

## Public domain registry background

### What is the public domain?

published works where the term of copyright has expired  
under the Canadian *Copyright Act*, creative works are protected for a term generally measured by the life of the creator plus 50 years  
where all creators of a work have been dead for more than fifty years, the copyright rights in their works expire and the public is free to use the work in limitless ways, including cultural, educational, personal and social enjoyment.purposes

## About this project

The public domain registry will:

- make published works in the Canadian public domain easily identifiable and accessible to Canadians and users globally, by creating an on- line catalogue
- help preserve Canada's literary and visual arts history
- enable and encourage Canadians to contribute to the awareness of the public domain by inviting individuals to share information about the lives and deaths of Canadian creators
- restore ownership of the public domain to the public

Work on the registry is already underway, with an estimated launch date of fall 2006

## Information about the partners

**Access Copyright**, The Canadian Copyright Licensing Agency, is a not-for-profit agency established in 1988 by Canadian publishers and creators to license public access to copyright works. The agency now represents a vast international repertoire along with more than 8,000 Canadian creators and publishers. Access Copyright works for both users of copyright works and copyright owners by offering convenient, inexpensive and easy licensing solutions for users of copyright works and a mechanism for copyright owners to receive compensation for the copying of their works.

Creative Commons (CC) is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 2001, that promotes the creative re- use of intellectual and artistic works—whether owned or in the public domain. Creative Commons licences provide a flexible range of protections and freedoms for authors, artists, and educators that build upon the "all rights reserved" concept of traditional copyright to offer a voluntary "some rights reserved" approach. It is sustained by the generous support of various foundations including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Omidyar Network Fund, the Hewlett Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation as well as members of the public from around the world.

**Creative Commons Canada (CC Canada)** is an organization that works in collaboration with Creative Commons US and is dedicated to providing information and tools to a growing network of Canadians passionate about the effect of copyright laws on our arts and culture. As part of an international effort to facilitate the availability of open- access licences, Creative Commons Canada translated and maintains the popular Creative Commons licence suite for use under Canadian law.