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# Ethical Access for Digitized Cultural Heritage

Using [rightsstatements.org](https://rightsstatements.org) to clearly communicate rights statuses

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# Rights statements vs. Access Statements

- Legal status of an item
- Rights status of original work
- Creative Commons
- How to responsibly use an item
- Reuse status of digital object
- Rightsstatements.org

**Often the original work and digital object will have the same statement but this is not always the case!**



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# Why do we need to clearly communicate rights status?

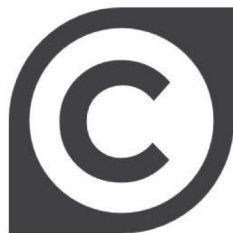


# Help users responsibly use digital objects

- Standardized
- Easy to understand
- Interoperable
- International

## Three Categories of Rights Statements

IN COPYRIGHT



NO COPYRIGHT



OTHER



# Avoid unintentional (or not) copyfraud

Begin Date 1759

Image Scope Complete document

Time Period (1732-1763) Colonial

Record Type Document

Rights Held by [redacted] Contact repository re: reproduction and usage. [redacted] permission for a single use of images for inclusion in a specific approved educational project.

**Never Published, Never Registered Works<sup>2</sup>**

Type of Work	Copyright Term	In the public domain in the U.S. as of 1 January 2019 <sup>3</sup>
Unpublished works	Life of the author + 70 years	Works from authors who died before 1949
Unpublished anonymous and pseudonymous works, and works made for hire (corporate authorship)	120 years from date of creation	Works created before 1899
Unpublished works when the death date of the author is not known <sup>4</sup>	120 years from date of creation <sup>5</sup>	Works created before 1899 <sup>5</sup>

**Works Registered or First Published in the U.S.**

Date of Publication <sup>6</sup>	Conditions <sup>7</sup>	Copyright Term <sup>3</sup>
Before 1924	None	None. In the public domain due to copyright expiration
1924 through	Published without a copyright notice	None. In the public domain due to failure to comply with required formalities

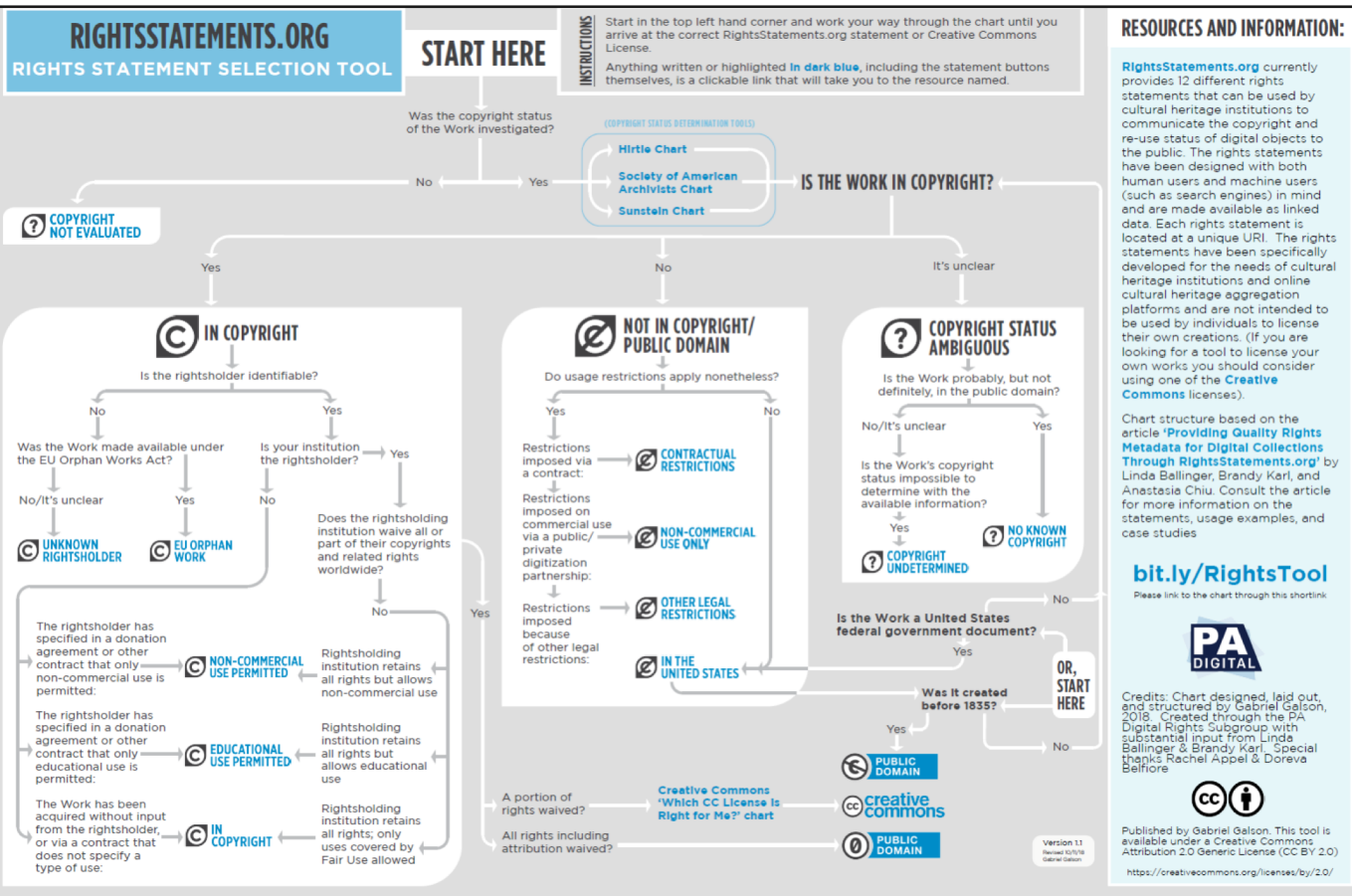
- Often well meaning (not always) but incorrect claims about copyright
- Confusion about what is or is not covered by copyright
- Blanket statements
- U.S. vs international rules
- Asserting rights when there is none OR making it more open than rights allow



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# What statements should be used?





## RESOURCES AND INFORMATION:

**RightsStatements.org** currently provides 12 different rights statements that can be used by cultural heritage institutions to communicate the copyright and re-use status of digital objects to the public. The rights statements have been designed with both human users and machine users (such as search engines) in mind and are made available as linked data. Each rights statement is located at a unique URI. The rights statements have been specifically developed for the needs of cultural heritage institutions and online cultural heritage aggregation platforms and are not intended to be used by individuals to license their own creations. (If you are looking for a tool to license your own works you should consider using one of the **Creative Commons** licenses).

Chart structure based on the article **'Providing Quality Rights Metadata for Digital Collections Through RightsStatements.org'** by Linda Ballinger, Brandy Karl, and Anastasia Chiu. Consult the article for more information on the statements, usage examples, and case studies

**bit.ly/RightsTool**

Please link to the chart through this shortlink



Credits: Chart designed, laid out, and structured by Gabriel Gelson, 2018. Created through the PA Digital Rights Subgroup with substantial input from Linda Ballinger & Brandy Karl. Special thanks Rachel Appel & Doreva Belhore



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# Questions?

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Sharing Georgia's History & Culture Online

Georgia's Virtual Library  
**GALILEO**  
An Initiative of the University System of Georgia