

Know Your Rights & Use Data Right!

Before sharing your data, you should choose an appropriate license to govern who can re-use the data, under which conditions, and for what purposes. Relatedly, data reusers must understand what each license entails and comply with terms and responsibilities.

 <p>PUBLIC DOMAIN No rights reserved. Data may be reused unrestrictedly without permission.</p>	 <p>CREATIVE COMMONS Some rights reserved. Reuse does not require permission but has to conform with license specifications.</p>	 <p>COPYRIGHT All rights reserved. Reuse requires permission from the copyright owner, unless considered fair use.</p>
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Is Data Copyrightable?

- Data itself cannot be copyrighted; however, it can be licensed. One may own intellectual property (IP) rights over the data's creative arrangement, annotation, compilation, or selection.
- Patent law may apply if ones' data collection leads to new and valuable inventions. Trade secrets may protect data if one's formula, process, design, or method offers a commercial advantage.

What precautions should you take?

- When acquiring data from a vendor, be clear about the licensing terms and conditions for reuse and sharing.
- Keep in mind that some contracts or grants come with non-disclosure agreements or other conditions requiring secrecy.
- The *Fair Use provisions of the Copyright Act* allow you to copy and use copyrighted material for specific purposes that serve the public interest such as teaching, scholarship, or research. Complete the [UCSB Fair use checklist](#) to determine whether your proposed use of a copyrighted work is fair use.

Understanding the Creative Commons Licensing Spectrum



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IP & Licensing Resources at UCSB:



UCSB Intellectual Property & Licensing





UCSB Library's Copyright Advisory Committee

Still in doubt, contact us: rds@library.ucsb.edu