

Rights Statements Quick Reference

In Copyright: When Someone Else Owns the Rights

Rights Statement

In Copyright

InC

Definition

This Rights Statement can be used for an Item that is in copyright. Using this statement implies that the organization making this Item available has determined that the Item is in copyright and either is the rights-holder, has obtained permission from the rights-holder(s) to make their Work(s) available, or makes the Item available under an exception or limitation to copyright (including Fair Use) that entitles it to make the Item available.

Should You Use?

Yes: In the rare situation that your organization may own the rights (i.e., the work was created by your organization, or the creator formally transferred or licensed the rights to you), consider using a Creative Commons license or CCO waiver to enable wider use!

Rights Statement

In Copyright - Rights-holder(s) unlocatable or unidentifiable

InC-RUU

Definition

This Rights Statement is intended for use with an Item that has been identified as in copyright but for which no rights-holder(s) has been identified or located after some reasonable investigation. This Rights Statement should only be used if the organization that intends to make the Item available is reasonably sure that the underlying Work is in copyright. This Rights Statement is not intended for use by EU-based organizations who have identified works as Orphan Works in accordance with the EU Orphan Works Directive (they must use InC-OW-EU instead).

Should You Use?

With caution: Contributors should be aware that 1) this doesn't provide any legal cover if the rightsholder becomes available, 2) this statement implies a claim of fair use, and 3) this statement should only be used after serious inquiry.

No Copyright: When No One Owns The Rights

Rights Statement

No Copyright in the United States

NoC-US

Definition

This Rights Statement should be used for Items for which the organization that intends to make the Item available has determined are free of copyright under the laws of the United States. This Rights Statement should not be used for Orphan Works (which are assumed to be in-copyright) or for Items where the organization that intends to make the Item available has not undertaken an effort to ascertain the copyright status of the underlying Work.

Should You Use?

Yes: NoC-US implies you're fairly certain there is no copyright under US laws.



Rights Statements Quick Reference

No Copyright: When No One Owns The Rights

Rights Statement

Public Domain Mark

PD

Definition

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighboring rights.

Should You Use?

Yes, with caution: Determinations that a work is in the public domain under US law do not necessarily apply globally. This usually applies to significantly older works.

Other: When You're Unsure About the Rights

Rights Statement

Copyright undetermined

UND

Definition

This Rights Statement should be used for Items for which the copyright status is unknown and for which the organization that has made the Item available has undertaken an (unsuccessful) effort to determine the copyright status of the underlying Work. Typically, this Rights Statement is used when the organization is missing key facts essential to making an accurate copyright status determination.

Should You Use?

Yes: Implies that you've made an effort to determine the owner/public domain status, and not been able to reach a conclusion.

Rights Statement

No known copyright

NKC

Definition

This Rights Statement should be used for Items for which the copyright status has not been determined conclusively, but for which the organization that intends to make the Item available has reasonable cause to believe that the underlying Work is not covered by copyright or related rights anymore. This Rights Statement should not be used for Orphan Works (which are assumed to be in-copyright) or for Items where the organization that intends to make the Item available has not undertaken an effort to ascertain the copyright status of the underlying Work.

Should You Use?

Yes: NKC implies that you think it likely that there is no copyright, but are not entirely certain. NKC should not be used for works where you think there is an owner, but you cannot identify them.

Rights Statement

Copyright not evaluated

CNE

Definition

This Rights Statement should be used for Items for which the copyright status is unknown and for which the organization that intends to make the Item available has not undertaken an effort to determine the copyright status of the underlying Work.

Should You Use?

With caution: This statement implies that you think you can legally use the work, but you haven't attempted to figure out exactly who owns it. UMN will not be using this statement with its own collections, out of concern that it will be misinterpreted by outside viewers.