation not required, but is encouraged.
Pixabay pixabay.com	Public Domain	Images, videos, drawings.	Optional.	Sponsored images from ShutterStock may confuse some students. Make sure to enable safe search. Offers a PowerPoint Add-in.
Pexels pexels.com	Public Domain	Images and videos	Optional.	Offers the ability to create collections of pictures and videos.

Unsplash unsplash.com	Public Domain	Images	No.	Offers a Google Slides Add-on.
PikWizard pikwizard.com	Both	Images	Optional	Provides clear directions for attribution.
The Noun Project thenounproject.com	Both	Icons	Optional	Students must pay attention to the attribution requirements because the vary from image to image.
Reshot reshot.com	Public Domain	Image	Optional	Offers thematic "image packs."
Wikimedia Commons commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Main_Page	Both	Image, Audio, Video	Optional.	Search can be confusing. Mix of Public Domain and Creative Commons images. Students must check licensing on each image.
Library of Congress loc.gov/collections	Public Domain	Image, Audio, Video	No.	Search can be confusing.
NPS Digital Image Archive nps.gov/pub_aff/imagebase.html	Public Domain	Image, Video	No.	Search can be confusing.
Flickr - The Commons flickr.com/commons	Public Domain	Image	No.	Students can easily end up on Flickr.com instead of The

				Commons.