



Open Access Advocate

Open Access Licenses

A Guide to Licensing Data, Preprints, Publications,
and Software for Reuse

The ASAP Open Science Team

Dana Lewis, PhD

Matthew Lewis, PhD

Devin Snyder, PhD

Robert Thibault, PhD

Open Access Licenses

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on open access licenses and guidance on how to apply these licenses to preprints, publications, data, and software.

The [ASAP Open Science Policy](#) requires that ASAP-funded preprints, publications, data, and code be licensed for reuse. For preprints, publications, and data, we require a CC BY 4.0 or CC0 license. For code, we recommend using the MIT License or another permissive license.

If you have additional questions, email the Open Science Team at openscience@parkinsonsroadmap.org with the subject title: “Open Access Licensing Question:...”.

Table of Contents

- [What are copyright licenses?](#)
- [Which license should I choose?](#)
 - [Data, preprints and publications](#)
 - [Code and software](#)
- [How do I license my research outputs for open access?](#)
- [Why does ASAP require CC BY licenses?](#)

What are copyright licenses?

Copyright licenses are legal agreements that determine the conditions of reuse of intellectual or creative work. Reuse includes reproduction, distribution, adaptation, and translation of a work.

Which license should I choose?

Data, preprints, and publications

Data, preprints, and publications should include a license that permits reuse, adaptation, translation, and distribution.

Creative Commons (CC) licenses are a suite of copyright-based licenses that are appropriate to use for any content shared publicly, except software and code (see [below](#)). All CC licenses (except CC0) require appropriate attribution to the creators of the work being reused.

| License | Attribution | Reuse terms | Compliant with ASAP Policy? |
|--|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Copyright, all rights reserved | Yes | Reuse requires permission of owner | No |
| CC0 | No | Reuse does not require permission or attribution | Yes |
| CC BY 4.0 | Yes | Reuse requires attribution | Yes |
| CC BY-SA | Yes | You must redistribute under the same license | No |
| CC BY-ND | Yes | You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work | No |
| CC BY-NC | Yes | You may not use for commercial purposes | No |

Licenses Compliant with ASAP Policy

Only CC0 and CC BY 4.0 licenses are compliant with the [ASAP Open Science Policy](#).

- **CC0:** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute data without asking permission of the author and without attribution
- **CC BY 4.0:** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute data; reuse requires attribution

Licenses NOT Compliant with ASAP Policy

Please note that we **do not** allow all rights reserved, CC-BY-ND, CC BY-NC, or any variation including the NC or ND designation as licensing options. These licenses are not open access licenses, as they do not permit adapting, transforming, translating, or updating the work in any way. Our requirement is consistent with the [CoalitionS licensing guidance](#).

- **Copyright, “all rights reserved”:** users cannot reuse without the permission of the author
- **CC BY-SA (“share alike”):** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute data; derivative works must be shared under the same license

TIP: The CC BY SA license presents challenges when combining multiple datasets for meta-analysis and should be avoided.

- **CC BY-ND (“no derivative”):** users can copy and distribute the work; any modifications to the work are not permitted; reuse requires attribution

TIP: The CC BY ND license is not open access because it does not permit any derivatives, adaptations, or translations of a work. This includes any new research based on previous data or manuscripts.

- **CC BY-NC (“non-commercial”):** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute the work; any reuse may not be for “commercial purposes;” reuse requires attribution

TIP: The CC BY NC license should be avoided because the term “commercial” is ambiguous, with many significantly differing interpretations of what this means.

Code and software

Code and software should include a license that permits reuse, adaptation, translation, and distribution. **However, CC licenses are not appropriate to license code and software.**

There are two categories of open source licenses for code and software:

- **Permissive:** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute code; reuse requires attribution; examples include the [MIT License](#), the [Apache 2.0 License](#), and the [Berkeley Software Distribution \(BSD\) License](#)
- **Copyleft:** users can copy, use, modify, and distribute code; derivative works must be shared using the same license; examples include the [GNU General Public License \(GPL\) v3.0](#), the [Affero General Public License \(AGPL\)](#), and the [GNU Lesser General Public License \(LGPL\)](#)

You can use this [License Chooser](#) to determine which license is best suited for your code/software.

