

Figure and Copyright Information for Authors

1. General

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to reproduce any work that does not fall into the public domain, or for which they do not hold the copyright, this includes paying any fees set by the copyright holder. In order to avoid unnecessary delays in the publication process, you should start obtaining permissions from the copyright holder as early as possible.

Material can generally be reproduced free of charge and without approval if it is (1) within the public domain, (2) a

<u>reconstruction of data or derivative of the author's own graphic, (3) a work originally published in open access under a CC BY</u> <u>license, or (3) a completely redrawn graphic (with changes beyond recognition) giving proper credit to the original source, in</u> <u>accordance with the license conditions.</u>

Common scenarios requiring permission:

(1) It is a compilation of data or a derivative of a figure or table already published elsewhere, and the original work was not published under an open access CC BY license. If derivative permission is granted, the original source of the data/figure/table must be cited as below:

Source: Authors' compilation based on data from... Used with permission. Source: Adapted from... Used with permission.

(2) The same figure or table is already published elsewhere, and the original work was not published under an open access CC BY license. If reuse permission is granted, the original source of the data/figure/table must be cited in accordance with the license conditions. If the copyright holder does not have specific instructions on the form of acknowledgment, the material can be cited as below:

"Source: Reprinted from.... Used with permission."

"Credit: © [author/artist/museum], [book/journal, if any]; published by [publisher, if any], [publication year, if any]. Used with permission."

Other material is subject to approval and may incur a fee. In this case, written permission to reproduce the material must be obtained by the copyright holder (i.e., the author/artist of the work or their representative/estate).

- (a) Photographs of artwork/archives: It may be necessary to receive permission from the archive/museum/gallery/photographer, as images can have different grades of protection, e.g., if it is a photograph of an artwork (two owners: photographer and artist). Most institutions produce and license digital images of their objects and even insist that only their reproductions be used in publications. We suggest authors follow up directly with the rights holder, e.g., the photographer, museum, or website owner.
- (b) Photos you have taken yourself: Reprint permission must also be obtained for illustrations which you have created yourself, but which have been published by other publishers and for which you did not retain copyright. You may have photographs taken in a library or exhibition with permission but this does not mean you are authorized to reproduce the material. Please note that the museum policies regulating photography may vary. Some countries make an exception for works of art that are permanently located in a public place, and thus no license is required. This exemption is called "freedom of panorama" (FOP).
- (c) Adaptations: Changes to illustrations (e.g., use in sections, release of objects, highlights, insertion of arrows, photocomposing, etc.) must also be approved by the copyright holder. You may modify a work that is not/no longer protected.
- (d) New creations: This refers to creations with an individual character that are created using existing works. If a secondhand work is itself a spiritual creation and has its own individual character, it is copyrighted independently.
- (e) Screenshots: Screenshots from a website can often be used without asking for permission. Most websites have some form of copyright or proprietary rights notice. Avoid screenshots that include trademarks, pictures or texts, which may be subject to copyright.
- (f) Comics: Cartoons and comic strips are authorship protected. This protection extends to both, pictorial or written expression contained in the comics.
- (g) Book covers: Book covers, unless they are very old, usually carry copyright-protected designs and photographs. The fact that you are the physical owner of a book does not mean that you are authorized to replicate the cover design by uploading a copy here.



2. Obtaining permission

Request the template "Permission Request Letter" from your MDPI contact if needed. Many institutions have their own standard form for such permission requests. As long as the permission covers the rights mentioned above, this is acceptable.

2.1 Search for copyright information

- Information on the owner of an image can be found in the imprint or list of images in the book.
- If the material is published in a book, contact the original publisher directly to request permission and check the instructions on the publisher's website.
- In the case of illustrations of objects, paintings, or graphics from museums, the respective institution grants permission to reproduce. Museums/galleries usually have clear instructions on their website, sometimes even an open access policy.
- Some copyright holders are represented by picture agencies/associations for collective administration of copyrights (e.g, VG Bild-Kunst).
- For material from databases or online catalogs please check the indicated copyright regulations on their website (see list of institutions below).

2.2 Search for reusable images

Google Search:

- (1) Go to Advanced Image Search for images or Advanced Search for anything else.
- (2) In the "all these words" box, type what you want to search.
- (3) In the "Usage rights" section, use the drop-down to choose "free to use, share or modify, even commercially".
- (4) Select Advanced Search.

Note: Before reusing content, make sure that its license is legitimate and check the exact terms of reuse. For example, the license might require that you give credit to the image creator when you use the image. Google cannot tell if the license label is legitimate, so we do not know if the content is lawfully licensed.

2.3 Inquiry

In order to get permission to reproduce the material, you write to the copyright holder. Whether applying online, via our standard template, or an email to a colleague, it is essential that you include all details on the permission we need. In particular, you have to ask for the right to:

- use the material in your work and in any related derivative works
- worldwide distribution
- use in print and electronic delivery platforms, ideally for use in any form or medium, as well as for any modifications made
- use in all editions without time-restrictions or print run limitations
- use with a resolution of min. 300 dpi
- use in all languages
- use for commercial purposes (the article in which the image appears will be for sale)

2.4 Other

- If the material is provided by a colleague, ensure that they confirm in writing that the material has not been published elsewhere, and that they are granting all the rights above.
- If the material has been previously published by you or any colleague, please carefully check if and under what terms, the material can be reused (agreed in the contract with the respective publisher).
- Material on the web may not be the property of the site hosting it. Thus, it is necessary to identify the original copyright source.
- Most rights holders are willing to negotiate and permission is granted on a case-by-case basis. Emphasize that the material will be used in a scholarly work, and only within the context of your article.
- If the request is not accepted, the material must be removed. Please inform the editorial office if you are experiencing problems.