How do I license my research outputs so they are open access?






Preprints

Select the **CC BY** or **CC0** option when submitting a preprint to bioRxiv or medRxiv

HELP Distribution/Reuse Options

***Distribution/Reuse Options** Material displayed on bioRxiv can be viewed by anyone. Please choose the terms under which you would like to make material available.

Authors/funders retain copyright (where applicable) of articles posted on bioRxiv. By clicking Save/Continue below, you are certifying you have the right to choose the terms under which the article is made available and to grant bioRxiv a perpetual, non-exclusive license to display it, create summaries and alerts from the content, and register a preprint DOI and that you consent to text mining of the content by search engines and scholars.

- No reuse/adaptation without permission
Anyone who wishes to share, reuse, remix, or adapt this material must obtain permission from the corresponding author.

- Attribution CC-BY-NC-ND
Anyone can share this material, provided it remains unaltered in any way, this is not done for commercial purposes, and the original authors are credited and cited.

- Attribution CC-BY-ND
Anyone can share this material, providing it remains unaltered in any way and the original authors are credited and cited.

- Attribution CC-BY-NC
Anyone can share, reuse, remix, or adapt this material, providing this is not done for commercial purposes and the original authors are credited and cited.

- Attribution CC-BY
Anyone can share, reuse, remix, or adapt this material for any purpose, providing the original authors are credited and cited.

- CC0 (non-Gov't)
The paper is placed in the public domain and no longer restricted by copyright. Anyone can legally share, reuse, mix, or adapt this material for any purpose without crediting the original authors.
- CC0 (US Gov't)
CC0 for US Government authors.

Publications

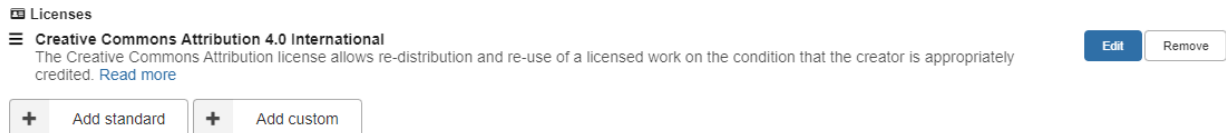
When submitting a paper to a journal, indicate which license applies to your work in the Acknowledgements section of your manuscript using the following language:

“For the purpose of open access, the author has applied a CC BY [replace with CC0, if appropriate] public copyright license to all Author Accepted Manuscripts arising from this submission.”

If possible, you should also select a CC BY or CC0 license in the manuscript submission portal. At the publication stage, ensure that the statement in the manuscript matches the final license assigned to the manuscript by the journal.

Datasets

When uploading data to a repository like Zenodo, select a CC BY or CC0 license. You should also indicate which license applies to your data in the [README file for your dataset](#).



If you cannot select a license at the repository, you should indicate which license applies to your data in the [README file for your dataset](#). You can also use the [CC License Chooser](#) to generate a CC license button and licensing statement. See instructions [here](#) for how to do this.

Code and software

You should indicate which license applies to your work in a LICENSE file saved to the root directory of your code repository. You can read more about how to do this on GitHub [here](#).

Why does ASAP require open access licenses?

You should always license your research outputs. **Unlicensed data and code are not open access.** Unlicensed data and code are not part of the public domain. By default, the copyright for unlicensed data and code belongs to the creator and therefore requires permission for reuse.

TIP: If your research outputs are not licensed, then by default they are copyrighted under “all rights reserved.” Unlicensed data is not open data!

Open access licenses have many benefits, including:

- Encouraging broad dissemination of scientific research
- Helping data be open and reusable
- Increasing transparency and reproducibility
- Making clear how data can be used
- Ensuring original authors are credited for their data
- Increasing collaboration and innovation in software development
- Fostering wider adoption of software
- Simplifying the process of sharing, modifying, and translating code and data
- Democratizing access to code and data